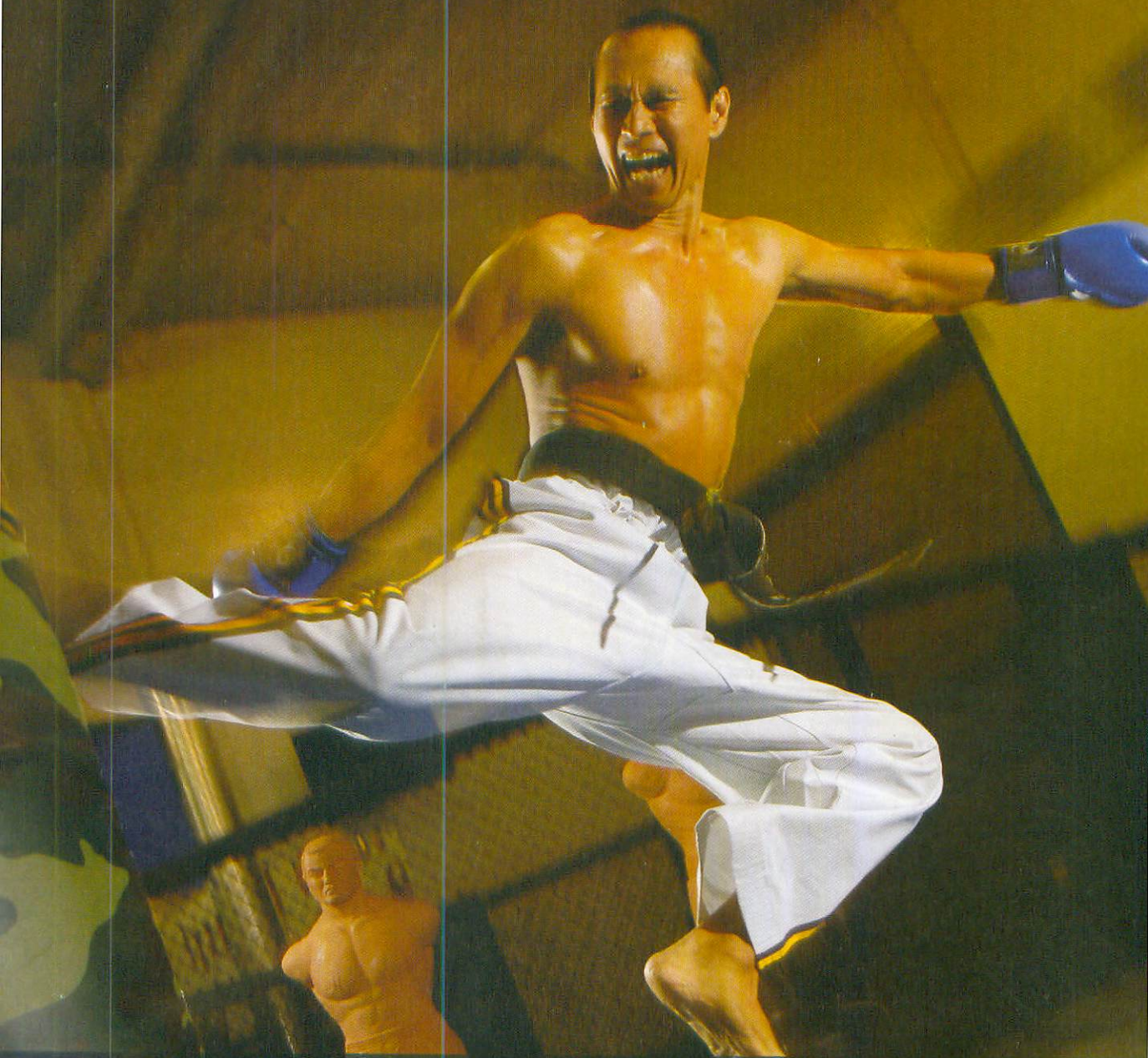


SJSU WASHINGTON SQUARE



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*Martial arts
phenomenon Ernie Reyes*

