

cal state

For University Alumni and Friends

# east bay

m a g a z i n e

## **Beyond the Classroom: A Tradition of Stewardship**

**Alumni put the  
public interest first**

**Fulbright scholar  
redefines art**

**Volunteerism prepares  
future speech pathologist**

**Chantel Johnson '07:  
From foster care to  
state Senate**



Spring 2008

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ALUMNI

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**east bay**

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## CAL STATE EAST BAY: STEPPING *up to* STEWARDSHIP

With its deep regional roots and connections, California State University, East Bay has a unique role and character setting it apart from other colleges and universities. What distinguishes us is our commitment to regional stewardship, the hallmarks of which are leadership, innovation, and creative proaction in:

- Meeting regional workforce development needs;
- Ensuring the economic and social vitality of the communities we serve; and
- Solving critical issues ranging from access to health care and education to sustainability.

A bold charter by any measure, this is the legacy we embrace — and what defines the institution we aspire to be and are becoming.

Today, California State University, East Bay is clearly stepping up to a position of stewardship. Each year, for example, we provide access to high quality higher education for more than 13,000 students of remarkably diverse backgrounds and circumstances. Of these, we graduate more than 3,500 annually, each fully prepared for engaged citizenship, productive careers, and collaborative leadership. Our more than 100,000 alumni — an estimated 85 percent of whom live and work in our region — contribute mightily to the economy with more than \$1 billion of annual income attributable to their CSUEB degrees. Thus, Cal State East Bay is among the great economic engines of its region, directly contributing \$341 million each year to the East Bay economy, in addition to the workforce productivity of its graduates.

But the story of Cal State East Bay today is about much more than its power as an economic force. The University also a major contributor to the social well-being of its region, providing critical research, ideas, and solutions to complex and pressing needs — as well as a profound human touch expressed through countless hours of community service. Thus, the University's stewardship is expressed in the lives and work of its students, faculty, and alumni — and their profound contributions to the life and vibrancy of the great East Bay. This includes the thousands who enter public service, the focus of this issue of Cal State East Bay Magazine.

As you delve into this issue, you'll learn about some of those whose lives have been changed by their experiences with Cal State East Bay and inspired by its mission of stewardship to serve others — and make a difference. You'll also be reading yet another chapter in the unfolding story of Cal State East Bay's transformation into an educational powerhouse and regional leader. Above all, I hope you'll find yourself inspired with added pride in your connection to Cal State East Bay, its distinct mission, and its remarkable progress in becoming a high-access university of choice through regional service, engagement, and stewardship.

**Mohammad "Mo" Qayoumi**  
PRESIDENT



## PLANNING AHEAD

### Flurry of building to bring more options to student life

An artist rendering of the dining commons under construction adjacent to Pioneer Heights. The facility will double dining capacity on the Hayward campus.

MORE STUDENT HOUSING, MORE DINING CHOICES AND A RECREATION CENTER ARE ON THE WAY AS CAL STATE EAST BAY CONTINUES SHAPING ITS FUTURE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

The next stage of development at the Pioneer Heights student apartments, known as phase III, is due to open by the fall quarter. The additional apartments, identical in style to the existing buildings, will bring 472 more beds to the Hayward campus for a total of 1,292.

If phase III proves as popular as its predecessors, discussion about phase IV may be close behind, University Planner Jim Zavagno says.

"Phase II was successful," Zavagno says. "By the time it was finished, it was full, and there was a waiting list. We want to be positioned to move ahead with phase IV if the situation is right."

As more students spend their days and nights on campus, they'll enjoy a growing list of benefits and services, including a 20,000-square-foot dining

commons adjacent to Pioneer Heights. Reflecting a contemporary architectural design, the dining commons will boast stained and polished concrete floors and plentiful outdoor seating to allow diners to drink in the panoramic views. Buffet-style dining with 14 food stations, including a salad bar, is on the menu. After hours, students may visit the Night Time Café that will occupy a corner of the building.

Across the street from Pioneer Heights, students soon will play basketball, go for a run on an indoor track or take a fitness class in the Recreation and Wellness Center. Students voted to raise fees to pay for the 53,000-square-foot, \$30 million center to be located next to the Student Services Hub. Construction will start this year on the center, due to open in late 2009.

"These projects continue the trend toward turning this into an active, 24/7 University," Zavagno says. "It's another step in our evolution." ■

“These projects continue the trend toward turning this into an active, 24/7 University.”

