



News

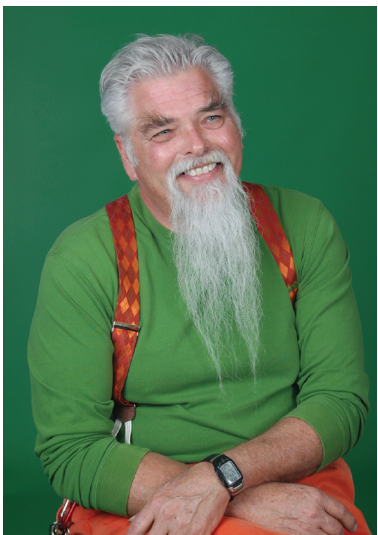


Seas of trees:

Tree farms offer "cut your own."

See page 5.

A & E



Art department tool meister:

Hal Standley profiled.

See page 7.



Cal State East Bay is one of a dozen Cal State campuses that will soon be launching a Professional Science Master's (PSM) Degree program using funds from an \$891,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

The Professional Science Master's Degree is an innovative two-year graduate program created to meet industry needs by providing math, science and engineering graduates the skills essential to excel in today's high-growth technical industries.

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'A Christmas Carol'

By Anne Cunningham
Staff Writer

Cal State East Bay students will perform Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol," on Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 and 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre.

Directed by Ann Fajilan, this year's production promises a unique perspective on the beloved favorite, inspiring the toughest of 'Humbugs' among us.

"Many surprises are in store for audiences," said Fajilan. "This show infuses new technology into an old story with spectacular results."

Otherworldly creatures will take the form of puppets, incorporating multimedia video streaming, special theatrical lighting and smoke effects. The creatures - animated by Nancy Wong and Jesse Schlichting - tell the story of regrets, repercussions, rewards and renewal.

"As supernatural creatures and loveable characters taunt Ebenezer Scrooge, we too are reminded of our sense of humanity and will rush to edit our own New Year's resolution lists," said Fajilan. "Ebenezer Scrooge wasn't always the mean-spirited, evil monster that we have become accustomed to over the years. At one time he was a playful, kind human who responded to love and attention."

"We all know that the absence of positive reinforcement leads to negative behavior and an unwillingness to engage in social improvement."

This time around Scrooge gets more than he bargained for as we unleash his personal demons and spirits to pull him out of his demise," she said.

Fajilan said theater-goers should, "come journey with Scrooge as he tries to rectify his damaged life and bring compassion and kindness into his, and ultimately, our hearts."

"When Scrooge awakens from his Christmas Eve experience, he immediately wonders whether his ghosts were dreamt or real," said Thomas Hird, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department. "We are creating a dream world this year. I understand that it will be theatrical and imaginative, a world inhabited with puppet ghosts and transforming furniture."

Fajilan said the cast is an exceptional group of energetic, enthusiastic performers, eighty percent of whom have never been on a stage before.

"This production is extremely inclusive and diverse," said Fajilan. "We try to involve students in a multicultural environment, and we let them incorporate what they want to express about their own cultures. This provides a voice for the voiceless."

For instance, at the end of the show, 'Merry Christmas' is spoken in five languages, each reflecting cultures from the actual cast.

For most students, this week means final exams, but for cast members it is an intense week of preparation for the opening shows.

"We call this 'Tech-Week' for students performing in the show," said Fajilan. "The entire week is used to put all the elements together."

See Christmas, page 8.



Boo: (Left) Richard Tabor as Jacob Marley's Ghost. (Right) Mary Ann Mackey plays a surprised Ebenezer Scrooge.

Photos/ Thomas Hird



Students Turn Curriculum Into Protest

By Alice Guzman
Staff Writer

"Women are great, please don't hate," was just one of the chants heard as students walked to their classes the morning of Dec. 6.

Students from a Cal State East Bay class called, "Women in Media," marched with posters portraying the negative views toward women in the media.

The protest sprang from an assignment in the course taught by Professor Marsha Ginsburg.

The class studies the way women are presented in motion pictures, television, advertising and other forms of communication.

"Women are far less quoted; less covered and less visible in most of the mass media today - even films where they are probably most exploited and particularly in journalism," reads the class syllabus.

