

CAL STATE

FALL 2016

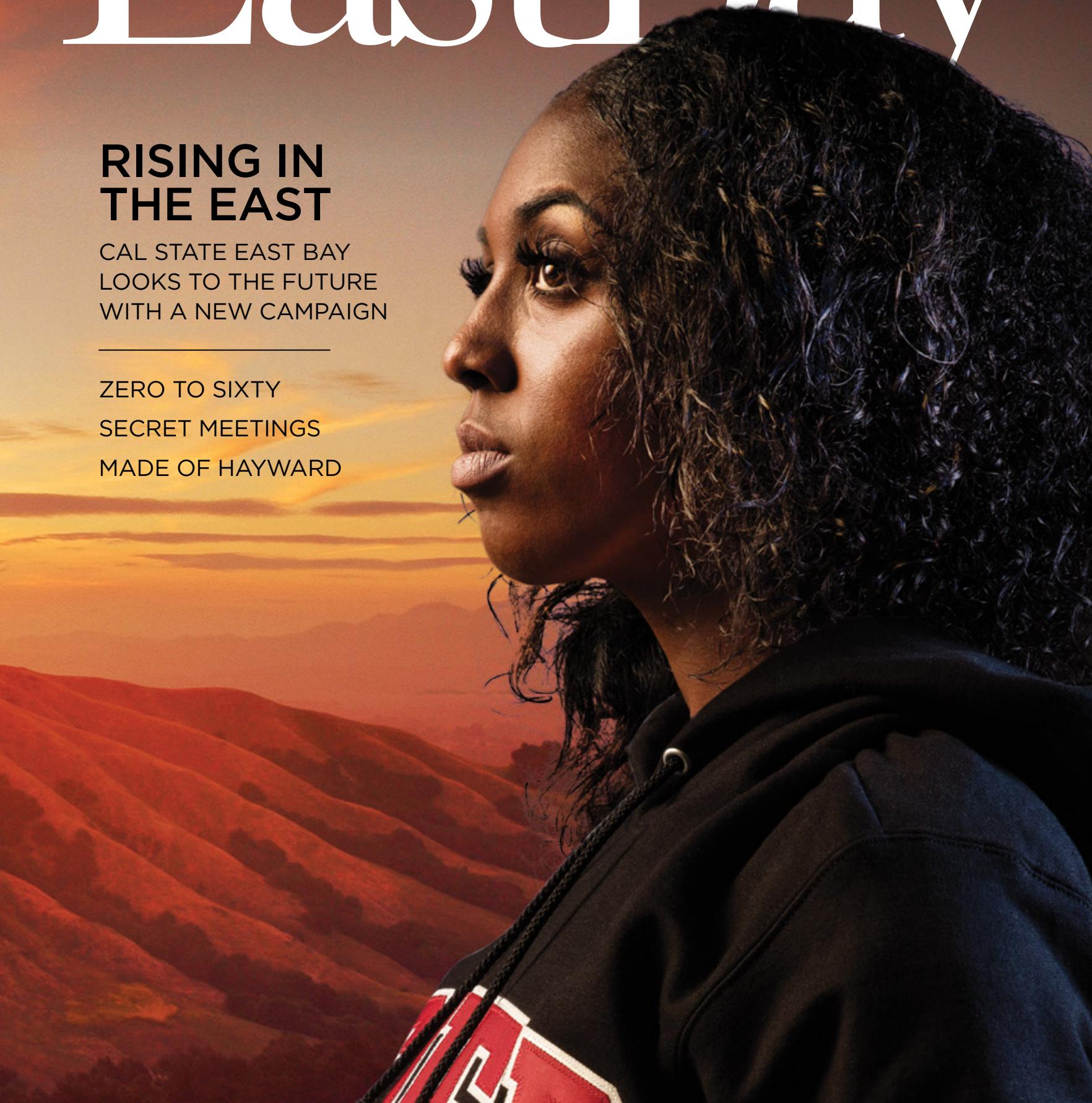
# EastBay

## RISING IN THE EAST

CAL STATE EAST BAY  
LOOKS TO THE FUTURE  
WITH A NEW CAMPAIGN

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ZERO TO SIXTY  
SECRET MEETINGS  
MADE OF HAYWARD



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On the cover: Junior Danielle Armstrong is one of Cal State East Bay's many first-generation students. She will graduate in 2018 with a liberal studies degree.

Inside cover: The Cal State East Bay community and its supporters gathered September 24 to announce the university's goal of raising \$60 million in honor of its 60th anniversary. □ GARVIN TSO

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**Rising in the East**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAL STATE EAST BAY

**Rising in the East**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR CAL STATE EAST BAY

CAL STATE  
EAST BAY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**T**he beginning of the academic year is always a watershed period in the life of our university — it marks a season of renewed optimism and exciting possibilities.

That is especially true this year. In September, we kicked off “Rising in the East” — our first-ever comprehensive campaign, with a goal of raising \$60 million to take Cal State East Bay to the next level. At the same time, we launched a high-profile branding campaign with ads on billboards and AC transit buses, in BART stations and trains, in print and online.

“Rising in the East” evokes the dawn of a new day — and I believe it is a new day at Cal State East Bay. The theme speaks to the aspirations of our students, the accomplishments of our faculty, and our optimism for the future. And it sends a message to the broader community that these are exciting times on our side of the Bay.

In the pages of this magazine, you will see many of the reasons we are a university on the rise. It’s because we have students like Jamila Guerrero-Cantor, a tireless champion of education rights for the deaf, and Cal State East Bay’s first Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program recipient within the university’s Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice; faculty like Farhad Sabetan delivering online courses for Iranian students of the Bahá’í faith, who are banned from higher education and literally risking their lives to learn; and alumni like Randy Davis, who came here to achieve his dream of building an electronic DNA sequencing chip, and ended up building a biotech company that was acquired by the Swiss healthcare giant Roche.

The “Rising in the East” campaign is vital to the university’s future. Fresh funding will enable us to launch innovative programs, strengthen our faculty, offer more scholarships, and modernize and expand our facilities. Thanks to the efforts of our Foundation, friends, and alumni, we are already halfway to our goal.

We have a terrific story and it is time to tell it to the world. That is what “Rising in the East” is all about.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Leroy M. Morishita  
President

# CAL STATE EAST BAY University News



## University Welcomes New Provost, Dr. Edward Inch

Following a nationwide search and appointment, Dr. Edward S. Inch became provost and vice president of Academic Affairs for Cal State East Bay on August 1.

“I am very pleased that Dr. Inch has agreed to serve as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Cal State East Bay,” President Leroy M. Morishita said. “He is a proven leader with a collaborative and team-oriented style, who will continue strengthening our academic programs and student success initiatives. Dr. Inch’s knowledge of the California State University system and breadth of experience provide a strong background that will serve Academic Affairs and the university well. He is an excellent addition to the Cal State East Bay leadership team and will help take us to new heights.”

Inch has served as the dean of the College of Arts and Letters at California State University, Sacramento since 2011. He previously served as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and has participated as an American Council on Education Fellow, and an accreditor for the Northwest Commission on Col-

leges and Universities. At Sacramento State, Inch led the initiative to double his college’s four-year graduation rates and improve retention rates, and served as a member of the university’s Strategic Planning Committee.

Inch said he is impressed with how Cal State East Bay students, staff, and faculty work together to improve opportunity, not just on campus, but across the region.

“What I think Cal State East Bay is really poised to do is to engage this region in very meaningful ways that give our students experiences that prepare them as civically engaged people,” Inch said. “I am most looking forward to hearing the insights of the people who work here, who understand the place, our students, and our community, and to think through with them the best strategies and direction for our university.”

Inch received his bachelor’s degree in speech communication from Western Washington University and his master’s degree in rhetoric and communication from the University of Oregon. He earned his doctorate in speech communication from the University of Washington.

Inch replaces Dr. Carolyn Nelson, who served as interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs for the past year. Nelson resumed her position as dean of CSUEB’s College of Education and Allied Studies.

— Kimberly Tere-Hawkins

### NATIONAL HONORS

Cal State East Bay was recently named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, a first for the university. The honor roll, which started in 2006, is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to community, service learning, and civic engagement. A full list of recipients is available at [nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/honor-roll](http://nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/honor-roll).

# Cal State East Bay Foundation Receives \$500,000 from AT&T for Hayward Promise Neighborhood



Left to right: Matt Wayne, acting superintendent of Hayward Unified School District; Barbara Halliday, Hayward mayor; Ken McNeely, AT&T California president; Cal State East Bay President Leroy Morishita; Dean Carolyn Nelson of Cal State East Bay's College of Education and Allied Studies; and California Assemblymember Bill Quirk gather at a ceremony to celebrate AT&T's gift to the California State University East Bay Foundation. □ GARVIN TSO

Due to the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation's success supporting and motivating underserved students in the Hayward Promise Neighborhood (HPN) program, it has been selected as one of 18 recipients nationwide that will share in \$10 million from AT&T through the Aspire Connect to Success Competition. The university has been awarded \$500,000. Hundreds of organizations applied to the competition, which is part of AT&T Aspire, the company's signature philanthropic initiative to help students succeed in school and beyond.

Aspire Connect to Success funding recipients deliver integrated student supports, focus on college or career preparation, and/or provide mentoring or peer-to-peer supports to help underserved students graduate. Hayward Promise Neighborhood is a program that aims to improve the lives and academics of more than 11,000 residents and 6,000 students in the ethnically diverse, low-income Jackson Triangle neighborhood. This is the second time the program led by Cal State East Bay has received support from

AT&T. The first contribution of \$276,000 was awarded two years ago and had a nearly immediate effect on the success rates of students at both Tennyson and Hayward High Schools.

"One reason the Hayward Promise Neighborhood initiative is so successful is because of the dedicated dropout-prevention specialists that are embedded in the high schools and engage with students every day," said Dr. Carolyn Nelson, Cal State East Bay's dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies and principal investigator for HPN's federal funding.

"With AT&T's previous support, we saw a 6 percent increase in the graduation rate at Hayward High School, and at Tennyson High there was a 5 percent increase in graduation rates over the past two years. This new contribution will allow us to maintain and expand the infrastructure that supports the work of our specialists and provide even more opportunities for students."

Through a competitive request-for-proposal process, the 18 nonprofits, including Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation, were selected based on their effective-

ness in helping students graduate ready for a career or college. Selected programs use evidence-based approaches to serve students and were able to demonstrate quantitative results.

"Young people need a high school diploma to stay on track for college and career success," said Ken McNeely, president, AT&T California. "Our company's future, as well as the country's, is dependent on today's young people. Through Aspire, we support programs like the Hayward Promise Neighborhood that invest in students so they achieve their highest potential in school, in the workforce, and in life."

On an average day, Hayward Promise Neighborhood dropout-prevention specialists check in with at least 100 students. Interactions range from a quick conversation in the hallway to emotional sit-downs. The specialists make referrals to support services to help students get back on track toward graduation, re-engage with school, and work directly with teachers to develop strategies to support the students.

The program currently includes two specialists who work with high school administrators to support at-risk students. The new contribution from AT&T will support the specialists for the next two years, and an additional specialist will be added at Mount Eden High School part-time this fall.

"Young people need to feel like somebody has their back," said Anthony Jackson, a dropout-prevention specialist at Tennyson High School. "I was once in their shoes. I had the same excuses, played the same games, and told my teachers the same things. I feel like I am these kids, and I think that is what allows me to advocate for them and lets me break down the stories they want to give to their teachers and people in power or in authority. I am always trying to get people to understand the value of this work."

— Natalie Feulner

# USGS Simulates Local Quakes with Help of CSUEB

As the sun shone high above Lake Chabot in early September, several Cal State East Bay students drilled a 20-foot hole in the hard ground. The students were participating in an experiment with the U.S. Geological Survey that will help characterize and map the underground geology of the Napa, Chabot, and Hayward faults.

It involves digging into the soil and setting off tiny "earthquakes" — tremors so small they can only be felt within a few feet of their "epicenter." Those mini quakes are then tracked to see how the ground would respond to a larger shake. Once the information is gathered, scientists will be able to create a map that can help plan for the inevitable earthquakes of the future.

"We don't yet understand what earthquakes do once they go underground, how these faults connect, the complexity of the area ... these faults are so close together, they're very likely linked," said Cal State East

Bay Professor Luther Strayer.

Strayer first started involving students in his work in 2013 when he was asked to oversee the implosion of Cal State East Bay's iconic Warren Hall building.

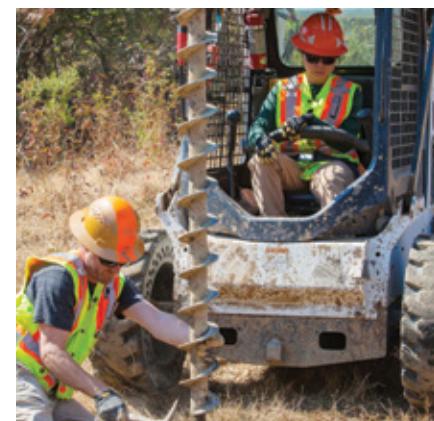
"They [are] able to work alongside and be mentored by some of the best scientists in the world," Strayer said. "The beauty and wonderful thing about the relationship we have with the [USGS] is that they mentor my students in geophysics and in techniques that allow us to find and study faults in the local geology."

CSUEB graduate student Adrian McEvilly is on his way to just that. McEvilly said he had wanted to study chemistry, but realized he loved the hands-on nature of geology, particularly this current project with the USGS. He now teaches geology two days a week at the university and is a key part of the work being done in Hayward and Napa.

"There's an entire world under our feet

and we have no idea what it looks like," McEvilly said. "This is going to help us do that."

— Natalie Feulner



Alumna Joanne Chan and graduate student Adrian McEvilly (left) drill a hole at Lake Chabot in September. □ NATALIE FEULNER

# Cal State East Bay Combats Hunger, Homelessness Among Students

A recent study released by the California State University chancellor's office showed that one in 10 of the CSU's 460,000 students is homeless. But Cal State East Bay has a plan, and a person, in place to help lower that number at its campuses.

Alex Baker, a case management coordinator, is a member of the university's Care Team, which identifies and meets the needs of at-risk populations — those students who are homeless, food insecure, or financially unstable, as well as those who display concerning behaviors. Since Baker started in February, the Care Team has identified almost 100 students deal-

ing with one or more of these issues.

"Many of the students that face housing and food insecurity are either depressed or have suicidal thoughts, and feel they have no reason to live or continue," Baker said. "It takes away their drive to accomplish their dreams."

He's responding by designing a program that not only addresses the needs of the students, but gives them a sense of community and support.

"The students need more than a piece of paper and a list of resources," Baker said. "They need consistent connection, support, and hope that they can

Alex Baker  
□ NATALIE FEULNER

get through it."

This fall, Baker, in collaboration with an advisory board composed of members representing various campus departments, launched the Pioneers For HOPE (Helping Our Pioneers Excel) initiative, which includes a food pantry, various drives to provide clothing and toiletries, emergency housing, and help for students dealing with financial insecurity. In addition, he's working with the campus Dining Commons to allow students living in the dorms to donate their leftover meals via Bay Card swipes at the end of each quarter.