**Jim Zavagno**  
UNIVERSITY PLANNER

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

## Honorary doctorate goes to Hall of Famer



Joe Morgan '90

Joe Morgan '90, Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and two-time National League Most Valuable Player for the Cincinnati Reds, will be presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the California State University

and CSUEB during commencement ceremonies in June.

Morgan, an Emmy award-winning broadcaster for ESPN, columnist for ESPN.com, and East Bay businessman, will receive the honorary degree June 14 during graduation ceremonies for the College of Business and Economics.

"This degree is awarded to one who has demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of higher education and with the highest ideals of a person's chosen field," Cal State East Bay President Mohammad H. Qayoumi says.

Morgan resumed his studies at CSUEB to honor a promise to his parents that he would complete his education when his playing career ended. Earning a bachelor's degree, he says,

"might have been more important to me than being inducted into the Hall of Fame."

Morgan, 64, serves as an advocate for young people and a philanthropist through the Joe Morgan Youth Foundation. In 1984, Morgan helped establish a scholarship fund for the University's Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education (<http://edschool.csueastbay.edu/departments/kpe/morgan.html>) and has contributed more than \$150,000 toward the fund's endowment.

Between 1963 and 1984, Morgan played for the Houston Astros, Cincinnati, San Francisco Giants, Philadelphia Phillies, and Oakland Athletics, producing 2,517 hits, 268 homeruns, 689 stolen bases, and 1,133 runs-batted-in. ■

## Nobel laurels awarded to former lecturer



Woodrow W. "Woody" Clark

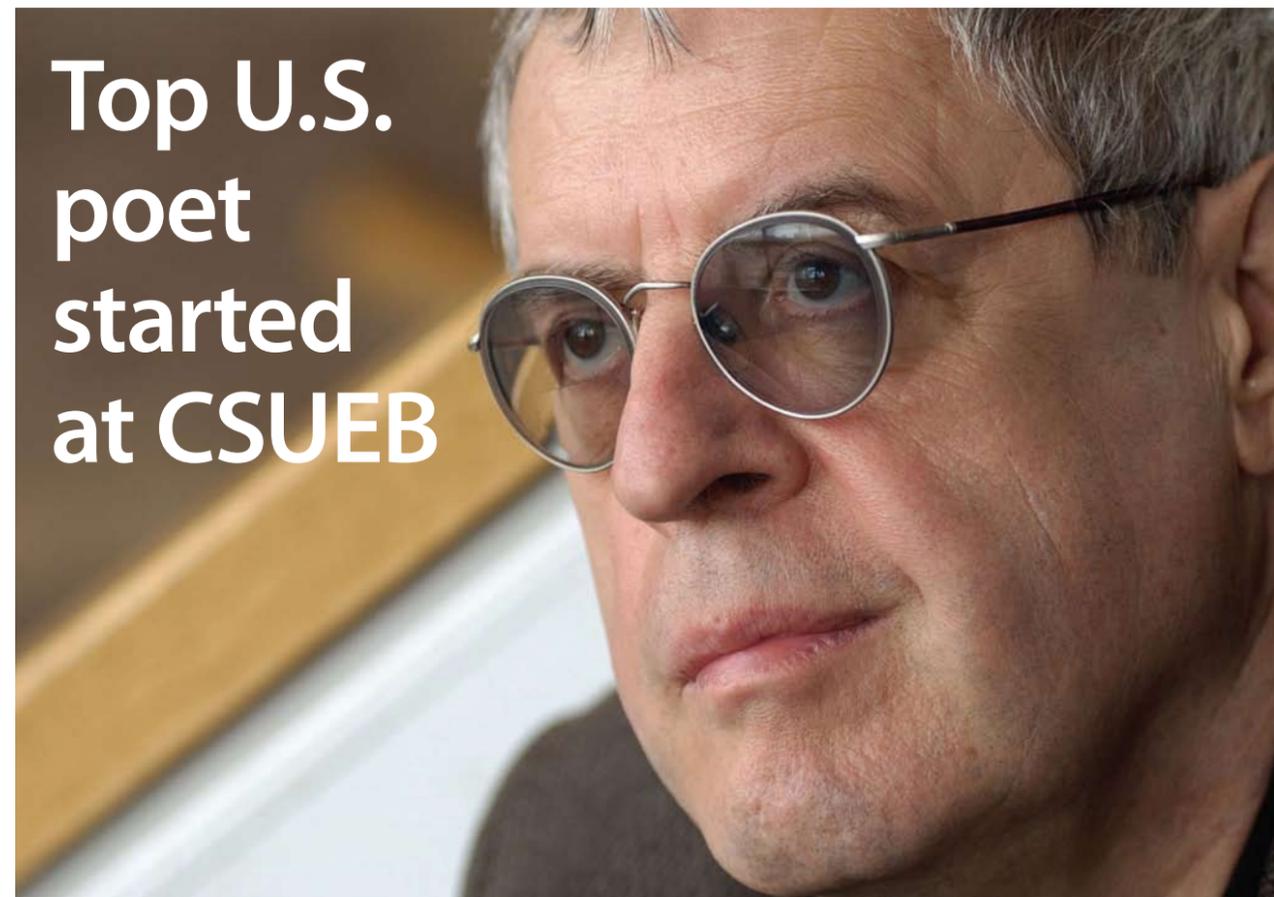
A former CSUEB lecturer in the Department of Marketing was a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Qualitative economist Woodrow W. "Woody" Clark, who lectured at CSUEB from 1994 to 1995, contributed to the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that shared the Nobel with former Vice President Al Gore.