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*Public demand reshapes
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*Former Spartan now a
USMC major general*



momentum

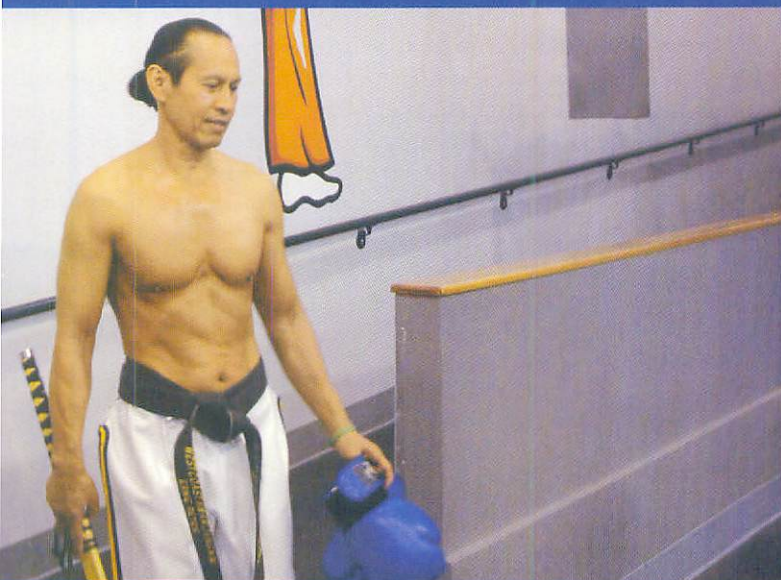
Andrea Rios has a competitive edge.

She's fine-tuning her undergraduate experience in mechanical engineering through the newly opened Engineering Student Success Center, a lively hub of student resources with multiple ties to the Silicon Valley and beyond.

The center offers industry-focused projects, leadership opportunities and much more. The strikingly designed facility is made possible with the generous support of San José State alumni Chuck Davidson, Don Beall, and Dave and Betty Loomis.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CENTER AND OTHER CHARLES W. DAVIDSON COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING INITIATIVES, CONTACT LAURA HENDERSON AT 408-924-1139 / LAURA.HENDERSON@SJSU.EDU

N THIS ISSUE



SHARON HALL

THE COVER

Coast World Martial Arts co-founder Ernie Reyes believes studying martial arts can change a person's life. In his studios, students of all ages, walks of life and education levels learn to set goals and work toward them, developing skills that can be applied to all aspects of life. What they get, says Reyes, is the ultimate formula for success. Page 7. Cover photography: Sharon Hall

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Thanks to all of you who wrote in since our last issue—a record number of letters and emails for a regular issue! We appreciate your interest, comments, suggestions and corrections.

This will be the last time I write to you as editor of *SJSU Washington Square*. My retirement after 13 busy and remarkable years at San José State is close upon me.

Be assured that I am leaving you, dear readers, in the good hands of the *WSQ* team: Eunice Ockerman, designer; Mansi Bhatia, Jody Ulate and Kat Meads, writers; Sharon Hall, photographer; and our sportswriter Dave Newhouse. Working with these talented colleagues to bring you the stories of SJSU has been a delight and a privilege.

Another reason I have enjoyed editing *WSQ* is that the university and its family of alumni hold a near-inexhaustible supply of stories—a mother lode if you will, waiting to be mined by the alert and curious.

We see ourselves as those explorers—searching, sifting, intent on bringing you the treasures this campus holds. Not only is there abundance, but

great variety. Our stories emerge from the fields of science and art, from high tech and urban planning, from engineering, finance, education and many more. They arise from the intriguing questions and everyday problems that SJSU faculty and students tackle in their research. And from the news of the day, physical changes on campus and the achievements of our graduates.

We continue to see the thread of transformation in so much of what we write about. In this issue, you'll get a pulse-taking look at the ailing world of print journalism—whither next the fourth estate? You'll meet a 62-year-old alumnus who transformed his life through the martial arts and regularly converts others to what he sees as his noble calling; and you'll hear from students whose life perspectives are permanently altered by travel and study abroad.

I invite you to stay tuned to *SJSU Washington Square* as the baton is passed to a new editor. I will be cheering from the sidelines and look forward to tracking *WSQ* in my new role — as a dedicated reader.



Sylvia Light

EDITOR SJSU WASHINGTON SQUARE

THE GOOD GUYS

Great article about SJSU baseball coach Sam Piraro. He really is an institution at San José State and in college baseball. Go Spartans!

PHILLIP AMMAR, '85 RADIO/TV/FILM

Excellent story on CHP Officer Mark Rummel. It hit home for me—I had a similar accident and, now in recovery after five weeks in a coma, have a similar attitude of accepting what life dealt us and moving on.

