Poet John Espinoza to be Featured in Last Distinguished Writers Event of the Year

By Said Goldsmith Gonzalez

P oet John Olivares Espinoza will read from his latest book of poetry, “The Date Fruit Elegies,” at the Cal State East Bay Hayward campus May 20 as the next fea- tured speaker in the university’s Distinguished Writers Series.

“Distinguished Writers is part of the California State University, East Bay Department of Writing, and it is an increasingly important campus institution,” said CSUEB’s Steve Gutierrez, director of creative writing and an English professor. “The series was started by the former dean of the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences and is currently being warmly embraced by English Department Chair JAMES MURPHY.

Both have three prominent semi- nars on storytelling and a fiction writer and a fiction writer and a poet were invited to take part in the series.

This year the program has had a very successful run with writers Dorothy Allison and Kirk Nesset participating in the series.

Each year three prominent writers, a poet–are invited to take part in the series.

Espinoza will be the last speaker in the Distinguished Writers Series.

“Espinoza is an excellent poet whose poems are about the working class people,” said Gutierrez. “Some of his poems are touching on the immigrant experience and should appeal to all.”

Espinoza looks forward to the May 20 event as she will be reading his work at the university.

“His book, “The Date Fruit Elegies,” is a gathering of workshops intended for prospective teachers. The opportunity will help teachers get tips from experienced teaching professionals, network with representatives of school districts and receive valuable teaching methods.

Mark Morales, Costa County Coun- selor, will be addressing the wrap-up conference. This is the annual conference, which includes a continental break- fast and access to workshops.

Register online at www.conced. csueastbay.edu/teacherday.html.

Photoby/Courtesy Dan Creek, CSUEB

Samuel Merritt University...
It’s a Family Tradition

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