"We're preventing and stopping campus-wide hunger and homelessness," Baker said. "Anything to make their situation somewhat better."

— Natalie Feulner

# MacArthur Foundation 'Genius Grant' Awarded to Alumnus



In addition to his work on DC Comics's *New Super-Man*, alumnus Gene Yang is the author of several graphic novels, including *American Born Chinese*, which won the Michael L. Printz Award in 2006.

— JESSE CANTLEY

Cal State East Bay alumnus and graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang (MS '03, Education) was recently announced as the recipient of one of 23 \$625,000 no-strings-attached MacArthur Foundation fellowships, often referred to as a "genius grant."

Yang and the other fellows were awarded the grants for their exceptional creativity and potential for future contributions to their respective fields, according to the foundation.

"While our communities, our nation, and our world face both historic and emerging challenges, these 23 extraordinary individuals give us ample reason for hope," said Julia Stasch, MacArthur Foundation president. "They are breaking new ground in areas of public concern, in the arts, and in the sciences, often in unexpected ways. Their creativity, dedication, and impact inspire us all."

Earlier this year, Yang was the first graphic novelist to be named National Ambassador for Young People's Literature by the Library of Congress. Yang uses his work to explore history and multicultural experiences, and as a creative instructional medium for children and young adults.

He is also one of the writers of DC Comics's *New Super-Man*.

Cal State East Bay President Leroy Morishita said the recognition is an extraordinary honor for Yang.

"Receiving the MacArthur Foundation grant is a tremendous recognition for an artist such as Gene Yang who has been a trailblazer in his profession and an inspiration to his community," Morishita said. "I have known Gene for many years and have been impressed by his ability to approach challenging topics in creative ways that engage and encourage dialogue."

The MacArthur program awards unrestricted fellowships to individuals who have shown "extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction," according to its website. Fellows are selected based on three criteria: exceptional creativity, a track record of significant accomplishment, and potential for the fellowship to facilitate future creative work.

Recipients of the awards may be writers, scientists, artists, social scientists, humanists, teachers, or entrepreneurs. The foundation does not require or expect specific

products or reports of the fellows and does not evaluate their creativity during the fellowship.

— Natalie Feulner



## STUDENT DIVERSITY TOPS RANKINGS LISTS

Cal State East Bay's diverse student population is topping national rankings lists, including the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *U.S. News & World Report*, which both listed CSUEB as the second-most diverse university in the country and first in the continental United States — and the university is being honored for the third year in a row by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award.

Cal State East Bay was also recently noted in five different categories in *Diverse* magazine's 25th annual "Top 100" issue, which looks at the top degree-producing institutions for minority ethnicities. For undergraduate degrees, the university ranked No. 29 in Asian American graduates, No. 65 for Hispanics, and No. 55 overall. For master's degrees, Cal State East Bay ranked No. 44 for Asian American graduates and No. 86 overall.

Recipients of the awards may be writers, scientists, artists, social scientists, humanists, teachers, or entrepreneurs. The foundation does not require or expect specific

# Friends of the Arts Select Four New Award Recipients

Creative and performing arts students were honored last spring at an annual luncheon for excellence in the fields of music, fine art, creative writing, and performing arts by Cal State East Bay's Friends of the Arts (FOA), a volunteer organization with a 25-year history of dedicated support to the university.

Every year, FOA presents scholarship awards to a student from each discipline, all housed within the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences. This year, the winners are:

**Art:** Izalyn Labao is pursuing her bachelor of fine arts degree and currently working on her senior thesis show in preparation for graduation this fall. Labao's paintings focus on figurative and illustrative art, which she hopes to apply to a career in video game concept art. "What makes art so meaningful to me is the act of sharing my work and sharing a part of myself with others," she said. "I've always found it hard to explain myself through words, so I found painting and drawing [as] a way to communicate with others."

**Creative Writing:** Luis Guillin (BA '14, English) is pursuing his master's degree in English at Cal State East Bay. He is current editor of *Occam's Razor*, the English department's literary journal, as well as *Arroyo Literary Review*, the university's print journal, which accepts submissions worldwide. English Professor Stephen Gutierrez said, "Luis is a talented writer, having placed high in both the relative nonfiction and flash contests this year, and he is a model literary citizen."

**Music:** Undergraduate student Jordan Nadell began his studies at Cal State East Bay as a performance major on tuba,

but is now focusing on composing. Nadell graduates this fall and aspires to write music for video games. "Jordan is an excellent composer and tuba player," said Lecturer Jeffrey Miller and Nadell's composition instructor. "In his time at Cal State East Bay he has developed into a composer of sophisticated and substantial works, including a string quartet and a band piece. I look forward to his future development as a musician."

**Performing Arts:** Mariah Kuhn, who is also the recipient of the Leonard Libresco Award for Academic Excellence in Theatre and Dance, received the Jerry Rose Memorial Theatre/Dance Scholarship from FOA. Kuhn believes in using theater as a vehicle for social awareness and plans to teach after graduating with her BA in the theater arts. "I would love to teach people the



*Distance*, acrylic on cardboard and wood panel, by Izalyn Labao

rich and deep language, the positive and liberating experience, and the family that theater holds and creates," she said.

*Friends of the Arts* is a volunteer organization that comprises retired Cal State East Bay faculty and friends of the university, whose goals include increasing patronage at art events, raising funds to provide scholarships and grants to students in arts programs, and enhancing the culture of the region surrounding the university. To learn more about supporting outstanding creative and performing arts students, contact Director of Development for the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences Kristin Loheyde at [kristin.loheyde@csueastbay.edu](mailto:kristin.loheyde@csueastbay.edu) or 510.885.4035.

— Barbara Hedani-Morishita

## FACULTY GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The Cal State East Bay Office of Research and Sponsored Programs has announced that three professors will receive several grants for research projects and programs in their respective fields.

**Cristian Gaedicke**, engineering: \$750,000 from Chevron to fund the CSUEB Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement program and \$51,421 for the Discover Engineering Contra Costa program.

**Brian Perry**, biological sciences: \$252,349 from the National Science Foundation for his project "Collaborative Research: Plant and Fungal Diversity of Tafea Province, Vanuatu."

**Farzad Shahbodaghlo**, engineering: \$61,505.21 from the Contra Costa Economic Partnership for his project, "2016 Discover Engineering Contra Costa," and \$150,000 from Chevron for the program "Discover Engineering: Ambassador."



# THE Fight to Be Heard

CAL STATE EAST BAY'S FIRST CHANCELLOR'S DOCTORAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM  
EdD STUDENT CHAMPIONS ACCESS TO DEAF EDUCATION

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

**W**hen she speaks, Jamila Guerrero-Cantor can't help but move her hands. As an advocate, activist, and counselor in the deaf community for two decades, using sign language comes naturally to Cal State East Bay's first-ever Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) student within the university's Doctorate in Educational Leadership for Social Justice.

The CDIP is awarded annually to doctoral candidates who show promise in their proposed research and vested interest in competing for future tenure-track openings within the California State University system. CDIP participants can complete their degrees in any accredited doctoral program nationwide, and Guerrero-Cantor, who was also accepted at UCLA, chose Cal State East Bay.

As she explains why she left a coveted tenure-track position as a counselor for deaf students to study at CSUEB, she places one hand perpendicular to her chest, palm down, facing the floor. Then she takes her other hand, balls it into a fist, and punches up into the flat hand several times.

"I was tapped out," she says aloud while signing, almost as an afterthought. "I felt so frustrated, like I wanted to do so much more."

While Guerrero-Cantor helped the deaf population grow from 19 to 90 students in just a few years in her former role, the more students she worked with, she explains, the more she wanted to do something that could help thousands, not just handfuls, at a time. The lifelong social justice advocate began wondering if other programs targeted toward at-risk populations could also be applied to deaf students — and if she could do the research to prove it.

For example, Guerrero-Cantor, who is also a mentor within The Puente Project, a program that originated at Chabot College and targets disadvantaged students by building a sense of community among them, thought a similar framework could be used as a starting point for her own studies.

"It's a no-brainer, it's a recipe for success," Guerrero-Cantor says. "You have a cohort of students, they become very bonded, [and] you connect teaching, counseling, and men-

toring — those three components — and no wonder [The Puente Project has] a 98 percent success rate. I would love to do that with deaf students."

Last spring, while she was still considering programs, Guerrero-Cantor met with Professor Lettie Ramirez as well as the director of Cal State East Bay's EdD program, Associate Professor Bradley Porfilio.

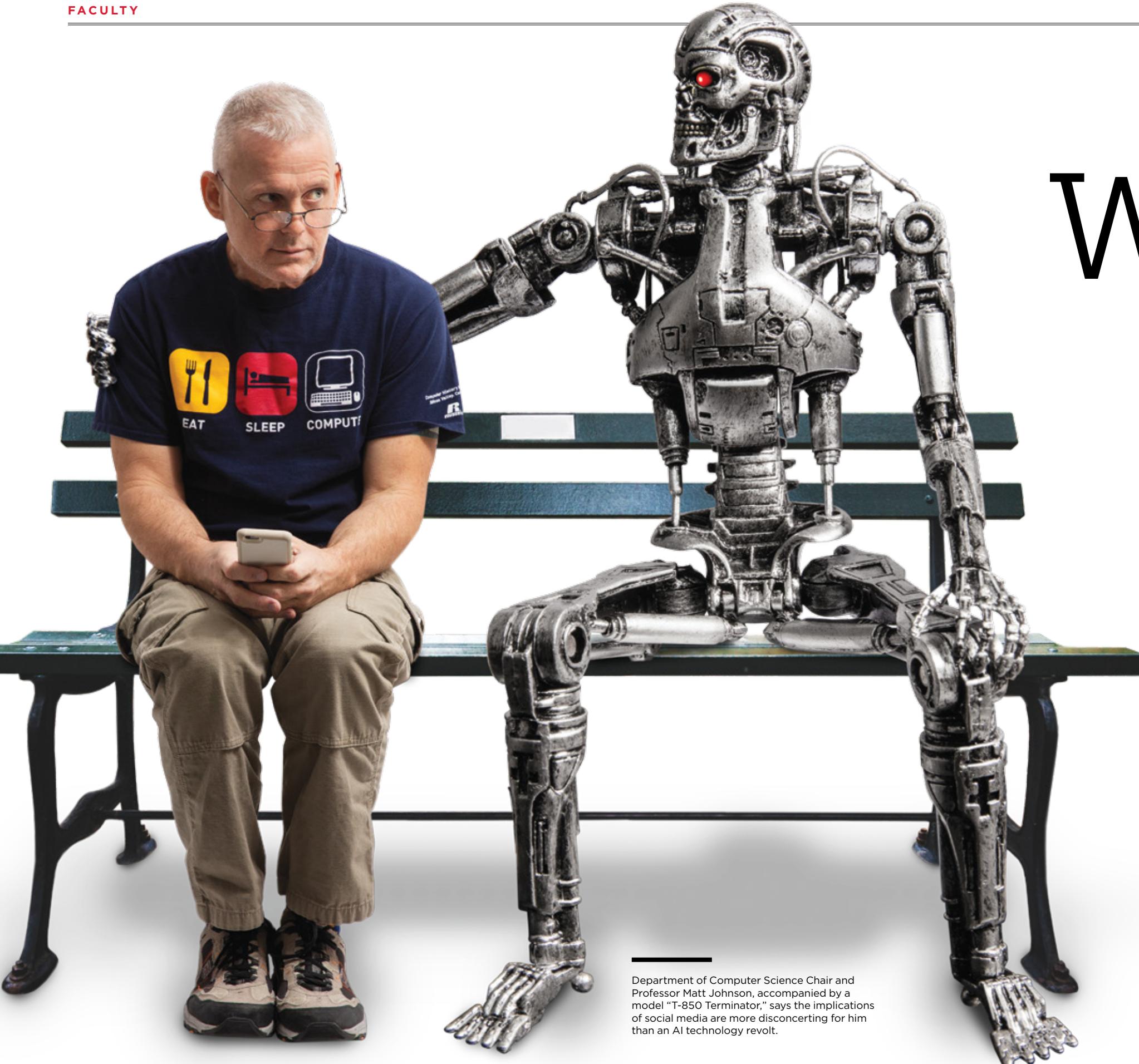
"When I told them my vision, their response was 'Oh, we can support you with that. You should come here.' It was just this warmth and love. I saw the opportunity to do something practical while doing research, with a very supportive mentor, who has experience with the exact type of model I want to try."

There was also another rare benefit Cal State East Bay offered Guerrero-Cantor: the chance to study alongside California School for the Deaf Fremont Principal Liann Osborne, who could add valuable insights and collaboration to her research.

"As the EdD program's first black, deaf student [Jamila and I have] discussed what we really want to see happen out there," Osborne says. "We really want to set up a program where we can help first-generation families, communities that don't value education as much ... and we want to support deaf children and let them know that [higher] education is of value to them as well."

While the framework of the research is still being defined, Guerrero-Cantor believes a model that brings more deaf students into the fold of higher education must include counselors who are deaf themselves and communicate in sign language, classes designed for deaf needs, as well as high-quality interpreter services.

"I believe we can learn so much from a community of people that have been so excluded," she says. "The beauty and the potential of what they can teach us as a society are largely unknown because we haven't supported a world where that has been possible. I'm really interested in getting deaf students to complete higher education degrees and then come back as leaders and lead these programs." **EE**



# Will AI Ruin Us?

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSOR AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EXPERT MATT JOHNSON TAKES ON SKYNET, SPYING, AND WHERE AI TECHNOLOGY IS GOING NEXT

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

*Professor Matt Johnson has been working in artificial intelligence since its beginnings. He began studying computer science at Xavier University at age 15, dug into AI during his master's work at Michigan State, and was one of the first PhD graduates in computer science from William & Mary. Since then, he's worked on in-flight pilot automation for NASA, air-traffic control strategies, military surveillance, and more. Here, amidst fears of the technology evolving beyond human control, Johnson answers questions about what he believes are the real concerns with AI. Hint: It isn't robots falling from the sky.*

Ideas about the power and consequences of AI span the gamut — Stephen Hawking has said it could be the end of humanity. Where do you stand?

People are afraid of AI, largely because of how it's portrayed in science fiction and the movies — that it's going to take over the world and giant robots are going to come out of the sky. At a cocktail party when someone hears I work in AI, the first question is always about Skynet (laughs). No, I'm not afraid of that.

There is a contingent of people, however, well-known people, who believe in what's called "strong AI," which is about getting the computer to actually be intelligent — as opposed to just seeming intelligent because it performs the task correctly or gets the right answer. ▶

There's no harm in researching [strong AI] and doing things with it in my opinion, but trying to [get computers to] act human isn't the right approach. We should be continuing to come up with systems that make the best decisions given the information that they know. That's not necessarily about being self-aware or conscious or philosophical, it's just a program solving one particular task.