Clark also served as a volunteer faculty member during 1993 to 1994 in the College of Business and Economics' Center for New Venture Alliance.

He credits his experience with the Alliance with initiating his early collaborations with the Department of Energy and national labs, including Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL). His work at the time focused on renewable energy and fuel cells and led to opportunities such as a 1994 Fulbright Fellowship to Denmark, Clark says. Following the fellowship, he worked at LLNL and returned to lecture part-time at the University.

"It was the CSU Hayward faculty, staff and administration that supported these efforts and projects," Clark says. "It was that grounding that continued my interest in global warming and climate change (and) what to do about it." ■

## Top U.S. poet started at CSUEB



Charles Simic

Appointed U.S. poet laureate in August, Charles Simic got his professional start in academia at Cal State East Bay. As top poet in the nation, the poet laureate seeks to promote appreciation for reading and writing poetry.

In 1971, Simic left a New York City magazine to become a full time lecturer in the Department of English at CSUEB.

"I came from New York, never having been previously in California, and loved living in the Bay Area," Simic says. "This was my first teaching job and everyone was kind to me. I made friends among the faculty and had some very fine students. I'm still in touch with some of them after 35 years."

Among the courses he taught were Beginning Workshop in

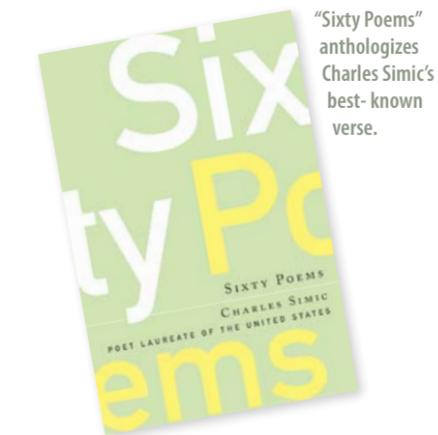
Fiction, 20th Century Poetry, and Literary Composition II. In 1973, Simic left for the University of New Hampshire, where he taught until his recent retirement.

Born in Belgrade in 1938, Simic lived through World War II and the early years of communist Yugoslavia. His family emigrated to the United States when he was 16.

"I'm sort of the product of history; Hitler and Stalin were my travel agents," Simic told the New York Times in August. "My family, like millions of others, had to pack up and go, so that has always interested me tremendously: human tragedy and human vileness and stupidity."

He has penned some 20 volumes of poetry, including "The Voice at 3 a.m." (2003) and two titles pub-

lished in early 2008, "Sixty Poems" and "That Little Something." Simic's raft of awards includes a 1990 Pulitzer Prize and a "genius award" from the MacArthur Foundation. ■



"Sixty Poems" anthologizes Charles Simic's best-known verse.

## UNIVERSITY NAMES

**two new deans**

Terri Swartz

Two colleges at Cal State East Bay have welcomed new deans.

After serving as interim dean for the College of Business and Economics for six months, Terri Swartz took the helm as permanent dean of the college that for the second consecutive year was named one of the best business schools in the nation by the Princeton Review.

A solid background in administration, research and working with industry and community leaders made Swartz the right choice, said Provost Michael K. Mahoney, vice president for academic affairs.