ANDREW GARRETT, '99
HEALTH SCIENCE

IN SUPPORT OF GOOD WRITING

I was impressed by your article on writing resources and the state of writing at San José State. I teach 100W, Scientific Writing for Biology Students. I would like to propose providing some space in *WSQ* to showcase some of the best writing in biology. There could be a competition and prize money.

Contrary to the perceptions of some, scientific writing is often creative as well as focused. For example, I have a student who submitted 14 verses of Haiku in response to one assignment. Please let me know if this idea fits within the scope of your publication.

JOSH MACKIE, LECTURER
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

We'd like to hear from you. *SJSU WSQ* welcomes letters to the editor regarding stories in its pages. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for clarity or space and may not necessarily reflect the views of San José State University. Send correspondence to *WSQ* Editor / SJSU / One Washington Square / San José, CA 95192-0005, or go to www.sjsu.edu/wsqr/submissions.

accounting major, my grammar skills are somewhat limited, so I emailed the article "Struggling for Words" very much. Wouldn't the gerund phrase highlighted on P. 15 of the magazine include the word "well," since it is a complement or modifier? I'm sure my high-grade teacher, Sister Frederick would have included it.

RE R. LEITE, '75 BUSINESS

Correct, sir. Somewhere Sister Frederick is smiling. —Ed.

The first paragraph of "Struggling for Words," the author indicated that the word "these" in the phrase "these words" is a pronoun. "These" can act as a pronoun when it stands alone, but in this context, I believe it acts as a demonstrative, specifically a demonstrative determiner. It didn't take my high-grader long to find this error.

ANDERSON, '91 CIVIL ENGINEERING

Wow to the eagle eyes of Anderson and his high-grader and thank them for catching this —Ed.

"Struggling for Words," Professor English Jonathan Lovell laments the effects of Prop 13 on education. If we went to a voucher system and dismantled the current government monopoly of K-12, we'd get a lot more education for a lot less money. Charter schools prove this. Parochial schools do this. We spend more than half the budget on K-12. Money is not the problem. Teachers' unions that lobby for vouchers are the problem.

LOUP, '70

While the state of public education is deplorable, Prop 13 is certainly not one of the causes. Assessed values, tax receipts and school funding have all increased at faster rates than inflation since its passage in 1978. The provisions of Prop 13, which create a more stable tax base, will provide a relatively "soft" landing during the recession, as not all assessed values will fall from the grossly inflated market values of recent years. Without Prop 13, the decrease in property tax revenues would be even more dramatic than what we're actually seeing.

PETE CONRAD, '82 BUSINESS

NOW AND THEN

Re: Your dorm room shot from the 1970s and present-day comparisons—the dude's mustache would be replaced with a "soul patch," hanging plant replaced with a hydroponics system (or a '70s ChiaPet).

EDWARD JONATHANS, '02 KINESIOLOGY

PRINT VS. PIXELS

Excellent content and design of this last issue of *SJSU Washington Square*. It surely projects the significant value of SJSU as an exceptional educational institution, and as an immeasurable asset to Silicon Valley. Kudos to you!

Your column (on print vs. pixels) made me confirm the ceremony of reading the morning newspaper and spending time snuggling up to a favorite magazine. The computer is a marvelous device, but lacks the tactile experience of printed matter. I like to view a double-page spread of a newspaper and tear out a column

that I want to read again. I don't feel comfortable confined to the screen of a laptop or desktop computer.

GEORGE COAKLEY, LECTURER, JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Some of us haven't graduated to the web. So please continue sending your print version of *WSQ*. More comfy in a chair. P.S. I want to share "Struggling for Words" with a new teacher and my granddaughter. Thanks!

BARBARA FLEMING, '48

I'll be happy to have *WSQ* online when the changeover is effected.

GEORGE CARTER, FORMER SJSU DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING

THE STATE OF CHURCH AND STATE

Re: English Professor Emeritus John Pollock's letter (Spring '09) on alumna Karen Ristau's visit to the Pope (Winter '08)—I have always enjoyed the time I spent with Professor Pollock, both as his advisee and student.

Yet I cannot agree with his assessment that the Catholic Church has a "blatant disregard for principles like separation of church and state and equal treatment under the law."

The ideas of church and state being separate does not mean that the people in government are not to be influenced by their religious dogmas. Instead it outlaws the direct creation of laws by religious institutions. Institutions must convince the voters to agree with their views in order to influence public opinion. If one wishes to win the vote, then one must convince the masses. This is a majority-rule democracy; that is the American way.