**So AI isn't about trying to recreate or mimic the way the human brain works?**

No, it's not about trying to build your thinking, feeling artificial friend. And it's not even about understanding how the human brain works. To me, that's cognitive science. And, it's also incredibly arrogant — humans [don't possess] the only kind of intelligence. It is, though, about trying to solve problems that are hard and complex, and that are inefficient for humans to solve by their nature.

**Your specialty is machine learning?**

Yes. Machine learning, which is the design and construction of algorithms that can learn new behaviors from and make predictions on data. Modeling solutions after observable phenomena in nature is what I dig most, though, so my main area of research is genetic programming — a problem-solving technique modeled on natural selection and population genetics that teaches a computer program how to create and run other programs. It's very meta, and I think, very cool.

I've also done work throughout my career in neural networks, which is teaching machines how to learn based on the biology of how humans or animals learn to do things, and I've done a lot of work in ant colony optimization. When you see ants scurrying around looking for food, they're actually doing that based on a firm mathematical model and pheromone tracing — they're following a scent. You can

use this idea to send out virtual 'ants' to see how long it takes to get a reply back that something was received, like an email. Eventually, you're able to create a picture of the network topology and make adjustments to things like a failed server really quickly.

**Privacy issues are huge these days. Does AI play a role in that?**

That's also a fear for some people, that AI is being used to monitor their activities and knows them. But whatever is being done or looked at is being done in a singular frame of reference — a single webpage, a single phone conversation. To link all those things together is incredibly complicated.

So yes, [AI] has the possibility to watch what I'm doing when I'm shopping online or talking on my iPhone and to respond to that information in a limited context — but AI is never going to be able to create a completely accurate picture of who I am.

What AI can do by itself isn't the issue, though, it's what's done with it that's the problem; people gathering information about you without your knowledge or ability to control it is ethically disconcerting.

**Artificial intelligence is being hailed as the fourth industrial revolution — a recent study by the World Economic Forum estimates a net loss of five million jobs due to AI in the next 20 years.**

It's a real challenge, and I think it will happen a lot in China soon because they're investing so much in robotics for manufacturing. When people make decisions about whether to automate something, they're focusing on a personal or business bottom line, not what happens to the workers. As a society, the more we automate, the more we have to realize people are getting pushed out of the workforce, and that can't be the end of the discussion — there needs to be an effort to educate people in the skills that are needed.

**And how is Cal State East Bay handling that education?**

Well, it's been pretty well publicized that the number of women and minorities working in Silicon Valley is pathetic. And it's even more of an issue when you look at the demographics of the region, which are incredibly diverse. These may or may not be people whose jobs could be eliminated by AI in the future, but they're people who aren't gaining traction in a career field with huge growth and huge demand, and who can't even imagine themselves working in technology. There's literally a million new jobs to be had in the next decade.

What I'm proud of is how diverse the students in the Cal State East Bay computer science program are, and how we buck enrollment trends nationally. Our undergraduate program has more than three times the number of Latino/Hispanic students compared to the national average, and 45 percent of our graduate students are women — that's also more than three times the average across the United States. We are serving as a model of success for what computer science programs need to look like in this country for the sake of our economic and national security.

**So with all the growth that's expected, what are your predictions for where AI is headed next?**

I think the surge in AI startups will continue happening as giants like Facebook and Google invest more and more in AI technology, but as far as specifics, definitely drones. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has released regulations for registering drones and is testing technology that could help automate air traffic control — we should see that this year.

And the Internet of Things will continue to expand; all the physical objects, devices, buildings, etc. that are embedded with electronics. Devices will coordinate more, and therefore seem smarter. And this plays directly into more of what's called affective computing. It's becoming more and more important for users to feel personally connected to their devices, especially cell phones. Many AI students study psychology, too, and there's a big thrust in the field to create programs that understand a user's mood and desires. You can do that through gathering data on things like what emojis are being used, and even the strength of a person's keystroke. Happy people type differently than angry ones. And then maybe you have a recommender system that correlates a user's mood with their search history or something — a little thing could pop up on the screen and offer directions, for example, if the user seems frustrated. A lot of things are coming together.

What excites me the most is work on autonomous agents, but not driverless cars. I think real applications are still years and years away. Smart homes, maybe? My house is remarkably dumb. Or personal assistants. I could really use that — but not one automatically predicated on a female voice. 

**"What AI can do by itself isn't the issue ... it's what's done with it that's the problem."**



Alumna Shayna Whitley was recently hired as a business finance associate analyst at PG&E.



# girls AND MONEY

ALUMNA SAYS YOUNG WOMEN ARE INTIMIDATED BY ECONOMICS, BUT UNDERSTANDING IT IS KEY TO THEIR FUTURE

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

It's 9:30 A.M. on an overcast summer morning at Cal State East Bay, and approximately 100 soon-to-be eighth- and ninth-grade girls are gathered for roll call outside the College of Science. They're members of Girls Inc. of Alameda County, the largest affiliate of a national nonprofit dedicated to empowering young women to go to college, and each year, they descend on the university's Hayward campus to get a taste of higher education.

Standing at about 5'6" and wearing a hoodie and jeans with fashionable rips at the knees, Shayna Whitley (MA '16, Economics) easily blends in with the middle schoolers — a fact, they say, that helps them think of her as a big sister. But there's no mistaking her authority, or the respect she commands from the young women. As program coordinator at Girls Inc. of Alameda County, Whitley designed the camp's curriculum, arranges the weekly field trips, oversees the instructors, and reinforces — at every opportunity — the STEM-based lessons that are at the heart of the experience.

She quickly calls out changes in the schedule (a group leader is out sick and she'll be taking over pool duty), and true to her warning, gives the information only once. When Whitley

asks, "Are we clear?" dozens of young voices answer back with a resounding "Yes!" The group is dismissed and she heads for life-guard duty with the first of the girls to swim for the day. Many of them, she notes, had never been in a pool before coming to Cal State East Bay.

En route, she confiscates a piece of cheesecake (it's against Girls Inc.'s nutrition policy) and responds to exaggerations about frostbite by asking a group of "rookies" — eighth-graders — at what temperature water freezes. When one says it's so cold she's sure she'll get pneumonia, Whitley is again on cue, inquiring, "Really? Does that make sense? How do you contract pneumonia?" (Virus transmission is on the list of course topics this summer.)

Later, as she tells her own story — she grew up in Washington, DC (her parents both work government tech jobs), got a bachelor's degree in biology at Hampton University, and started with Girls Inc. in Virginia before following an opportunity with the organization to California — an interesting reciprocity surfaces between the young women she's shepherding toward college and what led her to the master's in economics program at Cal State East Bay. ▶

"I noticed there was a deficit with the girls just understanding the way the world works," Whitley says. "And with science — I love science — but when you try to talk about biology and cells, the girls can't *see* cells, so they really don't care."

"Girls care about money," she continues. "And literally anything and everything we do has some type of economic component to it, so I really thought about that — and I started developing lessons for the girls [on economics] in a way that made sense to them."

However, after a good running start with talks about family finances, material goods, and the cost of college, Whitley soon came up against her own limitations. "I started researching economic literacy, and I started realizing how much I liked it — and how much I needed to know. I needed to know the mechanics of it," she explains.

Whitley began looking for master's degree programs

locally, and it wasn't long before she was filling out an application for Cal State East Bay.

"When I turn on CNN, Bloomberg, CNBC, there's not a lot of people of color — at least not enough," she says. "It's a culture thing and maybe it's a community thing ... my family was well off and we still didn't talk about money. I want to see more people of color take the reins, if you will, to understand their power. We could *change the world*," she emphasizes, "if everyone understood the economic principles, foundations, and repercussions of all the decisions that they make."

And she isn't wasting any time putting her knowledge to use: She's been sharing it with young women from throughout the East Bay, whom she calls "our future," and she recently took on a new role as a business finance analyst at PG&E.

"Economics is a scary word to [the girls]," Whitley says.

"So I worked a component into every lesson that they do. It's not necessarily hidden, and it's there in a way that makes sense to them, but they wouldn't say, 'Oh, this is economics.'

"The greatest thing that [Shayna] offers is that she knows how to make everything relevant to a girl's life," says Odette Nemes, senior director of development for Girls Inc. of Alameda County. "Whether it's economics, if it's science, if it's media literacy — she can always tie it in. She can get girls excited to learn about anything."

For example, in a lesson on the function of the eye that culminates in making eyeglasses, Girls Inc. educator Coralli Scimenes — also an East Bay alumna (BA '16, International Studies) — begins by playing an infomercial on glasses that correct colorblindness. After the girls watch people see, for the first time, the full spectrum of color in a sunset or their child's artwork, Scimenes asks them what they think of the product. Tentatively, an eighth-grader

questions if it's fair to let people try on the glasses without letting them keep them, and how much they cost. More questions are raised about the role of the sponsor, a paint company, and what it gets out of advertising glasses.

Scimenes continues with a group quiz that lets the girls amass "money" that will be used to "buy" the materials they need to build their glasses, with any leftover funds counting as their "pay." The price of materials also fluctuates throughout the lesson, providing a basis for the girls to understand markets.

Whitley says it's a point about resource scarcity that resurfaces across several lessons, while Scimenes notes that setting up the experiments in this way frequently leads to some interesting outcomes. "The girls who didn't do well [in the quiz] will go out during the break and study so they can come back and make more money. But the girls who have the most money ... they don't always have the ▶

**"Before [Girls Inc.], I was really confused about what economics was. Now I know we can use it to save our planet by not using too many things that are limited, like fossil fuels, plastic, and petroleum."**

— Tatiana Le, 13



**"I learned that everything has a cost, but also to use what I have, and to think outside the box on how to use what I have creatively."**

— Kayla Jones, 13



**"I know I'll use [economics] when I'm in college — when I'm on my own and trying to figure out life for myself ... you can't just go around spending money on things you don't need."**

— Alexis Guzman, 13



**"I've had a lot of role models who are showing me the benefits of saving. Money is scarce. We need to learn how to think towards the future and what could be useful for times beyond right now."**

— Michelle Ohwobete, 14





most creative ideas — they're relying on the fact that they can buy materials. This group (gesturing to the board) with the least money might come back and do something that dazzles me."

Either way, it is economics, and it's teaching the girls a mode of viewing the world that will sustain them in the future, including the possibility of coming back as college students to Cal State East Bay.

"A lot of girls are interested in going here now because of being here so long," Whitley says. "It's a positive memory in their minds of this specific campus, which is something that we've seen when we've run similar programs at other college campuses in the region."

"To have eighth-grade girls in that space [at Cal State

East Bay], starting that young, when they're going to be the first in their families to go to college ... to have them own it and feel like they belong there is really important," Nemes says.

For Whitley, there's also a clear symmetry in presenting Cal State East Bay as a real possibility for "my girls," as she calls them.

"The master's in economics program has changed my life," she says. "It opened up a whole perspective that I didn't know existed, a whole world — I had a learning curve coming from a bachelor's degree in science ... and I just see the growth in me through this program. I'm just so thankful and appreciative because I don't know how many people would have taken this chance on me." **EE**

Participants of Girls Inc. of Alameda County gather at Cal State East Bay each summer. Girls Inc. is a national nonprofit that inspires young women to be "Strong, Smart, and Bold" — the organization's motto — through free programs and mentorship. Girls Inc. of Alameda County is the largest affiliate of the organization and serves 8,000 girls and families.

## Model Success

Alumna shares her passion for Girls Inc.



As both a first-generation American and the first in her family to go to college, Cal State East Bay alumna Leona Tang (BS '91, Business Administration) is familiar with narrow expectations for women.

"My own grandmother would always say, 'You're going to be a doctor,'" Tang recalls. So, when she was accepted at UC Davis, young Leona indeed began preparing for a life in medicine.

"I nearly flunked out of college!" she laughs today. "When I transferred to Cal State Hayward, I started studying accounting because that's what I was interested in, and I loved it."

It's a lesson Tang, who is former head of internal auditing at Charles Schwab and a repeat name on the *SF Business Times*'s annual Most Influential Women in Business list, has been sharing with young women through Girls Inc. for 15 years. She's passionate about showing the young women their full potential outside professions they might be more familiar with (lawyer, doctor, teacher), as well as achieving greater equality for professional women everywhere.

"I did hiring in my previous position and women are doing well actually, but there are few ethnic minorities," Tang says. "And like myself, they might be the first one in their household to go to college, so no one is telling them how to pick majors."

"I spend my time trying to help advance women, and girls in particular," Tang adds, "because I hope one day we don't have the most influential women list, it will just be person. But to get there, we need to see more women — especially minority women — in leadership roles. The more girls can see women doing things they're not used to seeing women doing, it's helpful for them to know they can aspire to be that as well."

Alumnus Scott Pallesen works in Tesla's dynamometer lab, and says his ability to demonstrate critical thinking skills is what got him hired at the cutting-edge automaker.



BY FRED SANDSMARK '83 PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

# ZEROSIXTY

ALUMNUS SCOTT PALLESEN  
STRESS-TESTS MOTORS  
FOR TESLA — AND PUSHES  
HIMSELF JUST AS HARD

T

HE CAR THAT TESLA MOTORS FOUNDER AND CEO ELON MUSK drives is unlike any other. It may appear to be a normal Tesla Model X on the outside, but look closely at the car's 259-horsepower front motor (762 combined) and you'll find the initials 'SP' hastily written with a Sharpie pen.

Scott Pallesen (BS '14, Physics) was working as an engineering technician in the dynamometer lab at the Tesla headquarters in Palo Alto when a spark of excitement flew through the department. The team learned that the motor they were testing would soon be installed in the famed entrepreneur's car. Pallesen, caught up in the excitement, couldn't help himself.

"As I'm uninstalling the unit after a test, I signed the motor," he says with a twinkle in his eye. "It's actually still in the car. Elon's driving [it], and I tested it."

Pallesen's route from Cal State East Bay's College of Science to Tesla's dyno labs has been fast and exciting — not unlike the cars themselves. And similar to Tesla's built-to-last electric vehicles, Pallesen is looking forward to a long ride in the car business.

But it wasn't always that way.

## IGNITION SPARK

Pallesen graduated in 2014 with a physics degree and an uncertain future. He was working at an athletic shoe store in Livermore and considering applying for grad school or a job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Then one day his father, who does high-end custom metal fabrication, invited him along to install stainless steel staircases and handrails at the Tesla Motors headquarters in Palo Alto.

"I saw a bunch of people on computers doing what looked like AutoCAD (2D and 3D design) and modeling," Pallesen recalls. He has never considered himself a stereotypical "car guy," but he has a mechanical and technical aptitude — from years at his father's elbow — and the work looked appealing. ▶

Pallesen's timing was perfect; just a few hours later his phone rang. After a three-part interview (a sit-down conversation, a mechanical skills test, and an assessment of his ability to read technical drawings), he was hired as a production associate — basically, an assembly-line worker — in the fall of 2014.

## MOUNTING SPEED

The labor Pallesen began doing on the shop floor was a far cry from the design work in sleek offices that had inspired him to apply.