Prior to her move to CSUEB, Swartz was a longtime professor in the Orfalea College of Business at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where she also had served as interim dean from 2002 to 2004 and interim associate dean from 1999 to 2000. She spent 16 years on the Cal Poly faculty and before that



Diedre L. Badejo

11 years on the Arizona State University faculty.

In January, Diedre L. Badejo, a comparative literature and history scholar with expertise in African and African American studies, was selected to become dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences.

Beginning in 1996, Badejo held several leadership positions at Kent State University in Ohio. Most recently, she served as associate dean of curriculum and program development for the Kent State College of Arts and Sciences. Her many awards and honors include a 1990 Fulbright Senior Scholar Research Award.

A commitment to multiculturalism, international studies and interdisciplinary studies along with a track record of strong advocacy for faculty and students count among Badejo's strengths, Mahoney said. ■

## CSUEB AND BUSINESS EXECES

**forecast workforce needs**

Coming shifts in economic and demographic trends affecting the East Bay region are expected to boost demand for college graduates beyond the currently available supply.

This forecast was among the findings of a series of 10 workforce roundtable discussions with top executives representing industries, including manufacturing, health care, financial services, education and government agencies. As part of its commitment to regional stewardship, Cal State East Bay initiated the conversations with area employers in the fall, concluding the process in late January.

Recommendations and insights gathered through the roundtable discussions will help determine the University's academic plan, says series

facilitator Tom Dalton, special consultant to the office of the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Ultimately the information will help reshape the CSUEB curriculum to better prepare students for the work place, he says.

"What our University can provide are the experiences for students to become good leaders, communicate effectively, and work in teams," Dalton says. "We can teach core knowledge."

Discussions with regional employers ranging from bankers to steel manufacturers emphasized their interest in hiring people with critical thinking skills and technical competence who are comfortable working in a multicultural, multigenerational environment.

Health care companies, for in-

stance, place high value on workers who speak Spanish. And government agencies seek out employees who are sensitive to a community's residents' multiple perspectives.

In the East Bay, growth is anticipated in industries including new energy alternatives, transportation, and biotechnology. Opportunities for start-up companies will continue to flourish in the region, creating demand for entrepreneurs, roundtable participants say.

"We're hearing they want students who are risk takers," Dalton says. "They want students to be capable of adapting to change."

Employers also reported that training new employees requires a significant investment of their firms' time and money. The University can help mitigate the cost to employers, Dalton says.

"What we're offering to do is increase the number of certificate programs for people who don't have time to go back for a credential," he says. "Gradually they could build toward a baccalaureate degree."

Providing more graduate training in areas of high demand and expanding online education offerings are additional strategies under consideration, he says.

Copies of the Workforce Roundtable Report are available by contacting University Advancement at 510.885.2360. ■

RECORD OF SERVICE

# ALUMNI PUT THE PUBLIC INTEREST FIRST

AS AN UNDERCLASSMAN, WILLIE LOTT JR. '69 WASN'T SURE WHAT HE WANTED TO DO WITH HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE.

"I guess there are some people who know what they want to do," he says. "I just came in to get a higher education with no particular goal in mind and started taking classes."

It didn't take long for Lott — recently appointed a judge on the Alameda County Superior Court by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — to find his niche in public service. Inspired in part by Gene Poschman, a political science professor active in Berkeley politics, Lott went on to major in social science and political science.



As an undergrad, the Hon. Willie Lott Jr. '69, above, says the CSUEB campus climate and his friendships with like-minded classmates including Elihu Harris '68, who later served as mayor of Oakland and in the state Assembly, contributed to his civic-oriented career choices.

PHOTO: BEN AILES

He's devoted nearly 25 years to working in the public sector, starting as a lawyer in the district attorney's office in San Jose up through his most recent post at the Fremont Hall of Justice.

"I always wanted to do something for the community," says Lott, who has been presiding over preliminary hearings for felony cases. "The classes I took at Cal State fostered that, and the people I associated with supported that."

Nationwide, about 19 million people work in public service, according to the Bureau of Labor Statis-

tics. It's long been a popular career path for graduates of Cal State East Bay, whose ranks include police officers, social workers, mayors, state legislators and directors of nonprofit organizations.