JOSHUA RESNICK, '06 ENGLISH

Facebook: Great job on the latest (Spring '09) issue of *SJSU Washington Square* magazine!

HENDERSON, '08 POLITICAL SCIENCE



year's faculty award winners: Wughalter, Lessow-Hurley, DeVincenzi (standing) and Douglass.

COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND ARTS
Outstanding Professor

Emily Wughalter, kinesiology professor, has received the 2008-09 San José State University Outstanding Professor Award. This award honors a faculty member whose academic career exemplifies excellence in teaching effectiveness.

During her 18-year tenure at San José State, Wughalter has established a remarkable record for teaching excellence and service. Student evaluations attest to her extraordinary effectiveness in the classroom. She has also served as director of the Metropolitan University Scholars Experience, which offers university-wide opportunities to help first-year students succeed at San José State. She has served in

leadership roles with the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and with the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Distinguished Service Award

Judith Lessow-Hurley, professor of elementary education, is the recipient of the 2008-09 San José State University Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes exemplary leadership contributions to the university and/or the community or profession that bring credit to San José State University.

In her three decades of service to the university, Lessow-Hurley has been recognized as a pioneer in addressing the

importance of providing a multicultural education and preparing future teachers for California's increasingly diverse student populations in the university and in the system. She chaired the Academic Senate for two consecutive years (2006 to 2008), earning accolades from her peers as one of the most outstanding and most effective faculty leaders of the senate in many

Lessow-Hurley is the university's co-facilitator of the Silicon Valley Higher Education Roundtable, a consortium of presidents and chancellors that works toward the development and success of underrepresented minority students in college. She has served on numerous campus committees, such as the Campus Fee Advisory Committee, the New Faculty Orientation Advisory Committee, and the Campus Reading Program Committee. She currently serves as an ex officio member of the University Library Board and represents the University of Education on the Campus Planning Board. As a result of a campus-wide faculty election, she is now also serving her first three-year term as one of three SJSU representatives on the CSU Statewide Senate.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Outstanding Lecturer

Professor William D. DeVincenzi of the Department of Accounting and Finance has been named the 2008-09 San José State Outstanding Lecturer. The honor recognizes excellence in teaching and service to the campus community.

DeVincenzi began teaching at San José State in 1994 following a successful career in corporate finance. This is an honor bonus for his students, who say that his teaching compares to learning from someone with in-the-field experience. His success

ending the corporate financial man-
 ant major and adding an honors
 um led to the adoption of the practi-
 all College of Business departments.
 osequent college-wide honors pro-
 e developed is now supported by a
 llion gift from San José State alum-
 ry J. Sbona, chairman and CEO of
 Pacific Management Corporation.
 ing DeVincenzi's tenure as advi-
 the student Financial Management
 ation, the club has grown from 12 to
 han 150 members and is now among
 ggest in the nation. He has also led
 et groups to both China and Central
 to study the business practices and
 es of these regions.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS Student's Scholar

ouglass, professor of English and
 rative literature, has been selected
 recipient of the 2008-09 President's
 r Award. This award recognizes a fac-
 ember who has achieved widespread
 ition based on the quality of scholar-
 performances, or creative activities.
 uglass has achieved widespread rec-
 yn as a leading scholar in the areas
 rican modernism, literary theory,
 and literature, philosophy and litera-
 d particularly in the area of British
 tic Literature. In 2007, he received
 a Dangerfield Award of the Inter-
 al Byron Society for his publication
 / and original work related to the life,
 and times of the poet."

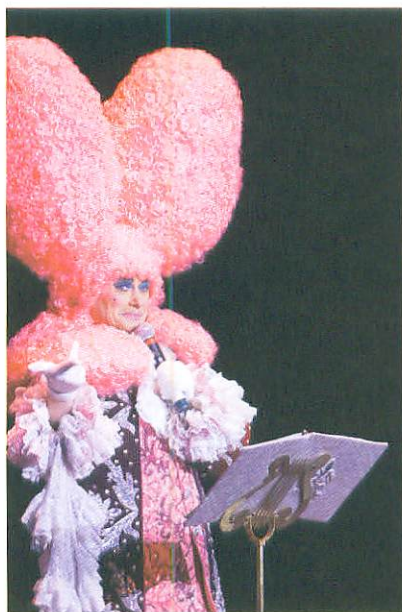
Most two decades of service to San
 ate, he has served as chair of the
 ment of English and Comparative
 ure; been the principal investigator
 California Literature Project; and

served as director of the Martha Heasley
 Cox Center for Steinbeck Studies.