He began with a physically demanding 12-hour swing shift — 5 p.m. to 5 a.m., five nights a week — building doors for the Tesla Model S, the brand's flagship electric car. Over the course of several months he got to know the equipment engineers who maintained the assembly-line robots (the plant is renowned for its cutting-edge automation) and, intrigued by their work, asked if he could learn from them — on his own time.

The engineers and Pallesen's supervisor agreed, and soon he was working an additional 12-hour shift on the weekends, repairing and maintaining the factory's robots.

After nine stimulating but exhausting months, he was primed for another challenge.

"I went to my supervisor and said, 'I've got experience doing all this other stuff,'" Pallesen says. "And he said, 'We need to get you out of here. I've been looking at other positions for you already.'" Pallesen embarked on another series of interviews, one of which included a geometry problem on a whiteboard. (He aced it.)

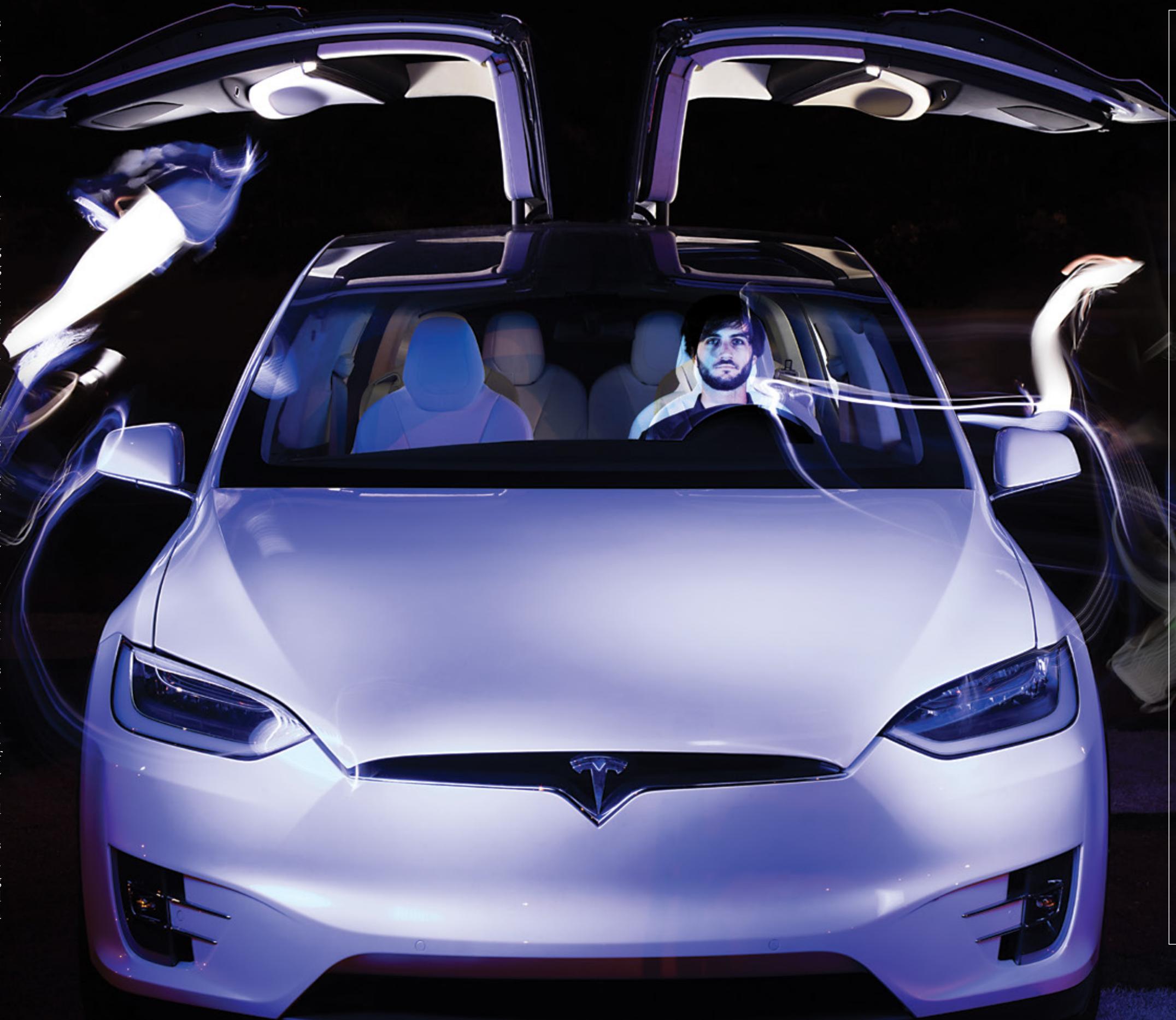
"[The manager] was looking for critical thinking — could I break down the problem?" Pallesen notes. "Then he took me on a tour of the lab. I was like, 'What did I just get into?' Because it's loud, things are spinning, and I [had] never touched equipment like [that] before."

But in June 2015, Pallesen indeed began testing motors on those loud, spinning machines — they're called dynamometers, and they measure force, torque, and power.

"It was a lot of fast-paced work," Pallesen says. "Engineers would bring their motors down, and we tested them. The tests ran for two hours, then you'd take the motor off [the dynamometer] and put another one on it. It's a very tight schedule."

In spite of the breakneck pace, Pallesen once again found time for side projects.

The motors, weighing between 200 and 350 pounds apiece, are kept on tall racks and retrieved using a forklift. Some 40 motors are on the racks at any given time waiting to be tested, and retrieving the next one in the queue used to take technicians 20 minutes or more. But thanks to a database application Pallesen developed, which tracks ▶



## ALUMNI AT WORK

Nearly two dozen Cal State East Bay alumni work at Tesla each day, contributing to the automaker's growing collection of electric vehicles and energy technologies. Here, former Pioneers tell us about their jobs at Tesla and reflect on their time at Cal State East Bay.



**Who:** John Matthews (BS '13, Engineering)

**What:** Manufacturing Engineer

**Why:** A colleague and I are responsible for all the processes and any design changes that are implemented over the body [of the cars]. I have certain areas — underbody and mainline — basically the structure, body, and framing of the car.

**"I remember ..."** My three [mentors], Dr. (Helen) Zong, Dr. (David) Bowen, and Dr. (Saeid) Motalvalli. The [faculty], they made you understand the material. I had work experience before — but I really didn't have the tools. Without Cal State East Bay, I wouldn't have this job at Tesla.

## ALUMNI AT WORK



**Who:** Miguel Sales (BS '12, Business Administration)

**What:** Material Planner

**Why:** My job is to support the materials needs for Tesla's [vehicle] production and other departments, which directly affects the bottom line and cash flow of the company.

**"I remember..."** The ease with which students [could] approach their professors ... [and] some of the pivotal classes that taught me core competencies. In particular, I'm grateful for Professor (Brian) McKenzie's and Professor (Zinovy) Radovilsky's classes.

the motors by serial number and uses a scanner to identify each one, the retrieval time dropped to under a minute. "All the departments were impressed," he says with a slight grin. "They all wanted the code for the application."

Pallesen's willingness to do more than expected doesn't surprise Cal State East Bay Associate Professor and Department of Physics Chair Erik Helgren. Helgren recalls an upper-division physics class Pallesen took with him that covered the Compton generator — a device invented by Arthur Holly Compton to detect the Coriolis force (a principle of physics that explains the motion of objects relative to a rotating frame of reference). Helgren assigned a related homework project and, the professor recalls, "I half-jokingly said that I'd be impressed if someone built one over the weekend.

"Sure enough, on Monday morning Scott came walking in with a homemade Compton generator," he continues. The class was able to spend much of the next session reproducing Compton's experiments using Pallesen's device. "Scott did his best work in lab-based activities, whether it was in a lab class or the research lab," Helgren says.

## BUILT TO LAST

Within four months of starting work in Tesla's Palo Alto dyno lab, Pallesen was promoted to a different lab — this one in Sunnyvale — to perform long-term tests that simulate actual driving conditions. (Tesla founder Musk has set a goal that his cars last a million miles or more, and these long tests are key to meeting that goal.) Here, Pallesen is one of just two people conducting tests that

can run for weeks or even months on end, generating up to 300 channels of data.

Although his current assignment at Tesla is less physically demanding than the 72-hour weeks he spent building Model S doors on the shop floor, his drive for excellence is just as intense. Case in point: A single long-term test produces at least 10 gigabytes of data, and Pallesen strives to deliver those results as cleanly as possible.

"I'm very particular, and I want the tests to be run perfectly," he says. "There's hundreds of data columns, and my job — depending on the test — is to put [the data] on a big graph and analyze it. I look at the highs, the lows, the averages. This is what the senior engineers want to see. I want to get as much data as I can to the engineers, because I don't want to hear that [a] part I tested is suddenly failing. Because then I can't be proud of what I do."

Pallesen clearly feels a sense of belonging to — even ownership of — Tesla and its vehicles. And when he talks about his work, it's with phrases such as, "I want you to have your car forever."

He attributes his attitude to Tesla's culture, which seems more akin to that of a technology company than an automaker. Team-building exercises include video-game marathons, trips to the Tesla battery-manufacturing "giga-factory" in Nevada, and even an outing to watch one of Musk's rockets launch into space.

Through it all, Pallesen says his habit of asking for (and finding) more work has only been encouraged, and he takes little credit for how he's pushed himself at every turn to get ahead: "This just kind of happened," he says, "but it's been really cool, so I don't think I'm ever leaving." **E**



## ALUMNI AT WORK



**Who:** Regina Robideaux (BS '81, Physical Education)

**What:** Team Lead, Plastics Injection Molding

**Why:** I work in the area that handles the molds for different parts of the car, specifically the skin that goes over the bumper. I'm also the go-to person for breakdowns, training, and documentation on the machines that create the molds.

**"I remember..."** Playing intercollegiate sports (softball). We would travel to other colleges and vice versa, and ... it was an opportunity to see areas of California that I hadn't been to. Plus I love a good, long drive — still do!

# Rising in the East

CAL STATE EAST BAY ANNOUNCES A \$60 MILLION COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN IN HONOR OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The Journey to Here: The Rising in the East gala was strung together by stories of the journeys of prominent Pioneers, including the first speaker of the evening, Jack Acosta (below), chair of the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation.



BY NATALIE FEULNER PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

UNDER SPARKLING LIGHTS AND A SETTING SUN, more than 400 Cal State East Bay faculty and staff, students, alumni, and supporters of the university mingled and listened to inspirational speeches to celebrate the public announcement of a \$60 million comprehensive campaign, Rising in the East: The Campaign for Cal State East Bay.

As the university approaches its 60th anniversary, it is rising to the challenge of educating the most diverse student population in the 23-campus CSU system, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college.

"Each of us has a journey that led to Cal State East Bay, where the journey continues, fueled by a fresh infusion of energy, ideas, and inspiration," President Leroy M. Morishita said at the event in September.

To date, CSUEB has raised more than half its goal, which will continue the university's prominence as a leader in K-12 STEM education, and has extended the reach of programs like Hayward Promise Neighborhood.

"The goal of the campaign is simple — it's about people, place, and purpose," said Jack Acosta, chair of the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation. "Students come to Cal State East Bay as one person and leave as another — their time here is sacred. Giving provides the scholarships, faculty support, modernized spaces, and programs that fuel their learning during this transformation."

The September 24 gala featured prominent speakers such as Golden State Warrior's co-owner and entertainment executive Peter Guber and California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White (MS '72, Kinesiology). Guber is considered a pioneer in the ▶



Clockwise from top left: Golden State Warrior's co-owner and entertainment executive Peter Guber gave the keynote speech; alumnus and Emmy winner J.R. Havlan emceed the evening; Chancellor Timothy P. White (MS '72, Kinesiology) shared his own journey from Cal State East Bay student to leader of the CSU.

entertainment industry for his success starting Columbia Pictures, Polygram Records, and producing iconic films such as *Taxi Driver*, *Batman*, and *The Color Purple*.

Guber shared some of his marketing secrets and strategies with the gala audience, giving them an easy acronym to remember when thinking about how to get their audiences or customers to invest and care: MAGIC (Motivate, Audience, Goal, Interactivity, Content).

Eight-time Emmy award-winning comedy writer J.R. Havlan (BS '87, Business Administration) emceed the evening and regularly had the massive tent of supporters laughing at his antics and video clips of his own fundraising attempts on campus, including selling lemonade for \$50 a glass and giving students piggyback rides to class.

Speakers and campaign materials from the night highlighted the university's ability to fulfill its promise to the communities and region it serves through three key initiatives: people, place, and purpose. The university hopes

each initiative will empower students from diverse backgrounds to reach their full potential and use the transformative power of knowledge to serve the public good.

To illustrate the campaign's goals, President Morishita made several exciting announcements, detailing how the initiatives will be brought to life through donor support.

Under "People," the president announced the university would continue to focus on securing student scholarships and paid internships, create a student emergency fund, establish distinguished professors of practice, and enhance staff expertise.

For "Place," Morishita spoke about a new "Innovation Corridor" at the heart of the Hayward campus that will envision collaborative learning spaces of the future. New and renovated spaces will provide open gathering areas for students and faculty; encourage entrepreneurial and inquiry-based discovery; and feature technology-enhanced learning tools and a library for the new millennium.



Professor Karina Garbasi (left) and Associate Professor Erik Helgren presented the university's Solar Suitcase program at the event; the suitcase provides life-saving, portable renewable energy sources to resource-deprived countries.

"Our journey must lead us here — to creating a collaborative learning center that inspires new ways of thinking, teaching, and problem-solving," said Lonny Brooks, associate professor of organizational strategic communication. "This is the path to the future."

And finally, for "Purpose," Morishita announced Cal State East Bay will continue to promote excellence and diversity in STEM education and work to solve the important issues of the community while developing future professional leaders with the critical thinking skills to do the same. "[Purpose is] responsible leadership that makes a difference, solving the issues that matter to our communities and the region, and cultivating the next generation to carry on the cause," a memento from the event read.

Of the money raised so far, Acosta and his wife, Susan, have funded two endowed professorships and a faculty excellence fund during the first half of the campaign. Additional donors also provided funds for faculty, depart-

mental, and library excellence, as well as renovations for professional development space for STEM educators in the College of Education and Allied Studies, and applied research in the College of Science.

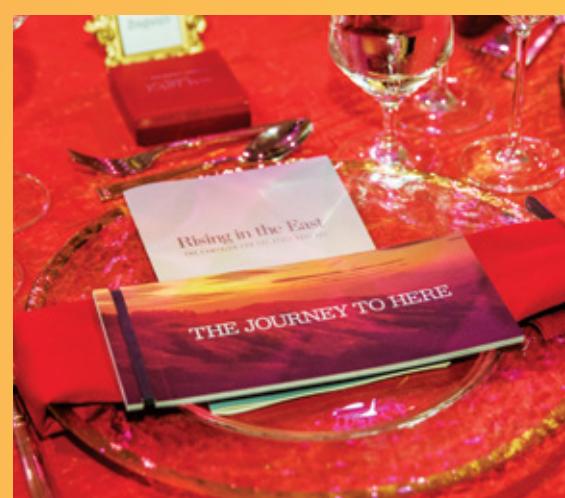
Others supporters have funded opportunities for programs that support hands-on problem-solving such as Game Jam and We Care Solar, and state-of-the-art equipment across campus.