Alumni who have heeded the public service call have made tangible improvements and meaningful contributions to their communities in the Bay Area and beyond, often in leadership positions. Their academic credentials and ability to adapt to changes in the public sector have allowed many to rise in their professions while working for their communities in ways they find gratifying. ▶



Jenny Sarabia's '97, left, political experience ranges from serving as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention to interning in the office of U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado, right. Today, she is senior legislative assistant to the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

“It feels really good to have an idea that not myself but groups of people will benefit from.”

Jenny Sarabia  
'97 ALUMNUS

Jenny Sarabia '97, who has worked on public policy issues from gang activity to the environment, didn't wait for graduation to start developing her governance skills.

“At the time I was going there, Cal State Hayward had the Leadership Institute,” says Sarabia, who works in Washington D.C. as senior legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. Joe Baca. “There were workshops on diversity, cultural and leadership tools. We had to go to so many workshops in different areas, and at the end of the year you got a certificate. It was a great program.”

As a student, she also founded the Latino/Latina Academic Society, which focused on academics, cultural issues, and the arts.

Following graduation, Sarabia's bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies helped her secure a position as the first executive director for the state of Indiana's Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Latinos make up about 3.5 percent of the state's population, but some counties had experienced up to 300 percent growth by 2004 when Sarabia served on the commission.

“I worked on every issue relevant to the Latino community, from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Education, letting state agencies and the governor have a resource,” she says. “If any state agency or the governor's office had a question about Hispanic affairs, they'd contact me.”

Today, she leads Baca's efforts in areas including energy, the environment, commerce, and diversity among members of corporation boards. Baca serves as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

“It's pretty fascinating, because every day is a different issue,” Sarabia says. “I'm working on appropriations now. I'm in charge of six subcommittees.”

Sarabia finds her work gratifying for what she calls selfish reasons.

“It feels really good to have an idea that not myself but groups of people will benefit from,” she says.



PHOTO: BEN ALLES

Greg Jones '97, city manager for the city of Hayward, enjoys translating policy ideas into action, a skill he says he honed while earning a master's degree in public administration at Cal State East Bay.

“I recognized to advance my career, I needed a broader understanding of what local governments are about — how does the political world relate to getting services delivered?” he says. “Some of our coursework was oriented toward philosophy, not how we do things but why we do things.”

In his role as city manager, Jones acts as the administrative head for an organization that employs 950 people and helps the seven-member city council develop public policy within

the city's \$250 million annual budget. He also acts as the point of contact between council members and the city staff, since elected officials do not give directions to city employees.

Whether he's facilitating a public meeting with community members unhappy about city budget cuts or helping the council craft city beautification plans, Jones says he keeps in mind a lesson emphasized in his CSUEB coursework: the importance of transparency.

“It's a really big responsibility to be a steward of an organization,” Jones says. “Being open and honest to the community is very important to me.”

His commitment to openness sometimes comes at his own expense,

Learning from fellow students and experts who worked in city government made his studies in the University's master of public administration program immediately applicable to his job, says Greg Jones '97, above, city manager for the city of Hayward.

he says, particularly during a budget crisis when he must deliver news about unpopular options, such as layoffs or cuts in services.

“It takes a lot more courage to be honest with the community and transparent about how we operate,” he says. He wouldn't do it any other way.

“That's something the M.P.A. program taught me,” he says. “It reinforced some of the values I already held and connected those values to the practical side of running a city.”



PHOTO: BEN AILES

David Kapler '89, fire chief for the city of Alameda, credits his CSUEB graduate degree with helping him find work in a competitive field when a fire department he once worked for dissolved operations.

Practical concerns attracted city of Alameda Fire Chief **David Kapler '89** to the M.P.A. program. He wanted to boost his job performance and his credentials in a competitive field.

"Personally, I've usually found my way to organizations that were in some form of turmoil," says Kapler, who has worked for fire departments in Campbell, Daly City, the Lake Tahoe area and Minnesota. "Usually, it's to do with labor relations."

While enrolled at Cal State East Bay he immediately picked up new tools that allowed him to do his job better.



PHOTO: BEN AILES

"The classes I found were really useful," he says. "There were lessons I could use right away."

Instruction in the program where Kapler and Jones earned their CSUEB graduate degrees, emphasizes humanizing public organizations, says O. Jay Umeh, professor and chair of the public affairs and administration department.

"Large organizations are quite complex," Umeh says. "A lot of times they're not responsive to the needs of people who work in these organizations."