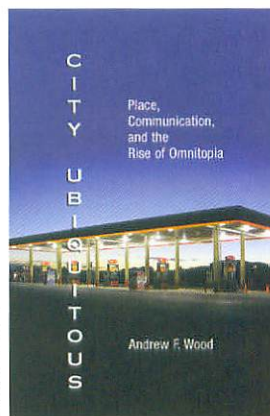
SJSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Silver's revue wows San José

Beach Blanket Babylon, the world renowned
 San Francisco-based musical revue created
 by San José State alumnus Steve Silver,
 played to a full house in March at the
 California Theatre in downtown San José.
 This one-night-only, special engagement
 marked the show's 35th anniversary and
 raised more than \$52,000 for the SJSU
 Alumni Association Scholarship Fund,
 which will now include a scholarship in
 Silver's honor. The event was attended by
 1,160 alumni, staff, faculty and community
 members who enjoyed, among other things,
 a specially-penned operatic number about
 San José State, its history and prominent
 alumni, performed by a pink-coiffed King
 Louis XIV.



KYLE CHESSE



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

City Ubiquitous

How has personal technology
 changed how we move through
 the world? San José State Com-
 munication Studies Professor
Andrew Wood explores that
 question in his latest book, *City
 Ubiquitous: Place, Communication
 and the Rise of Omnitopia*. Wood's
 research included a 108-hour
 road trip from New York to San
 Francisco during which he spok
 just five words but managed to

get lodging, food and gas using Internet reservations, online kios
 after-hours key dispensers and anticipatory disengagement. The
 five words? Andy Wood, Andy Wood and sauce!

"Today's melding of place and media threatens our ability to
 experience meaningful human interaction," Wood says. Among t
 book's many threads is a discussion of the iPod as an "aural enclav
 Wood's phrase for the way we use earphones to isolate ourselves
 moving bubbles of sound, carrying miniature versions of our worl
 with us, even as we ignore the actual world around us. Wood even
 offers tips for iPod etiquette, including, "One bud or two?"
 For more on Wood's book and related omnitopia topics,
 follow his Twitter feed at: twitter.com/omnitopia/.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

SJSU professor named Silicon Valley's Poet Laureate

Nils Peterson, SJSU professor emeritus of English and a co-
 founder of Poetry Center San José, has been appointed as the
 first-ever poet laureate of Santa Clara County. Peterson began
 two-year term in April. The post comes with a \$4,000 stipend pl
 funding for grassroots projects.

Peterson, 75, ran the creative writing department at SJSU fo
 two decades and has written on everything from Shakespeare t
 science fiction to golf. He has published several poetry collectio
 including "The Comedy of Desire," which has an introduction by
 noted poet Robert Bly, and "Here Is No Ordinary Rejoicing." Pet
 son is known for his annual Valentine's Day readings at the Poe
 Center and his frequent community workshops.

HOME COMING! OCT 03-10

YOUR ALMA MATER SAYS COME HOME!



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

McQuaid's creation tapped for International Quilt Festival
The quilt by Salli McQuaid, MA Art '77, has been selected for exhibition in Houston at the October 2009 International Quilt Festival Market. Titled "Starry Night," the quilt is a take-off on Vincent van Gogh's 1889 painting "Starry Night" and will be part of the IQF Radio Art Quilt Associates special exhibition called "A Sense of Wonder."



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

NASA connection

On March 6, 2009, when NASA launched one of its most important satellites to date, San José State Associate Professor **Natalie Batalha** was there to watch. She is on the NASA Ames Research Center team directing science work for the \$591-million, 2,300-pound Kepler spacecraft. Kepler is NASA's first mission designed to identify and characterize habitable, earth-like planets orbiting sun-like stars. The mission to send the spacecraft well beyond our atmosphere has been in the works since 1992. Batalha has been affiliated with NASA Ames Research Center since 2000, conducting research on extrasolar planet detection and stellar astrophysics. For this mission, Batalha helped select which stars to observe.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Biology gets stem cell research funds

San José State University has received \$1.73 million in funding from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the state's stem cell agency. SJSU will use the funds to provide students with the academic and practical experience they need to pursue careers involving stem cell research. Three San José State biology professors will partner with Escape Therapeutics, The Parkinson's Institute, Stanford University and the University of California, Santa Cruz, to help train graduate-level students in stem cell research. SJSU is one of 10 California State University campuses to receive funding from the institute; the total to the CSU schools is \$16 million.