"We are rising to meet the challenges of educating our motivated students, most of whom are the first in their family to attend college," said Tanya Hauck, vice president for University Advancement. "The vast majority of Cal State East Bay graduates will also enter the Bay Area workforce as skilled employees dedicated to succeeding in their chosen fields."

According to Morishita, with strong philanthropic support, the university will continue making a dramatic difference in the lives of tens of thousands of students, who ▶



Clockwise from top left: (Left to right) Barbara Hedani-Morishita, Jerry H. Tokofsky, Karen L. Oliver (BA '74, Art), President Leroy M. Morishita, Chancellor Timothy P. White (MS '72, Kinesiology), and Karen N. White gathered for a snapshot; Cal State East Bay students helped present the university's Solar Suitcase program; a memento booklet, "The Journey to Here," featuring the stories of the evening's participants was given to each guest.



At the end of the evening, Cal State East Bay revealed the faces of its new ad campaign — the diverse students whom the university is preparing to be tomorrow's leaders.



Student and musical virtuoso Roberto Granados, age 17, entertained the audience with an original flamenco piece, played alongside his brother Ernesto, 12, (not pictured) on the cajon.

will then make a difference in the places they work and the communities where they live.

This point was exemplified throughout the evening by featuring the "journeys" of several current students, alumni, and faculty, who both spoke at the event and were highlighted in videos. "Together, we can honor the journeys that brought us here, while ensuring that succeeding generations of students, faculty, and alumni record their own remarkable journeys for years to come," Morishita said. "With generous philanthropic support, Cal State East Bay will continue to rise."

James Monroe Iglehart (BA '98, Theatre), the Tony award-winning Broadway actor and singer, shared his experience of growing up in Hayward and finally deciding to pursue a theater degree at Cal State East Bay.

"My journey led me from a church choir in Hayward to the Broadway stage and my dream role in *Aladdin*," Iglehart said. "I was blessed to have a lot of good people guiding me along the way." Iglehart also confessed that he still hears the stage-direction commands of the late Professor Emeritus Edgardo de la Cruz in his head when he performs each night, and reminded the audience how influential the faculty is on the students at Cal State East Bay.

Other highlights included student Roberto Granados, 17, and his brother Ernesto, 12, musical virtuosos. The siblings performed an original flamenco piece and received a standing ovation. The work of Jamila Guererro-Cantor, a student and activist in the university's Doctorate in Leadership for Social Justice program was also featured, along with professors Karina Garbesi and Erik Helgren of the university's Solar Suitcase program.

Garbesi shared a story about working in an African community where women were dying during childbirth because there was no reliable electricity — doctors would pull out cell phones and hold flashlights in their mouths to deliver babies, including perform C-sections. It was the impetus for the now well-known CSUEB Solar Suitcase program, a hybrid environmental studies-physics class in which students build portable solar light systems that are then sent to energy-impoveryed areas throughout the world.

"Our journey calls for a very special suitcase, packed with the power to bring light to dark corners of the world, and to teach our students about technology, sustainable energy, and social justice," Garbesi said.

Morishita and his wife Barbara Hedani-Morishita

**"These are the reasons we are a university on the rise: people with a passion to pursue a purpose, in a place that makes it possible."**

closed the evening by presenting Havlan with the special gift of his very own letterman jacket, which they joked they hope he will wear when he accepts his ninth Emmy. The Morishitas then thanked the attendees for their continued support, wishing them well wherever their respective journeys lead.

"I have the profound privilege of hearing about [many] journeys, and the people behind them, every day," Morishita said. "These are the reasons we are a university on the rise: people with a passion to pursue a purpose, in a place that makes it possible. I invite you to join us as we embark on this next critical stage of our journey." **EB**



# SECRET MEETINGS

Students of the Bahá'í faith are banned from education in Iran – but that doesn't stop Lecturer Farhad Sabetan from teaching them

BY NATALIE FEULNER

**O**N ANY GIVEN NIGHT, AFTER HE COMPLETES a full day of teaching at Cal State East Bay, College of Business and Economics Lecturer Farhad Sabetan opens his computer, logs into an online classroom, and begins his lessons all over again. His web students are eager, and depending on the course, they learn more or less the same principles as the students he sees face to face. But there's a distinct difference: the online students are studying in secret, halfway around the world.

Sabetan has been teaching for the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) for several years, volunteering his time to help students who, because of their faith, are banned from attending universities in Iran. Instead of filling lecture halls, the students at BIHE gather secretly in living rooms and basements or log in to secure chat rooms, knowing full well that if they are caught going to college, it could mean years of imprisonment.

Sabetan, a Bahá'í, left Iran in 1976 before the Islamic Revolution. Because of his involvement in the Bahá'í community and human

rights activities, he has never returned. But his love of his faith and desire to help the next generation of Bahá'í learners permeate nearly every facet of his life.

"It's not paid work, but the students are eager ... I've met quite a few of them and they are amazing and driven," he says. "They are really thirsty to be among their peers and engage in intellectual discourse."

While not recognized formally by the Iranian government, BIHE has 700 faculty members like Sabetan, many of whom were once teachers at government-run universities in Iran but who lost their jobs due to their affiliation with the Bahá'í faith. The school currently offers more than 1,050 classes ranging from Persian literature to applied chemistry, and accepts 450 out of roughly 1,000 applicants each year.

"[BIHE] asks its instructors to apply the same conditions and standards as they apply to their own courses in the universities in which they teach," Sabetan says. "It is important because BIHE strives to achieve the highest possible academic standard in the face of the limitations it has." ▶

**“Sometimes there would be a man sitting outside on a chair pretending to read the newspaper, just like in the [spy] movies.”**

## UNDER FIRE

Adherents to the Bahá’í faith are the largest non-Muslim religious minority group in Iran. While Bahá’ís have been persecuted for the past 150 years, followers have been targeted more intensively since 1979 when Islam became the country’s national religion. Since that time, Bahá’ís have been banned from everything from seeking an education to owning a business.

According to Anthony Vance, director of public affairs for the Bahá’ís of the United States, a memorandum published in 1991 promoted restrictions to be placed on the Bahá’í and was approved by Iran’s supreme leader. Though there is no formal published “law” against the Bahá’í — at least not in the way that is typical of Western governments — this action spurred years of persecution.

Documents issued after the 1991 memorandum outlined the various ways in which progress should be blocked for all Bahá’ís living in Iran, including denial of admission to universities and expulsion in the case of mistaken admittance.

Former BIHE student Niknaz Aftahi, 30, who now lives in Berkeley, remembers being kicked out of libraries because she was required to show an identification card that indicated she was Bahá’í. Sabetan says other Bahá’ís have been killed or threatened.

When Aftahi was studying at BIHE, where she was accepted at her own risk rather than opting not to go to college, the university had a small architecture studio. But students knew they were being watched and after a couple years, the learning space was shut down by the government.

“Sometimes there would be a man sitting outside on a chair pretending to read the newspaper, just like in the [spy] movies,” Aftahi says.

Similarly, Sabetan shares that interrupted or stalled communications while he’s teaching classes online is typical. One day, he recalls, an “11th student” showed up in his 10-person virtual class and he and his students figured it was a government official listening in.

It’s a reality most Cal State East Bay students couldn’t fathom, but Aftahi says for BIHE students, living with the fear of being found studying became second nature.

## THE PRICE OF LEARNING

When asked why students don’t just lie about their faith on the documents required to attend other colleges in Iran, Vance explains, “Honesty is a very important, basic spiritual trait in the Bahá’í faith, and therefore to lie about anything is inappropriate, but to lie about one’s fundamental belief [in] and relationship with God would be particularly inappropriate.”

Aftahi is one of about 50,000 students who have studied at BIHE since its inception in 1987.

“I knew it would be difficult [to hide my education], but the whole time you’re in school, and you are planning for your university education ... you’re thinking, ‘This is the last year of depriving Bahá’ís from entering university, and hopefully the educational discrimination is going to end, and I can enter university with all my high school friends,’” she says. “From an early age, you’re always thinking and wondering if the university door will open.”

“The risk is always there because the government knows about [BIHE] ... at any moment if they wanted to arrest these students they could,” Sabetan adds.

Instead of fearing that possibility, though, he says it drives them.

“I see that these students are so eager, they themselves are going out of their way to pursue an education. They’re sacrificing a lot to learn — it’s the very least I can [do] to teach them for an hour here or there. There’s often a mix of feelings — it’s sad and absolutely joyous at the same time.”

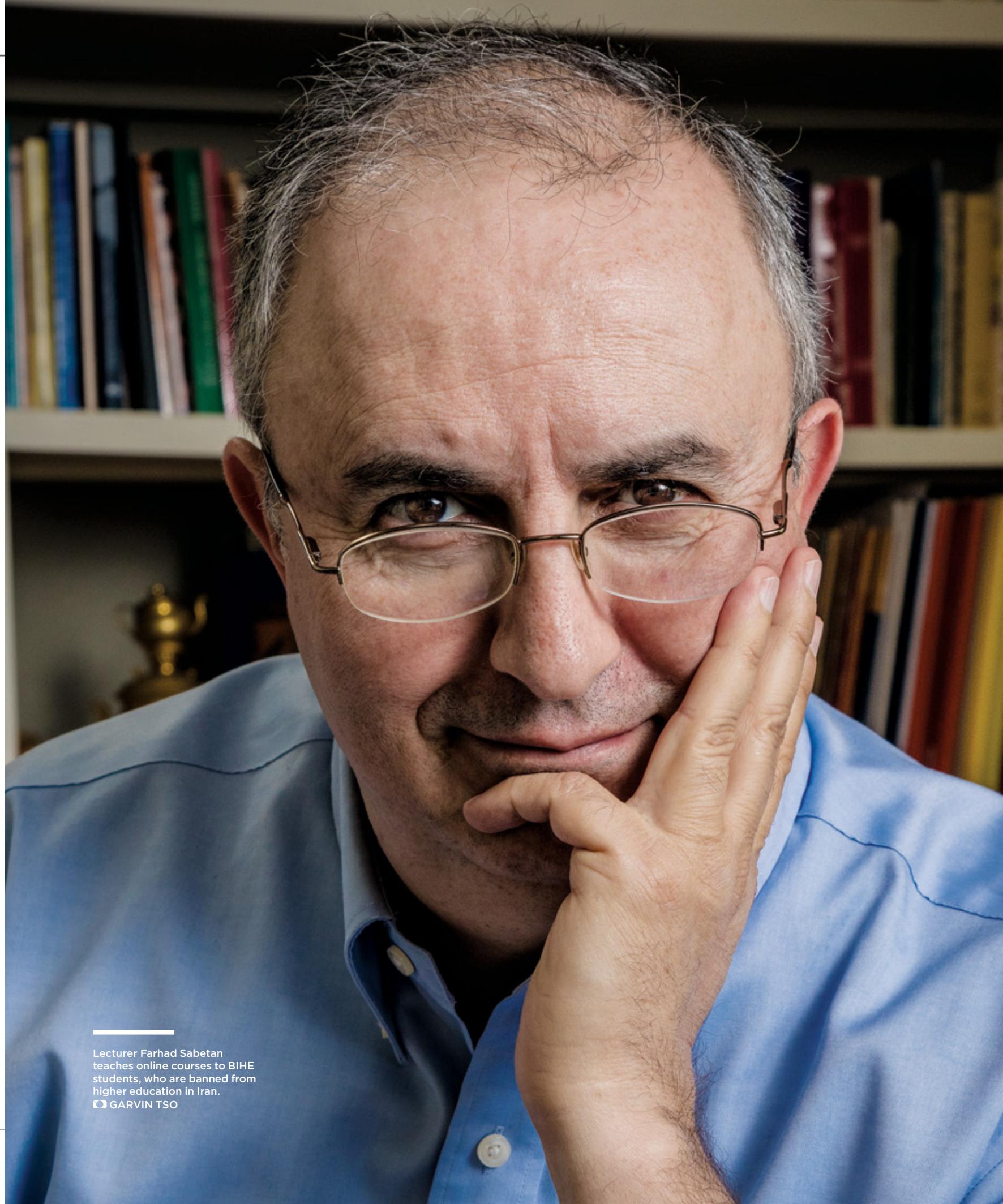
Government overreach also requires teachers like Sabetan to get creative with what and how they teach, and for students to play catch-up with major international events or ideas.

“At East Bay, I have to keep myself current with the literature, economic trends, and latest findings and applications,” Sabetan said. “This is tremendously helpful to BIHE students, who are hardly getting any unbiased news in Iran ... of course as they learn of the latest developments, they need to catch up with a lot of background information, which is not easily accessible to them.”

But teachers are dedicated to making sure students are learning on par or above their peers at traditional universities both in Iran and beyond. Many have gone on to pursue graduate or doctoral degrees at universities worldwide. There are now 69 higher education institutions, including Yale, Boston University, and UC Berkeley that count BIHE graduates among their students.

After Aftahi graduated from BIHE in 2010, she applied for graduate school in the United States. Initially, she was challenged in trying to explain why she graduated from a nontraditional university. However, she was accepted at UC Berkeley and started school in 2012, graduating with her master’s degree in 2014.

“Usually BIHE students struggle to introduce their school here. You have to explain the whole story of ►



Lecturer Farhad Sabetan teaches online courses to BIHE students, who are banned from higher education in Iran.  
© GARVIN TSO



Niknaz Aftahi (right) and her husband, Fares Hedayati, are both graduates of BIHE and currently teach classes online to help more Bahá'í students obtain their degrees.

© GARVIN TSO

religious persecution and that there are people that are banned from going to university because of their religion," Aftahi says.

Today, UC Berkeley and roughly 30 other schools in the U.S. formally recognize BIHE as a legitimate undergraduate program, a move Aftahi says has allowed more Bahá'í students to continue their studies abroad.

## UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Like Sabetan, Aftahi was involved with several human rights activities that prevent her from returning to Iran (or

else risk arrest), but she is hopeful, nonetheless, of returning to teach there someday.

"I would love to go back in the long run, especially for teaching and practicing architecture in my own country," Aftahi says. "As much as I am happy and grateful for the opportunity that I have now to advance in my profession in the U.S. and contribute to my community, I would love to be able to go back to Iran, and contribute to the welfare and life of my country. One-on-one communication with

**"As much as I am happy and grateful for the opportunity that I have now ... I would love to be able to go back to Iran."**

the students and having physical classes makes it much easier to communicate ideas in architecture, so hopefully if things change, I can go back in [the] near future."

For now, she's resolved to helping BIHE however she can. She currently teaches classes online alongside her husband, also a former BIHE student, in addition to her work at ELS Architecture & Design — a top-ranking architecture firm in the U.S.