"Being humanistic is having the capacity to pay attention to those needs ... and find ways to improve conditions," he says.

Kapler exemplifies the principle in his approach to leadership of the Alameda Fire Department, which annually responds to approximately 6,000 calls to accidents, hazardous spills, fires and medical emergencies.

"Our first customer is our internal customer, so they have what they need and feel well supported and taken care of," Kapler says. "That's particularly important in public safety ... These people have to be at the top of their game every day."

In his nearly 40 years of public service, Kapler says he's seen — and adapted to — a host of changes, a sentiment echoed by fellow alumni who serve the public interest.

"Budgets in California put a lot more accountability on us, from citizens and the city council," he says. "Today, we're trying to replace a major vehicle in the fleet, and the council's asking questions. It makes us as managers tear into things deeper. We all need to be as efficient as possible."

Many organizations that provide services to the community, whether a city library or the Department of Motor Vehicles, increasingly emphasize customer service, an improvement welcomed by those who work in the public sector. The court system, too, has become more user-friendly, observes Lott.

"Our court tries to be more responsive to the public, especially in the admin-

istrative functions, trying to make it easier for people to participate in the court process, from small claims to criminal courts," he says.

Sarabia points to advances in technology that have changed the political landscape for the good.

The advent of the Internet, e-mail and cell phones has promoted greater public participation in the democratic process and greater responsiveness from political representatives, she says.

"Information, the technology — people are definitely more aware of what's going on," Sarabia says. "It's easier to contact their legislator. Since they can communicate with us easier, we know what the needs of the community are."

Hearing direct feedback from citizens counts as one of the best, and most challenging, parts of Jones' job as city manager, he says.

"One of the things I love about local government at the city level is we see reality," he says. "We hold neighborhood meetings around the community."

The comments aren't always pleasant, but they are valuable.

"We get a lot of grief," Jones says. "That's painful, but it's also real. We're connected with people. There's no level of government that has higher accountability."

Lott is no stranger to conflict either. But he holds in high regard the court system and legal process he serves.

"Being a judge, this is one of the few places where people can civilly air out their differences, and you get to be part of that," he says. "There is satisfaction in being able to resolve disputes."

"You're part of the justice system, which is a cornerstone of our democracy," he adds. "There is a great deal of satisfaction in participating in that aspect of society." ■

BY **MONIQUE BEELER**



Emeritus psychology professor Joan Sieber, pictured with her golden retriever Guinness, set up the Sieber-Tombari Grant to contribute to the University culture. Award recipients deliver presentations about their research to the College of Science, publish their findings and give talks at professional meetings.

PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

# A natural SELECTION

Emeritus professor backs new science grant

JOAN SIEBER, EMERITUS PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR, IS REINVENTING HER CAREER EIGHT YEARS AFTER RETIRING FROM CAL STATE EAST BAY, WHERE SHE TAUGHT FOR 30 YEARS.

Two years ago, she founded an international journal, she continues conducting research and she's relishing her role as academic philanthropist. In 2007, she created the Sieber-Tombari Award, a faculty support grant named for Sieber and her late husband Ric Tombari, professor emeritus of economics.

"Our faculty work very, very hard to teach first-generation college students who need so much," says Sieber, a first-generation college graduate herself who earned scholarships as a student and professor. "To do research and teach is very hard. I see the Sieber-

“It encourages other faculty to reach for the stars.”

**Joan Sieber**  
EMERITUS FACULTY

Joan Sieber founded and edits the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*.



Tombari Award as a way of helping people stay fresh."

Sieber plans to give out the award annually to a faculty member in the College of Science conducting interdisciplinary research with a colleague at an outside university, research laboratory or company. Preference will go to new faculty members.

"By virtue of our location, we have the ability to attract so many cosmopolitan faculty, but we need to support them in their research or they'll wither on the vine," she says.

Sieber's ties to Cal State East Bay remain vibrant. In addition to almost daily strolls across campus with her gregarious golden retriever, Guinness, she's often on hand for university events and welcomes invitations to lunch with young faculty and psychology students who have received a scholarship she created for individuals committed to public service.

"I get to know them and develop rich relationships," Sieber observes. "I had one student who I helped get a job with a biotech company."

Sieber can barely contain her instinct to nurture up-and-coming scholars.