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

DreamWorks supports animation at SJSU

DreamWorks Animation has committed \$420,000 to the SJSU School of Art and Design animation/illustration program and named **Rex Grignon**, head of character animation at PDI/DreamWorks, the program's first Distinguished Scholar.

Grignon has been an animator for more than 20 years and worked on such breakthrough computer-animated films as DreamWorks Animation's "Shrek," "Madagascar," "Kung Fu Panda," and "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," as well as Pixar's "Toy Story."

San José State's animation/illustration program, which serves almost 400 students annually, is using the funding to develop an expanded curriculum that will focus on building professional skills and developing techniques and processes for character animation, visual development and storyboarding.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

SJSU alumnus becomes first judge in war zone

On April 25, D.C. Superior Court Judge **Robert R. Rigsby**, '83 Science, became the district's first sitting judge to leave for war zone. Rigsby's first trial was on May 1, 2009, in Iraq where he is overseeing military courts involving U.S. soldiers accused of murder, rape, desertion, robbery and mistreatment of prisoners. Col. Stephen R. Hastings, chief trial judge for the Army, said he chose Rigsby from among 40 Army judges who were wide to be the first to serve in a combat zone. Rigsby will be stationed in Kuwait and will travel to and from Iraq.

Rigsby has been in the Army for 20 years, the past 20 as a member of the Reserve. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1981 while a student at SJSU and then attended Hastings College of Law at San Francisco.

UNIVERSITY

The puzzle pieces of family history

Color of the Sea, the story of one Japanese boy's coming-of-age, has been announced as the Campus Reading Program selection for fall 2009.

The Bay Area author, John Hamamura, was born in the final year of WWII in an Army hospital in Minnesota. His father, a GI Japanese language instructor and his mother's family was interned in southern Arkansas. Hamamura says on his website, "I waited years until I was old enough to ask the right questions and to hear the stories the adults would never share with children. I did not choose these stories, I was thrust into them. And they shaped me, just like the novel, *Color of the Sea*, developed out of the puzzle pieces of my family history."

GOING FOR KICKS

that life is a fight is a cliché. Unless you're throwing punches and kicking your way through each day like Ernie Reyes, business Administration, co-founder of West Coast World Martial Arts.

Teacher, actor, fight choreographer and leader in martial arts, Reyes has been wielding spears and flipping through the air for more than three decades. On his birthday, between workouts and Bikram yoga and weight training, the ponytailed Filipino immigrants talked about "living the life" and his love for martial arts.

"Martial arts has the power to change lives," says Reyes, who founded and taught at a small San José studio while at San José State. "It's still on my mind. It's my noble calling."

Reyes teaches more than 7,000 West Coast students to "conceive, create and achieve"—lessons that he says can be applied to all aspects of life. Long before the martial arts magazine cover shots and action movies, he was a scrappy basketball player from Salinas who dreamed of becoming a teacher and coach.

"I was more than people thought I could be," says Reyes, who says school wasn't easy for him. "I just decided I would make it in some kind of way."

After making lots happen ever since. Supported by food stamps, student loans and hours put in at J.C. Penney and delivering mail for the San José Medical Center, Reyes worked tirelessly to earn his framed San José State diploma in his office. Relentlessly hitting the training mat and punching bag has earned him national and international championships and top awards for instruction.

Reyes says he's fighting off age, which he says half-jokingly is winning him. "But anyone who has seen him in action knows that he's winning that battle. Whether he's taking on bad guys on screen or cheering on new black belts as they run a victory lap, the roar of "Eye of the Tiger," he is obviously where he was to be.

"Everything I do, I just love being on the floor training with students and adults," he says. "I'm grateful I get to be the coach and not the student I wanted to be." ♦

—Jody Ulate, '05



Reyes wields the Kama, a traditional martial art weapon that was originally used throughout Asia for reaping crops. See photos and videos of Reyes on the WSQ website at www.sjsu.edu/wsqa/.



Learning without limits

The book: quintessential symbol of learning
But what if you can't see a book's small print on its pages?
Getting to what's between its covers may be a steep challenge

“The way I learn be