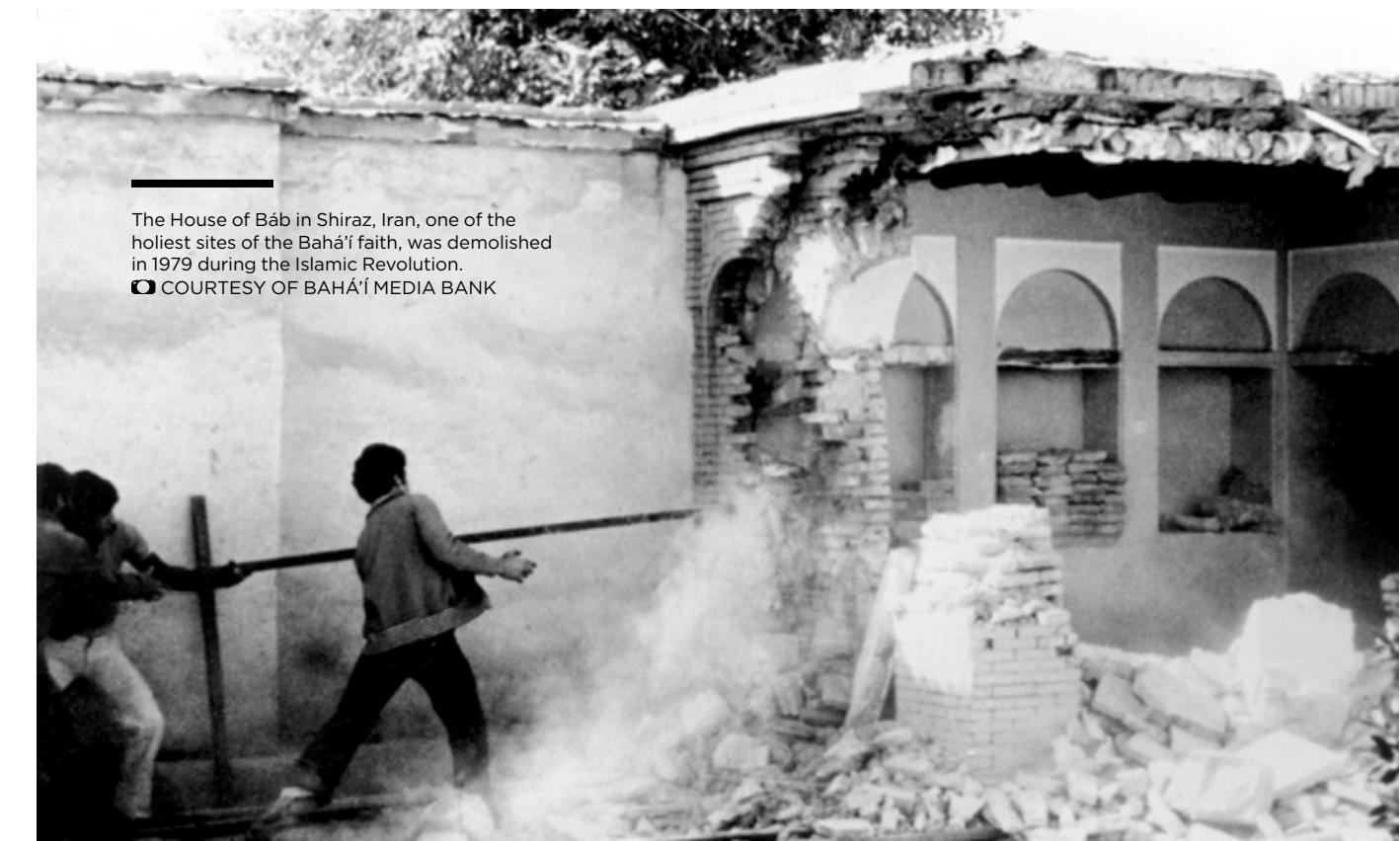
She says the couple's connection to the school and understanding of what students sacrifice to study are what inspire them to volunteer to teach.

"I think especially the experience that we went through, all the challenges that we've experienced, have allowed us to know how the students feel," Aftahi says. "I know how frustrating it is to need a book, and being banned from it, even though what you're doing is not wrong — in fact it's good and positive."

In the coming months, Sabetan is hoping to help the school beef up its graduate programs. The advanced programs are not as easy to start and support since graduate and doctoral students need access to more research materials, which is difficult to come by considering the ban on public libraries for Bahá'ís. Currently, BIHE offers graduate degrees in sociology, psychology, civil engineering, and computer science.

Sabetan says he's also interested in doing what he can to inform the world about the persecution of the Bahá'í, particularly surrounding education.

"Iran has one of the biggest brain drains in the world," he explains. "Education is not a crime — I'm not saying it should be free, but at least it shouldn't be illegal."



The House of Báb in Shiraz, Iran, one of the holiest sites of the Bahá'í faith, was demolished in 1979 during the Islamic Revolution.

© COURTESY OF BAHÁ'Í MEDIA BANK

## Understanding Bahá'í Persecution: A Brief History

Founded by Bahá'u'lláh in 19th-century Persia, the Bahá'í world community has more than five million followers and is established in 191 countries. It is a monotheistic religion emphasizing the spiritual unity of all humankind.

Teachings and doctrine are based on three core principles: the unity of God, the unity of religion, and the unity of humanity. Other values include equality between men and women; independent investigation of truth; and spiritual solutions to economic problems.

However, since 1991, when a memorandum was approved by Iran's supreme leader, thousands of Bahá'ís have faced extreme persecution under the Islamic Republic.

"It's really part of an overall plan to margin-

alize the Bahá'í community by impoverishing it and keeping it under-educated," says Anthony Vance, director of public affairs for the Bahá'ís of the United States.

According to the NGO Bahá'í International Community (BIC), more than 200 Bahá'ís have been killed and hundreds more have been imprisoned and tortured in the past 40 years. Tens of thousands have lost their jobs, access to education, and other rights. Government-led attacks on the Bahá'ís have intensified in the past decade, and according to the BIC, more than 7,000 pieces of anti-Bahá'í propaganda have been issued through Iran's state-run media since 2013.

Source: [bahai.org](http://bahai.org)

# Made of Hayward

The numbers are in — more students like Gabby Delgado are going to college, thanks to Hayward Promise Neighborhood

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

**G**ABBY DELGADO WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD when a single event made her aware, for the first time, of the two challenges that would shape her life: She couldn't speak English, and her family was at risk of being deported.

Her mother was away, attending the funeral of Gabby's grandmother in Mexico, when she was prevented from returning to the United States because she didn't have citizenship papers. Delgado's father, a construction worker, couldn't care for Gabby and her sister alone, so he sent them to stay with family in Southern California until the documentation could be sorted out.

It was there that Gabby's aunt began taking her to preschool classes alongside her younger sister, just to quickly get her into some type of school. Over the course of a month's time, as she learned alongside children half her age, her trouble with English became painstakingly clear.

"I didn't even know the days of the week. That's how bad it was," Delgado recalls.

She also remembers overhearing the adults in her life wonder at how she had gone under their radar for so long. "My aunt noticed and told my mom, 'She doesn't know much. I don't understand why these children in preschool know more than her.'"

Today, at the beginning of her sophomore year at Cal State East Bay, as she reflects on a journey that began with repeating the second grade, on how she's never been to the beach, or gone camping, or seen snow ("I guess because my father didn't have a license we couldn't risk it"), Delgado seems determined not to show any shame, quick to assure that it's fine to talk about it — though she rushes through the hard parts.

She lives minutes from the university's Hayward campus, just blocks from Harder Elementary where her younger brother, eight, now attends, and a little farther from Tennyson High ►



Gabby Delgado's struggle to learn English inspired her to give back as a Cal State East Bay service-learning student.

Marisol Pena will soon be the first in her family to graduate from college, and she proudly says she is "Made in Hayward," the official slogan of Hayward Unified School District.



School, where she graduated from and one of her sisters is now a senior. Delgado's other sister, 12, is at nearby Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School.

The neighborhood the Delgados live in is known as Hayward's Jackson Triangle — where families struggle with poverty, a high rate of single-income, female-headed households, and nearly twice the state average of English as a Second Language speakers (see *By the Numbers*).

It's also where an initiative called Hayward Promise Neighborhood, now closing in on the end of its fifth and final year of grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education, targets the students in those homes — kids whose financial and family circumstances just happen to make it easy for their educations to derail.

Delgado was first introduced to HPN as a junior in high school, when Cal State East Bay students began circulating as tutors in a common lounge area at Tennyson High School, and where she, motivated by another deportation scare, was seeking help with pre-calculus.

"Towards the end of my sophomore year, my dad lost his job because he didn't have papers," she says. "It was like, 'Gabby, you need to wake up and you need to start working, and you need to get good grades because if you don't, how are you going to go to school?'" Her voice breaks ever so slightly over the last few words but quickly firms up

**"These are students who aren't entitled ... And it's fun to show them, through the opportunities that HPN provides, that they are."**

again. "I got a job at Panda Express ... and in my junior year, I was just like, 'I'm going to work and I'm going to take AP classes and I'm going to make it.'"

"These are students who aren't entitled," says Carolyn Nelson, dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies at Cal State East Bay and principal investigator on the HPN grant. "And it's fun to show them, through the opportunities that HPN provides, that they *are* — they are entitled to a college education, a career of their choice, and all the same success as their peers."

Nelson is referring to the web of programs that HPN supports (see *What Makes a Promise Neighborhood*), ▶



## What Makes a Promise Neighborhood

The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) in Harlem, New York, is the model for the nearly two dozen Promise Neighborhoods throughout the United States today. HCZ has existed since 1970, but in the late '90s, under the leadership of children's advocate Geoffrey Canada, a different approach to supporting at-risk youth began to form: Take all the interventions available within

a community and offer them via a single pipeline that supports kids at every stage of life.

"Children can have challenges at any stage of their development, so it's necessary to have programs in place over the long term to make sure a temporary crisis does not have life-altering consequences," says Anne Williams-Isom, current CEO of HCZ (Canada retired as CEO in 2014 but maintains his role as president). "In order to break the cycle of poverty for an underserved community, we need to guarantee all children have the supports they need when they need them."

Since its inception, HCZ had garnered national and international attention, and has been featured in the *New York Times*, on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and in the controversial documentary *Waiting for Superman*, among many others.

In 2010, based on the success of HCZ (which reported a 93 percent college acceptance rate across its high school programs in 2015 alone), President Barack Obama announced the spread of the "Promise Neighborhood" model throughout the country. In 2011, Hayward was one of the first full grant awardees to receive \$25 million, spread across five years.

**“Even though their parents might tell them or their teachers [that they can go to college], it’s easier for them to connect with people who look like them.”**

provided through a variety of Hayward community partners and funding administered by Cal State East Bay. The focus is on creating a pipeline that supports children from infancy through college, with family services added in that make it easier for parents to focus on their children — free prenatal care, a community food bank, access to computers and technology training, and more.

And it’s working. Over the past four years of data capture, a spike of 149 percent has been seen in the cumulative enrollment from Tennyson and Hayward High Schools into Cal State East Bay. On campus today, this includes not only first-time freshmen, but also students who are persisting with their degrees through their sophomore and junior years.

Just ask Roxana Cruz, who used to be the UC Berkeley early academic outreach advisor in Tennyson High’s college and career center, where she first met Delgado.

“My job was to collaborate with staff on campus to build a college and career-going culture. I encountered great people wanting to help with that goal, but [there wasn’t] enough [of us] to really create the impact that we wanted to have,” Cruz says.

According to Cruz, who left that position to cast a wider net as HPN’s outreach coordinator for service learning at CSUEB, it’s the interns — formally called service-learning students — who are helping turn the tide. Cruz says the interns were invaluable when it came to calendaring events and marketing them at Tennyson, which enabled her to focus more on the high schoolers. But, she adds, there are intangible benefits to bringing Cal State East Bay students to the local high school campuses as well.

“I was fortunate to get two interns [from Cal State East Bay’s HPN program] during my time as coordinator at Tennyson, and they are really able to help the [younger] students see themselves as college-going,” she says. “Even though their parents might tell them

or their teachers [that they can go to college], it’s easier for them to connect with people who look like them, who are similar in age, who are from their neighborhood — it helps them believe college is real for them.” Cruz adds that already about one-third of service-learning interns from Cal State East Bay are graduates from local schools, a number she hopes to keep growing.

Marisol Pena, for example, a fifth-year senior at Cal State East Bay (double majoring in Spanish and health sciences), works at Hayward High School. Though Pena wasn’t able to benefit from HPN programs during her time in high school, she knows firsthand the different obstacles local students face, including, at times, discouragement from attending college.

“He didn’t want me to go,” Pena admits of her father. “My dad would say, ‘You’re going to get married and have kids. Why spend all that money on school?’”

But when a cousin just a few years older than Marisol became a single mother and left college, her father began wondering how his own daughter would support herself in a similar situation — unless she had an education.

“After that happened, my dad changed his mind,” she says. “[He] heard from his boss what a great school Cal State East Bay is and he [said], ‘You’re going there. I don’t care if it takes you 20 years to graduate!’”

Pena is now indeed juggling three jobs, going to school, and living at home while helping out with her younger brother, whom she was able to drop off at Hayward High on the way to her internship at the school’s college advising center last quarter.

“The kids that came in [to the advising center] — it was split between somewhat knowing [about college] and not knowing at all,” Pena says. “And, if they thought college was a possibility, they didn’t consider a UC or CSU or a private college. You see every side of it. We went into the classrooms to tell kids about the deadlines and application process and a lot of them were like, ‘What is that? Where

do I go?’ They don’t know what’s available to them with financial aid and how to apply.”

“The service-learning piece is huge in what [Cal State East Bay] students are giving back to our schools and our students,” echoes Hayward High School Principal David Seymour. “I think [the high school students] take [the reality of going to college] a little more seriously from the Cal State East Bay students than if an administrator or a teacher or a parent says, ‘You [have] do this and you [have] do this’ — it’s someone who’s roughly their age actually living it, and the kids get a lot out of that.”

The hope is that once they’ve been mentored through HPN, the students will be inspired to pay it forward.



## Inside Hayward’s Jackson Triangle Neighborhood

### BY THE NUMBERS

**11,345** total residents (3,442 households)

**46** percent of residents are English as a Second Language speakers

**17.4** percent of residents are living below the poverty level compared to 15.9 percent for California

**32** percent of household are female-headed compared to 19 percent for California

### CAL STATE EAST BAY’S IMPACT

**30** CSUEB service-learning students

**2,127** students in HPN schools served

**2,424** tutoring hours

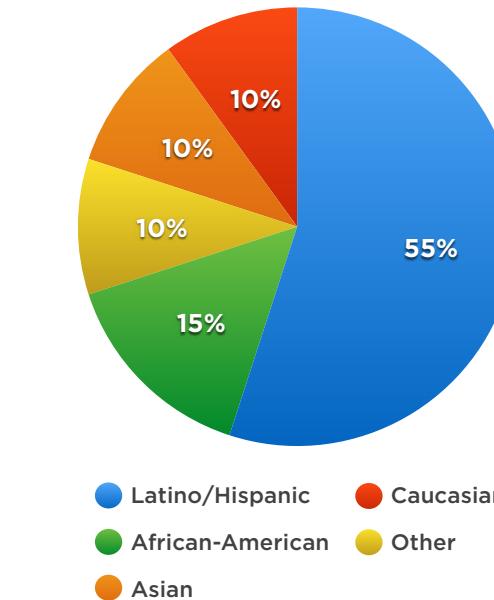
**1,356** college and career advising hours

**422** hours spent supporting community events

**18,418** service hours since 2012

*Data from 2015-2016*

### ETHNIC DIVERSITY



“Ms. Cruz was like a second mom to me back in high school,” Delgado says. “She helped me with everything — Cal grants, scholarships, personal statements, CSU applications — she was really there for me. And when she came to work at Cal State East Bay, she sent me an email saying, ‘You were helped by HPN, you should work for us.’”