She originally intended to award a Sieber-Tombari faculty support grant to one person, but she was so impressed by the 10

project proposals submitted, she bumped up her initial \$10,000 investment to \$14,000 to give grants to three assistant professors. The College of Science also contributed four hours of weekly release time for one quarter.

Grants went to Dan Cerutti in psychology, who will focus on behavioral screening of larval zebrafish, and to Monika Sommerhalter in chemistry and biochemistry for her project that attempts to turn enzymes into catalysts for accelerating certain chemical reactions. Cerutti received the release time.

The third grant recipient, Emily Cleveland, a new Cal State East Bay arrival, says she would have pursued her psychology research into the development of memory and self without the Sieber-Tombari grant, but it would have taken longer.

"I study cognitive development," Cleveland says. "For my project, I'm taking what is a daily social experience, talking about memories and experiences we have had, and using it as a vehicle for understanding our sense of self and identity."

Pairs made up of a child and parent or a primary caregiver will come to her lab to talk about common memories such as

the first day of school. Research assistants, including students, will help record the initial data. As the study proceeds, Cleveland will collaborate with peers at other institutions.

"My hope is that ultimately the data that comes out of this work will lead to applications in terms of youth and family services," Cleveland says.

It's the kind of ripple effect into the community Sieber wants to promote. She calls the grants seed funds that she hopes will inspire all applicants to pursue their projects and go after larger grants from organizations such as the National Science Foundation.

"It encourages other faculty to reach for the stars," she says. "I hope I can give the research grant every year. I want to hold the carrot out for others." ■

BY MONIQUE BEELER



## QUINTESSENTIALLY SELFLESS

The money that comes from earning a scholarship is nice, but the encouragement to a fledgling scholar's confidence is priceless. It's a lesson Joan Sieber learned early.

As an industrious but financially strapped undergraduate, she earned a scholarship from the American Association of University Women. "Those ladies believed in me," she says. "That meant a lot."

By 1991, when she received the CSUEB Outstanding Professor Award and \$1,000, she was ready to return the favor. She told her colleagues that if they raised \$2,000, she'd give her award money to endow a fund for outstanding psychology students. The emotional rewards of giving back to the University have inspired her to create additional scholarships for graduate school-bound students and most recently for new faculty.

She also has arranged for the University to be a beneficiary in her estate plan. The gift will be used during her lifetime in the areas that are most meaningful to her.

"I don't want to will everything I own later," Sieber says. "I can tweak the process now as it needs tweaking, and I want my colleagues to understand how fun this is."

It doesn't take a lot of money, she adds, and she revels in getting to know the grant applicants, learning about their research and helping the University in material ways.

"It's the most quintessentially selfish thing I could do," she says. "Because I enjoy it enormously."

# CROSSING borders



Associate professor of art Gwyan Rhabyt displays the inside of a fiddle case programmed to play old-style fiddle tunes inspired by Western swing. PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

## FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PUSHES BOUNDARIES OF *art*

A turkey roaster, a live flame, a continuous Internet search for words and pictures — the art supplies favored by new media artist Gwyan Rhabyt extend far beyond paint brushes and lumps of clay.

“It took me a long time to come around to becoming an artist,” says Rhabyt, 43, associate professor of art. “Maybe because of that, I didn’t have a preconception of what art was.”

This spring, his expansive approach to art has stretched well beyond the Cal State East Bay campus, where he has been an instructor for six years teaching in the Department of Art and the Multimedia Graduate Program. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship — one of 55 received by CSUEB faculty and students since 1964 — Rhabyt is spending the quarter in Split, Croatia, an ancient city on the coast of the Adriatic Sea. He’s spending five months working with Croatian artists, bringing his breed of multimedia, technology-infused art to the University of Split’s Academy of Art.

Rhabyt’s work focuses on what he calls net art and place based installation. Performance also plays a role. For one past project, “The Writing Machine,” he sat at a table in a gallery or on the street for up to six hours, scribbling a stream of consciousness monologue across a strip of

paper. A small motor tugged the scroll across the desk and fed his words into a flame, illustrating the artists’ message: “All my thoughts end up as ashes.”

Defining new media art — sometimes called multimedia art — makes for slippery sport. The term encompasses electronic art, Internet art and digital art. New media art may include video, animation, sound and performance. One new media journal refers to the works as time-based art. Bio art — which includes art hatched in a laboratory or petri dish — also falls under the new media umbrella.

“Primarily, what I’m interested in is interactive art that takes place outside of the traditional — instead of focusing on flat space, moving it into three dimensions,” Rhabyt says.