The assignment that spurred the demonstration was one in which students were asked to think of how to change the way women in media are viewed and how students would go about making that change.

Topics ranged from how women are seen in rap videos, the images of women in provocative ways, and just the everyday view of women in television.

As the course went by, some students in the class wrote letters to get their topics recognized, others posted flyers around campus, and some sent massive emails out to get a response from peers.

"It's important that people are aware how the negative images in the media translate into self-esteem issues for young women," said Sarah Daugherty, a student in the class.

"It's a real problem when one out of 25 college-age women suffer from Bulimia," she said. "Things like this protest can hopefully make young women aware of the problem and encourage them to be happy with who you are."

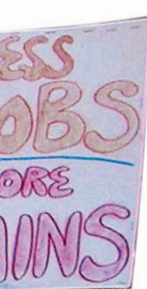
The assignment was for each student to create a poster that would draw attention to their topic. The students had no idea that they would be asked to use the posters to protest on campus, which came as a surprise as Ginsburg liked the creativity of each poster.

"I think for a topic like Women in Media it was



Women are great, please don't hate: Cal State East Bay students protest the depiction of women in the media on the Agora stage on Dec. 6.

Photos/ Anthony Dazahn



important to not only talk about the dynamics but also take a small step toward affecting change, and this was one way to do it," Ginsburg said.

More than 50 people stopped by to see what each poster had to say about the portrayal of women in the media. Not everyone had the same views as members of the class.

Freshman Chris Daily said, "Honestly, yes: women are portrayed negatively, but it's cool!"

Marcus Smith, a freshman at CSUEB, agreed. "It's wrong but people like looking at entertainment," he said. "It's really like hypnotizing."

Not everyone feels the same way about the portrayal of women in the media, but this one small step could help to make more people aware of the issue.

Krystal Pronski, a senior, was glad someone was bringing the topic to people's attention.

"Everybody is different and everybody is beautiful because they are different," she said.

As the course winds down, some class members are coming together to protest once more in San Francisco. The protest - aimed at Seventeen Magazine - will be taking place at noon on Dec. 20 in front of the Powell Street BART Station.

For additional information please visit: www.myspace.com/protestseventeen

Vocal Performance Showcases Campus Chorus

By Ah Reum Lee
Staff Writer

One of the sparkling gems of Cal State East Bay is the university's music program. That gem was showcased in the campus music building Dec. 10 in "A Jubilant Song," a performance program consisting of 19 pieces of music presented in five different sessions.

An audience of approximately 200 people were moved by the performance, which was highlighted by the singing of 19 East Bay singers and a chorus of 18.

After the concert ended, many of the people who attended waited to talk to the program's conductor, Buddy James.

Aline Soules, a CSUEB librarian who sings in a choir, was one of those who spoke with James after the concert.

"In terms of joining people, I think my favorite part is probably the last piece (Betelehemu, a Nigerian selection) that made everybody involved," said Soules. "The part that I liked the best is that he never gets up there and just gives us a piece of music. He always gives us a teaching opportunity."

"It is always about teaching," Soules said. "It makes all the difference in the world. He certainly had a wonderful choir and he certainly made a difference. I can only see him getting better and better."

Soules encouraged people who have not had an opportunity yet to experience music, dance, a play or one of the other activities on campus.

"I have been here four and half years, everybody is so wonderful," she said. "Irene Gregorio is a wonderful accompanist, too. She can do anything ... Everybody should come. It is the cheapest entertainment in town. I mean, you pay a cheaper rate, you can come here, you get a great quality of music. You go to Davis Hall in San Francisco, you

pay ten times as much, and not have as much fun."

President Qayoumi was one of those who had a chance to attend the concert.

"This really shows the high level of achievement," Qayoumi said. "The performance was wonderful; the selections, the pieces, the discipline that they showed and enthusiasm were absolutely wonderful."

"They picked pieces from so many different places and countries; not only from Europe, but also from Korea and Nigeria," said Qayoumi.

The President said the choices of pieces and the arrangements highlighted the multicultural environment of the University.

Buddy James, the university's director of Choral Activities and instructor of Choral Conducting and Voice, was satisfied with the great turnout and excited by the concert.