This, Delgado reports, after she chose Cal State East Bay from the five CSUs she was accepted to. She settled on CSUEB because it gave her the best financial aid package. “Some things are hard to capture in data,” Nelson adds. “There are these aspects of change in human lives that you can’t capture in numbers, but when you hear the stories ... universities will always give degrees. But we are re-envisioning the purpose of the degree in such a way that it is much more meaningful, a best practice that is tied to

lifting up the community around the university — and teaching students the importance of giving back to it.”

At least in Delgado’s case, it’s an easy connection to make. After taking Cruz up on her offer to apply for a service-learning position with HPN, she spent a year tutoring kids at Harder Elementary with the HPN partner Super Stars Literacy program, and was then able to use that experience to obtain a job that paid double in fall 2016.

But her eyes still well up when she describes what it was like working with the third-graders.

“I saw myself in them, I guess. I know I was one of them once, and I needed a lot of help back then. I was really patient, too, because I know that used to be me. And just talking to them — every single day you could see the change. It makes me really happy to have been a part of that.”



# RISK & REWARD

RANDY DAVIS NEEDED A SECOND CHANCE — AND CAL STATE EAST BAY GAVE IT TO HIM

BY KRISTA DOSSETTI PHOTOGRAPHY GARVIN TSO

**I**t was June 2014 when 58-year-old Randy Davis (BS '02, Biological Sciences; MS '06 Biological Sciences) got the news: Multinational Swiss healthcare company Roche was purchasing his electronic DNA sequencing chip to the tune of \$125 million. And if the chip could meet certain targets in detecting and reading DNA over the next several years — not entirely proven at the time of Roche's acquisition — Davis and his colleagues would receive an even bigger payout.

More importantly, if those benchmarks are fulfilled (Davis reports exciting developments are underway), the electronic DNA chip will take him one step closer to fulfilling his dreams of revolutionizing personalized medicine. "Imagine that you go into your doctor's office and spit in a tube, and while you're having your consultation, your entire genome is being read in about 30 minutes," Davis explains. "All of your treatments, things you might be at risk for or need screenings for, or a person's allergy risks for certain medications, wouldn't be guesswork anymore. Everything will be tailored to your specific DNA."

But for the tech-minded entrepreneur and cofounder of Genia Technologies, it almost didn't happen. And not because of the sleepless nights, failed hypotheses, and draining finances that characterize many great startups.

It was because after committing to the big risks — quitting a successful job and pursuing a discipline far removed from any prior experience — no university would admit him.

"Everywhere I went, no one would give me the time of day," Davis recalls. "I don't mind telling you I took myself out for a [drink] after that. I felt really, really low."

Davis, who began his career as translator for Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry and is former executive director of sales at Maxim Integrated Products, first saw a DNA microarray (or DNA detection chip) while on a sales call at Hewlett Packard. It was the late 1990s and HP was launching one of the early DNA microarray scanners.

"I remember seeing that, and it just really interested me," Davis says. "And I began looking into biology courses at local community colleges — extension courses — and just taking whatever classes I could at night to understand the science of it."

Eventually, Davis would come home one day and ask his wife Pat what she thought of him giving up his career to start anew.

"There was no *letting* him [quit his job]," Pat notes today, reflecting on the years that followed — years filled with lab equipment and textbooks littered across their home and ultimately, the entire garage. "This was his passion."

Fortunately, Davis made one last stop on his tour of colleges before throwing in the towel.

"I came here [to Cal State], and I went to the biology department, and there was a guy there — I found out later he was the department chair (Professor Emeritus Steve Benson) — and I told him I was interested in the program," Davis recalls. "He took the time to answer my questions and he took me downstairs and showed me the lab. It was, oh, all of about 30 minutes and he didn't make any promises and he said it wouldn't be easy, but he gave me his time. I left thinking, 'This is it.'"

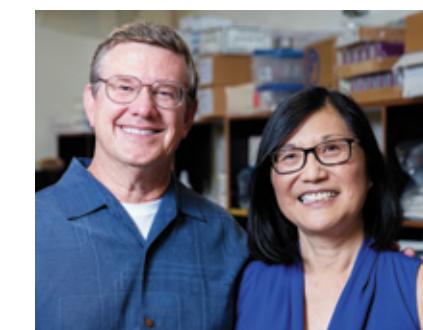
Although it would be years before Davis's technology took off, he was admitted as an undergraduate student in 2000 and began, deep in the belly of Cal State East Bay's BioCore Lab, the first tests for what would become an electronic DNA sequencing chip.

"His idea at the time, was, 'Can we do DNA analysis on electronic, silicon chips as opposed to the optics that we've been doing?'" says Professor Chris Baysdorfer, Davis's mentor and friend. "He had a long history in hardware technology ... He just needed to learn the molecular biology."

"I only found out after the fact that everyone had turned him down," Baysdorfer continues. "And it makes me want to strangle my [peers]. You see someone who is a mature guy, motivated, intelligent. He's exactly the sort of person that second chances were meant for."

Today, Davis, who obtained both bachelor's and master's degrees from CSUEB, and Pat are enabling current students to have more of those chances. Baysdorfer is stewarding a pledge the Davises have made to the BioCore Lab so that undergraduate students can have access to the supplies they need for hands-on research.

"I want students to be able to go further with the questions they want to ask, to go deeper," Davis says of the funding. "The way the classes were at Cal State East Bay — the professors gave you enough pieces to figure things out, but not the answers themselves. They took you a certain distance, and then it was up to you to go the rest of the way. That's the best way to learn." **EE**



Alumnus Randy Davis and his wife, Pat.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**BRIAN ARNOLD** (BS '69, Education) is vice chairman of the board for Operation Homefront, a military veteran charity that supports active-duty military families with emergency financial assistance, rent-free transition homes, and mortgage-free homes for veterans. Arnold retired from the United States Air Force as a lieutenant general in 2005, having served for



more than 34 years, including as a fighter/bomber pilot and commander of the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center. Following his military retirement, he joined Raytheon Company as vice president and general manager of Space Systems, where he worked until 2014 and continues to consult.

**DAVID MALIK** (BS '68, Chemistry; MS '69, Mathematics) is interim associate vice chancellor of undergraduate education and dean of University College, the gateway for entering students at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Malik is also currently interim chair of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and previously served as executive vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at Indiana University Northwest.



**BRADLEY MARTIN** (BS '67, Physical Education; MS '74, Physical Education) is a retired teacher of Las Lomitas School District in Menlo Park. An award-winning educator, Martin has since gone on to instruct at the

university level. In his leisure time, he builds cars and is a captain with the California Highway Patrol's Senior Volunteer Program, which he helped to establish in Placerville. Martin also travels extensively and is passionate about connecting with children throughout the world.

## 1970s



**LARRY BROOKS** (BS '77, Speech Pathology; MPA '84), vice president of Cal State East Bay's Alumni Association Board of Directors, is director of operations for Alameda County's Healthy Homes Department, which was recently awarded the 2016 Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes. The award recognizes excellence in healthy housing innovation and achievement, and is given annually to just three recipients.



**FRAN DAVID** (BS '71, Urban Ecology) has retired from her position as city manager of Hayward. During her time as a city leader, David spearheaded Hayward's public arts program to deter graffiti and support community engagement. The program has not only won state awards, it has also been replicated in more than 20 jurisdictions across the country.

**KEN GIBBS** (BS '73, Biological Sciences) has been appointed superintendent of Porterville Unified School District. Gibbs has served as the district's assistant superintendent for

business services for the past 15 years and was director of technology for five years. Prior to that, he taught math and science within neighboring Burton School District.

**GREG HOFFMAN** (BA '73, Psychology) is supervisor of Mendocino County Children's Center, a six-bed homeless shelter and mental health crisis assessment center operated by Redwood Community Services and Mendocino County Child Protective Services. He has been working at the center since 2007, when he started as a therapeutic residential counselor.

**CALVIN HUNTZINGER** (BS '78, Physical Science) is senior director of product at RefleXion Medical, a medical equipment company that is in development on a new biology-guided radiotherapy system for targeted, personalized cancer treatment. Huntzinger will lead marketing efforts on the new product and oversee clinical and academic partnerships. Previously, he worked at Varian Medical Systems for more than 25 years, where he also brought many innovative radiation oncology treatments to market.



**MICHAEL KAUFFMAN** (BA '70, Sociology) is retired and lives in Santa Cruz, where he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren. During his career, Kauffman was an elementary school teacher for seven years and a firefighter in Oakland for 20 years.



**JIM MCPHEE** (BS '72, Physical Education) is executive vice president of Colliers International in the company's Silicon Valley offices. McPhee is a seasoned real estate executive with more than 30 years of experience. His prior roles have included executive director at

Cushman & Wakefield, senior vice president of Jones Lang LaSalle, and regional vice president of Prentiss Properties.

**GLORIA JEAN NOLAN** (BA '77, History) is retired from her career as senior legal secretary at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati in Palo Alto. She says she remembers her time at CSUEB well, especially her lively, thought-provoking classes.



**BOB RATH** (MS '77, Counseling) has been president and CEO of Our Piece of the Pie, a nonprofit organization that supports urban youth and young adults, for more than 30 years. Our Piece of the Pie is located in Hartford, Connecticut, where Rath has been recognized as a Local Hero by Bank of America. He also serves several other youth-based organizations, such as the National Youth Employment Coalition, Reaching At Promise Students Association, and Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth.

**JOHN RENSEN** (BS '75, Mathematics) was hired by the Mendocino County Assessor as a property appraiser after graduating from then-Cal State Hayward and worked for the county for 22 years. Rensen got his fee appraiser license in 2001 and has been doing real estate appraisal since then, working across residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural properties.



animals and their companions deepen their relationships. *Hand in Paw* was a finalist for the 2015 National Indie Excellence Awards and the USA Book Awards.

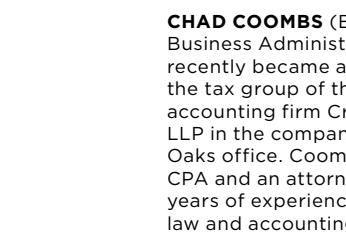
**NANCY SCHLUNTZ** (BA '79, Mass Communication) is the author of *Hand in Paw: A Journey of Trust and Discovery*, which chronicles her life journey and private practice helping

## 1980s

**ANGELA BROCK-KYLE** (BS '80, Business Administration) was selected by *Director & Boards* magazine as a 2016 Director to Watch, and as a top 100 influential director by the National Association of Corporate Directors. Brock-Kyle also serves as an independent trustee on the Guggenheim/Rydex board and the YMCA Retirement Fund, and she chairs the audit committee of Infinity Property & Casualty Corp.



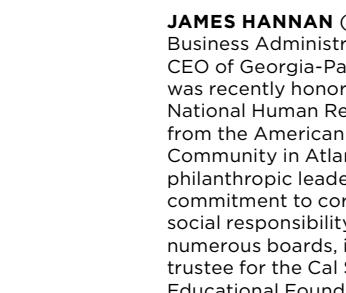
Completing three generations of alumnae is Catherine's sister **DEANNE (NIDIFFER) MCCULLOUGH** (BS '85, Business Administration), a human resources manager at Champion Installs, Inc., in Elk Grove.



**CHAD COOMBS** (BS '82, Business Administration) recently became a member of the tax group of the national accounting firm Crowe Horwath LLP in the company's Sherman Oaks office. Coombs is both a CPA and an attorney with many years of experience in prominent law and accounting firms.



**JAMES "BUCK" KOONCE** (BS '84, Computer Science) is senior advisor to the director at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), where one of his passions is the development of the Livermore Valley Open Campus, an initiative that strives to bring innovation and collaboration to the greater Tri-Valley region. Prior to joining LLNL, Koonce worked in the University of California system for 35 years. Koonce resides in Alamo with his wife and fellow Pioneer, **DEBBY KOONCE** (MS '80, Education).



**JAMES HANNAN** (BS '89, Business Administration) is CEO of Georgia-Pacific. Hannan was recently honored with the National Human Relations Award from the American Jewish Community in Atlanta for his philanthropic leadership and his commitment to corporate and social responsibility. He serves on numerous boards, including as a trustee for the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation.

**CATHERINE (NIDIFFER) KAVASCH** (BA '82, Communications) is assistant manager of production planning at the Peet's Coffee roasting facility in Alameda. Catherine and her husband, Kent, who works at CSUEB as a graphic designer, proudly saw their daughter, **ELAINE KAVASCH**



**DENNIS LEWIS** (BA '85, Mass Communication) has joined Santy, a digital and social-media branding agency, as senior copywriter. Lewis has more than 25 years of experience creating copy and content for brand development, social media, and blogs. At Santy, he will work with national and international names such as Pocky, Harvest Snaps, Peter Piper Pizza, and the Real Mex restaurant chain.



**RICK SCHMITT** (BS '80, Physical Education; MS '03, Educational Leadership) is moving back to the Bay Area from San Diego to assume the role of superintendent of San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Previously, Schmitt was superintendent of the San Dieguito Union High School District, where he also served as a principal and administrator for 13 years. Schmitt looks forward to transitioning back to Northern California and being closer to family.



**MARIA SOMERS** (MPA '85) is retiring from her role as city manager of Los Altos where she has served since 2012. After a 31-year career in local government, including positions in Danville and Sunnyvale, and as a long-time lecturer at San Jose and SF State universities, she looks forward to traveling with her husband and exploring other interests.

**PAUL SULLIVAN** (BA '80, Liberal Studies) is senior vice president of North American sales at IEWC Global Solutions, a wire and cable distributor



**MICHAEL JEDLICKA** (BS '85, Computer Science) has retired from his position as vice president of technology and strategy at The Walt Disney Studios. Jedlicka worked at Disney for nearly 22 years, and has more than 40 years of experience in systems engineering across a wide range of applications, including animation technology, visual effects technology, motion picture technology, and more. Jedlicka was Cal State East Bay's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2014. He will now be relocating with his wife, Angie, to their log cabin in Island Park, ID, just outside of Yellowstone National Park. Pictured is Jedlicka with one of his retirement gifts from Disney. The Studio presented him with a reproduction KEM Weber clock, matching the same clock prominently displayed in Walt Disney's office on the Studio Lot.

## SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE

Share news about your career, accomplishments, and life with fellow alumni. Include your address, phone number, degree earned, major, and graduation year.

**Mail:** Cal State East Bay Magazine  
Attention: Alumni Association  
SA 4800  
25800 Carlos Bee Blvd.,  
Hayward, CA 94542

**Email:** penny.peak@csueastbay.edu

The *San Francisco Business Times* has released its annual list of the Bay Area's Most Influential Women, which again features Cal State East Bay alumnae **WENLI WANG** (MBA '95), **LEONA TANG** (BS '91, Business Administration), and **PAMELA KERSHAW** (MPA '95). New to this year's list are **MARTHA TUMA** (MPA '89) and **RHONDA DIAZ CALDEWAY** (BA '93, Mass Communication). Tuma is executive vice president, human resources, Charles Schwab & Co., and Diaz Caldeway is managing director at Cushman & Wakefield.



MARTHA TUMA



RHONDA DIAZ CALDEWAY

and management corporation. Previously, Sullivan was vice president of major account and global OEM account sales at Anixter, also a wire and communications company. Sullivan is passionate about Court Appointed Special Advocates, an organization that supports abused and neglected children.

**STEVE VICTORSON** (BS '82, Physical Education; MS '86, Physical Education) is founder and owner of Swymfit, a health club focused on deep-water exercise, and author of *The Champion's Way*, a book based on his doctoral research at Boston University that defines the characteristics of champions. Victorson specializes in helping individuals regain mobility after injury or disease. He has coached athletes at every level of sport, including working with the U.S. ski team from 1987-1991 and during the 1988 Olympics.



## 1990s



**SCOTT AMYX** (BA '96, Economics) is founder and CEO of Amyx+, an Internet of Things strategy and execution agency. Recently, the company's data analytics platform, Affectio Inc., won the Cloud and DevOps World Award for the Most Innovative Startup of 2016. Amyx has also been voted one of the Top 10 Global Speakers by Speaking.com and has been featured in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Wired*, the *Washington Post*, and more.



**JENNY HARUYAMA** (MPA '96) is Scotts Valley's first female city manager. She has served in a variety of civic appointments prior to her current post, including as assistant city manager in Livermore and administrative services director in Tracy. Haruyama was honored with the YWCA Tribute to Women in Industry Award in 2011. She is married with five children, ages 3 to 17.



**HAROLD LEFFALL** (BA '90, Political Science) is executive director of Not In Our Town, a nonprofit dedicated to combating hate and bullying and building safe, inclusive communities. Previously, Leffall held leadership roles with United Way of Greater Atlanta and Solomon's Temple Foundation, and he is the founder of two businesses: Leffall Employment Agency and First Step Staffing. Leffall Employment Agency, located in Oakland, has been recognized in *Entrepreneur* magazine and *Black Enterprise*.

**JANA HUNT** (BA '94, Special Major) is director of global color and creative operations at The North Face. Hunt created her own degree in merchandise marketing that combined classes in art and business, a move she says helped her career goal of

becoming an executive in the fashion design industry. Hunt started with an internship at Hayward-based Mervyn's and was offered a design position after graduation. She has been with The North Face for eight years.



**RICH CLINE** (BA '95, Mass Communication) has been promoted to global technology practice leader for Porter Novelli, a global public relations company. Cline, whose current term as mayor of Menlo Park will end in November 2018, was previously senior partner and president of Voce Communications, an integrated marketing agency he cofounded in 1999. In his new role, Cline will lead and direct all technology activities across both brands.

**ALISA GREER** (BS '93, Physical Education) teaches belly dance through the South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Department and at a private studio in San Mateo. She regularly performs at Arabic restaurants throughout the Bay Area and works with top Arabic musicians.

**CATHREENE INGHAM-WATTERS** (BA '99, Liberal Studies; MA '07, Educational Leadership) has been with the Newark Unified School District for 17 years. She was a teacher for 13 years and then promoted to principal at Musick and Milani Elementary Schools. Ingham-Watters is now part of the district's Executive Planning Team, which is working to transform Newark's schools to meet the needs of the city's housing boom.

**CHRIS BRANNAN** (BS '98, Business Administration; MBA '03) has been named chief financial officer for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) following a broad national search. As CFO, he will oversee the lab's \$1.6 billion budget and a staff of 145 accounting, budget, and financial-analysis professionals. Brannan has worked at LLNL for 17 years.



**DAN MCINTYRE** (MPA '97) is now general manager of Dublin San Ramon Services District, where he will work on complex drought and water-supply issues for the Tri-Valley region. McIntyre, a registered civil engineer, has worked in the Tri-Valley for 26 years, including 12 years as the City of Livermore's public works director. His prior role was as Dublin San Ramon's engineering services manager.



**MARIE MORGAN** (MS '95, Educational Leadership) has been appointed superintendent of Walnut Creek Unified School District. Morgan was previously the assistant superintendent of educational services for Benicia Unified School District and has been working in public education for 27 years, including as a teacher, principal, and in a variety of administrative roles.



**KATHLEEN WONG(LAU)** (BA '92, Speech Communication) is San Jose State University's first-ever chief diversity officer. Previously, Wong(Lau) was the director of the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies and the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education at the University of Oklahoma. During her time at Oklahoma, Wong(Lau) launched trainings on diversity and inclusiveness and created a mandatory five-hour orientation program on diversity for students.

before pursuing her master's at Cal State East Bay. She is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Association of Realtors.



**RICHGAIL ENRIQUEZ** (BA '04, Mass Communication) is an East Bay chef specializing in vegan Filipino food that she features on her own YouTube channel and website, astigvegan.com. Enriquez recently held a cooking demo on the Cal State East Bay Hayward campus, which she says she was proud to do, especially since her vegan journey began with a nutrition class she took during college.



**MYEAST MCCUALEY** (BA '06, English; MA '09, English) is chief public information officer and office chief of public affairs at Caltrans, District 4, San Francisco Bay Area. McCauley says Professor Eileen Barrett was a great mentor during his time at Cal State East Bay and he remembers her telling him, "I won't let you quit."

**ANNA SOLIVERES** (BS '08, Business Administration) works for the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, also known as a16z, which connects university students with tech startups. Soliveres has recently started publishing her own fiction, starting with *Violet Storm* in 2014 and *Crimson Earth* in 2015, the first two books in what she calls the Modi series.



**JOHN "JACK" GARAMENDI** (MBA '00) has been elected supervisor of District 2, Calaveras County, beginning January 2017. Garamendi is a fifth-generation resident and rancher in the area, living in Paloma with his wife of 20 years. The couple has two sons. Previously, Garamendi worked in the UC system and was a founding vice chancellor of UC Merced.

**JENNIFER GRIFFIN** (MS '02, Counseling) is a wife, mother of four, and author of *Understanding Your Child As A Spiritual Gift*, which introduces a new theory on parenting. Griffin and her family live in Berkeley.

**PAUL KEITH** (MPA '05) has been named interim police chief of El Cerrito. Keith has been with the El Cerrito Police Department for 15 years, serving in a variety of positions. His current post will include overseeing operations, goals, and budgeting.



**SELIM STITI** (MBA '05) has taken a new position as information security manager of Mechanics Bank. Previously, Stiti held roles in IT security with Deloitte and DCI, an information and technology services provider based in France. Stiti holds a number of professional accreditations, including the Harvard Management Essential Certification, and he has lectured at Cal State East Bay on IT security networks and architecture.

**ASSADULLAH ZAMIR** (MA '07, Economics) is minister of agriculture in Afghanistan. Zamir was featured on *Bay Area's Beyond the Headlines* with Cheryl Jennings, as he toured California to learn from the state's best practices in farming, agriculture, and water conservation. During Assadullah's time at Cal State East Bay, Mohammad Qayoumi was president, who is working for the government of Afghanistan now also, as chief advisor to the president on infrastructure and technology.

## 2010s

**JOE ROMAGNA** (MS '14, Educational Leadership) has been appointed principal of John Baldwin Elementary School in Danville, beginning in fall 2016. Romagna has served as principal of John Green Elementary School in Dublin since 2014 and was previously assistant principal at Quail Run Elementary and Live Oak Elementary, both in San Ramon.



**SHAWN TAI** (BA '02, Art) is the founder and executive director of Oakland Digital Arts & Literacy Center, and Cal State East Bay's 2015 Distinguished Young Alumnus. This year, Tai has been named one of *Diablo* magazine's "Forty Under Forty," a spot he earned for his dedication to "enhancing digital literacy and professional opportunities among underserved, minority, and at-risk populations," according to the magazine. Tai says his next challenge is introducing an online platform called BRIDGEGOOD that will connect early-stage designers and creatives with professional opportunities.

**DAYNA TAYLOR** (MS '10, Educational Leadership) is the new principal at Junction K-8 School in Livermore, where she previously taught English Language Development and middle school core classes. Taylor has worked at various schools over the past 14 years and held a variety of positions within the district, including as a social science teacher at Livermore High School and as assistant principal at California High School.

## MEET THE BOARD

Eight new alumni have been selected to serve on Cal State East Bay's Alumni Association Board of Directors, which works closely with the university to engage alumni and students and support CSUEB. Last year, Board accomplishments included launching a new free alumni membership program; providing graduation cords to Pioneer "Legacy" graduates who are related to Pioneer alumni; supporting two students with alumni scholarships; and supporting the university's fall alumni reunion, Forever Pioneer Weekend, among many other events.

**MELEANA KEHAULANI AKOLO** (BA '14, Anthropology) is a direct support professional at Omelagah, which provides support services for people with developmental disabilities. Akolo says she was driven to become a board member because of her respect for how Cal State East Bay serves its students and what it offers them.

**GUSTAVO AVANZINO** (BS '01, Business Administration) is a finance manager with Alere Home Monitoring. Avanzino recently served on the College of Business & Economics's finance and big data job panel and says he is motivated to give back to Cal State East Bay by bridging gaps between alumni and the student body.



New and existing members of Cal State East Bay's Alumni Association Board of Directors and the university's Alumni Association staff gathered for their annual retreat to plan for the coming year. The group focused on alumni engagement, events, communication, and other ways to support the university. ■ COURTESY OF PENNY PEAK

**LISA BOOKER** (BS '84, Business Administration) is an asset management analyst at Cal State East Bay. Booker is involved in several aspects of campus life, including as vice president of the African American Faculty and Staff Association. Her son, Michael J. Booker, graduated from CSUEB in June, and her husband Michael D. Booker obtained his master's degree from the university, too. "We are a CSUEB family!" she says.

**JOE CABRAL** (BS '70, Business Administration) is retired founder, CEO and board chair of the 100-percent employee-owned Chatsworth Products, Inc., a manufacturer of support products for IT equipment rooms. Cabral will be celebrating his 50th graduation anniversary in 2020. As a student, he was on Cal State Hayward's debate team and a member of two fraternities. He looks forward to assisting alumni in engaging with Cal State East Bay.

**KEN MORRIS** (MBA '03) is founder and managing partner of Chordify Management Consultants, which focuses on IT services and management consulting. Morris was a part of the inaugural Transnational Executive MBA (TEMBA) program, which ended in 2009-10. He hopes to use his role as a board member to remain connected to and enhance visibility for his fellow alumni.

**KATELYN RADTKE** (BA '15, Ethnic Studies) is operations manager at Foothill Locksmith. As a student, Radtke was president of the Ethnic Studies Academic Society and involved in bringing poetry and spoken word events to campus. She is an East Bay native who wants to connect with other alumni and make positive contributions to the Hayward and Cal State East Bay communities.

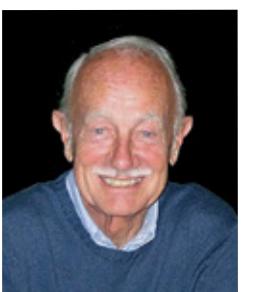
**KAREN WHITE** (BA '13, Human Development; MPA '16) is a senior personnel analyst at City College of San Francisco. White says that as a student who worked multiple jobs while obtaining her undergraduate degree, and then going straight into a master's program, she is looking forward to using her time on the alumni board to become more involved with her peers and to support current students.

**ANDREW YUNKER** (BS '15, Computer Science) is a recent graduate of Cal State East Bay and current food server. He was president of the StartUp Club while on campus, which is focused on bringing students and professionals together to build startups over the course of a single weekend. He was also a member of the student chapter of the Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers. He says he is motivated to protect the future of Cal State East Bay as an alumni board member.

## In Memoriam

### FACULTY

**LYLE EDMISON**, professor emeritus of psychology, former dean of students, and former vice president of Student Services, passed away on May 4. Edmison is survived by his wife, Phyllis, to whom he was married for 64 years, and the couple's three daughters. Edmison originally moved to California from Nebraska in 1955 to teach psychology at San Jose State, but he soon began working at a brand-new college in 1959: the then-State College for Alameda County. He was the first person hired by the university's first president, Fred Harclerode. Edmison remained with the university for the rest of his career, retiring in 1991. His last wishes included continued support for CSU students through contributions in his memory to the Student Loan Fund of Cal State East Bay.



**ROBERT BLACKBURN**, professor emeritus of the College of Education and Allied Studies, died peacefully on September 10. Blackburn was a passionate social justice advocate, who served as a Peace Corps director in Somalia in the 1960s; worked in civil rights and school reform in Philadelphia; and survived an assassination attempt by the Symbionese Liberation Army in 1973, though Blackburn's close friend Marcus Foster did not survive. He went on to become acting superintendent of Oakland Unified School District before coming to work for the CSU. The Blackburn family requests that donations in Robert's honor be made to the Oakland Zoo or Marcus Foster Education Institute.



**WALTER KURT SCHOENHOLZ**, professor emeritus of the Department of Biological Sciences, passed away on March 18 at the age of 93. Schoenholz was born in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1951 via what was then Palestine, where he worked as a farmer and fought in Israel's war for independence. He was an alumnus of UC Berkeley and went on to teach microbiology at Cal State Hayward from 1967 to 1988, where he also ran a medical technology program that helped countless students embark on their careers. Schoenholz is remembered by friends and family as a "kind and gentle soul" with a dry sense of humor and a vegetable garden that was well known where he lived in Walnut Creek.

**ALLEN GOVE**, professor emeritus of the Department of Music, died on June 23. Gove passed peacefully after recently suffering two strokes. He began teaching at then-Cal State Hayward in 1966 and retired in 1992. He remained active in music throughout his life, continuing to play chamber music, create special arrangements, and give cello lessons in his home studio up until entering the hospital on June 11. Gove taught at several other universities prior to making Castro Valley his home, and he had a prolific professional career outside education: Gove recorded for Aaron

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# PARTING SHOT

CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White (MS '72, Kinesiology) finds a quiet moment at Cal State East Bay's Rising in the East gala to catch up on his alumni magazine. "When I read about the students, faculty, staff, and alumni, I am reminded of the quality of instruction I received as a student," White says. "I'm filled with pride to see my alma mater leading in so many academic disciplines while graduating highly-prepared alumni who are shaping the region's economy and society." 



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