"I feel great," said James. "Throughout the entire quarter, we worked very hard. We had a lot of new singers, people who have not sung before, mixed in with people who have not sung for a very long time. They all got along really well and worked hard. The concert made it worthwhile."

James said he hopes to continue to do the programs that more people will get excited about singing on campus and continue to join the groups.

"With 12,000 students at California State University, East Bay we should be able to build a pretty strong choral program. The numbers are slowly growing. We have more singers than we had last quarter. I think we will have more next quarter. That is my wish for us to have a real full program in a very short period of time. The president and the associate dean were here tonight. With that type of support from the administration, I have no doubt that we are going

to grow very quickly."

Tom Hird, the department chair and a professor in the Theatre Department was impressed by the concert and expressed hope that the Theatre Department and Music Department will continue to work together.

"In the Theatre Department, we are trying to feature musical theater in our program," he said. "My wish is that we can work together and I think that we really do have professors who really want to do that."

"We have students who want to have theater experiences as well as music experiences," he added. "We are going to sing in the beginning of the Christmas Carol and we are going to be doing the Wiz in March. Also, both of the music vocal classes and music theatre classes all came together this week. They will sing for each other and they are going to be going on tour here for the music students and theatre students."

Like Soules, Hird enjoyed the Nigerian selection that was performed last, and said what made it interesting was having the choir encircle the audience, so that everyone could be fully involved in the music.

"I think what is interesting in this kind of concert is that Professor James has all the different groups singing," said Hird. "I think it is interesting to hear the small chamber group that is so carefully auditioned and practiced and really well-experienced, as well as a chorus which is open to the whole campus. I am really glad that we can be here and we can have things like that."

"I think it was an amazing, wonderful concert," said Hird.

Getting to Know You

Nancy Thompson

Marie Arcidiacono
Staff Writer

Having a second language under your belt is something of which to be proud, whether it is Spanish, French, Italian or Russian.

Being tri-lingual is a rarity, but what about five languages? Yes, you read that correctly—five languages. How many people can read that many languages? We have someone on campus who has accomplished this tremendous feat.

Nancy Thompson, a professor and graduate coordinator at the Cal State East Bay History department, can read English, Latin, German, Old English and Classical Greek, just for starters. She's modest to admit it, but she also knows some Arabic, and has learned a few phrases in Mandarin, Czech, Setswana and Icelandic.

"Languages come easily to me, which is good, since a medievalist needs at least Latin, French and German," Thompson said.

If one is interested in learning Latin, a course that is offered via independent study with Thompson, make sure you stop by her office.

Thompson, who teaches the Ancient World cluster, utilizes her language skills to the fullest. It is amazing to attend one of her classes and have her read something to you that is written in Old English or Latin.

Thompson is fascinated by the manner in which something originates and by the great variety in human experience, so it makes perfect sense that she is one of the professors for that particular cluster.

"I think the best part of the Ancient World cluster is getting to meet the people who are just stating out in their college careers," Thompson said. "I've been here long enough now to see many of my students walking across the stage at graduation. I feel proud of them."

The love for understanding the past, coupled with wisdom from traveling the world, makes Thompson an excellent professor who is well suited for the cluster.

Thompson is a proud graduate of the CSU system. She received both her Bachelor of Arts degree and master's from Cal State University Fresno and completed her Ph.D. work at Stanford University, specializing in medieval history with a secondary field in early modern Europe.

"I'm really interested in how Christianity put down roots in early medieval Europe and what the religion meant to the ordinary Christian," Thompson said when asked why she chose such an intricate subject to study.

Thompson described herself as a "manuscript nut."

Thompson had the opportunity to visit Cambridge University a few years back, along with Oxford and the British library to look at what they have in Latin and Old English in her specific field.

"There are few things cooler than holding a 1,000-year-old book in one's hands," Thompson said. "At times, the personality of the scribe seems to come through. Looking at the labor that went into making a medieval book makes me aware of what a precious thing literacy is, and how fortunate we are to live in an age where education is available to all, books are cheap and ideas are easy to access."

Cheap books? Students can only hope for cheaper textbooks, but two out of three isn't bad.

See Thompson, page 2.