“It’s not just new gallery space,” he adds. “It’s also new stuff to make art with. I’ve used everything from cast bronze, a 7,000-year-old technique, through to programming cell phones.”

His other projects have ranged from an installation of 33 fiddle cases wired for sound and scattered across a mile of rural road to “The Evolution Machine,” a computer programmed to collect images and text from across the Internet. The computer then assembled them into collages and invited gallery visitors to choose their top three, which the program then recombined into new collages.

Rhabyt — whose name is Welsh and sounds like “rabbit” (his first name rhymes with “Ian”) — hopes to join forces with Croatian artists during his Fulbright experience to create similar high-tech schemes.

“It’s going to be ad hoc — meet people there, find common interests and run with them,” Rhabyt says. “What excites me most about the whole prospect of going there is the collaboration and meeting people with a new perspective around technology and art.”

In Eastern Europe, he says, developments in technology skipped a generation.

“There was little technological innovation under the Soviet Union, then after the fall of the Berlin Wall this whole embrace of technology happened,”

“Post-modern art is about context, about community art. It’s art that responds to history and the environment and has political content.”

Gwyan Rhabyt  
FACULTY

New media artist Gwyan Rhabyt is the first CSUEB professor to receive a Fulbright Scholarship to teach in the former Yugoslavia. During the spring quarter, Rhabyt is teaching at the University of Split’s Academy of Art in Split, Croatia.



PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

Rhabyt says. “But the former Yugoslavia was much slower (to adapt). They had a series of wars — the Bosnian war, the Croatian war and the Kosovo war.”

Now artists in Croatia are approaching new media art with fresh eyes, and Rhabyt wants to tap into and nourish whatever novel approaches his Croatian peers bring to the genre.

Perhaps they’ll be intrigued by Rhabyt’s interest in repurposing the tiny screens and other computer processing features that increasingly pop up on everyday products from cell phones to kitchen gadgets. It’s a phenomenon called ubiquitous or pervasive computing.

In one of his fall classes, Rhabyt drove home the art-and-ubiquitous computing point by assigning students the task of reimagining the car dashboard.

“The idea there is the (computerized) real estate gets re-used,” Rhabyt explains. The darkened dashboard that glows and flashes with tachometer readings, radio channels, and temperature gauges while the car is running presents multiple digi-



For Gwyan Rhabyt’s 2007 project, “33 Fiddles,” he arranged music-playing fiddle cases at half-mile intervals along a road in the Santa Cruz mountains to encourage passersby to contemplate how they relate to rural landscapes through country music and rural roads.



Once an ancient Greek settlement, Split, Croatia, is the site of Gwyan Rhabyt's latest explorations into the high tech genre of new media art.

tal screens ripe for artistic reinvention once the car is in park.

"The average car now has something like 20 computer chips in it," Rhabyt says. "They provide a venue for art making, because now there are a million screens to show your art on."

At his urging, Rhabyt's students eagerly embrace uncharted creative territory.

"I'm pairing bronze sculpture with circuit boards," says art major Jill Therrien, 28. "He helped me think about the consequences of materials, that every material has its meaning and you have to be very aware of it."

For his final project in Rhabyt's fall Multimedia Senior Project class, student Richard Cellis III harnessed the power of a Nintendo Wii remote control, live streaming Internet music, and video imagery of India ink and Halloween

vampire blood. The imagery, projected onto three large screens, pulsates and moves with the music's changing rhythm. Pushing a button on the remote control, users select from several visual effects.

"To me, multimedia art is always about human interaction and bringing it into an environment where many people can experience it," says Cellis, 27, a multimedia art major.

Cellis has taken three classes with Rhabyt, who he credits with helping him grasp the fundamentals of a coding language he needs to know to pursue his dream of working in motion graphics.

"He was the first person to make me understand it," Cellis says. "The way he explained things and put it in context, it made more sense."

Before taking his first class with Rhabyt, senior Dominique Menchaca, 24, a multimedia art major, says he knew little about art beyond what he doodled in his notebooks. Now, he's well acquainted with everything from bio art to computer-generated art.

"He really encourages you to expand what is traditionally done," Menchaca says. "He allows students to dabble in things that haven't been taught to us before."

Rhabyt says many students arrive in his classes with little previous exposure to art.

"I bring a certain kind of enthusiasm for this being an ongoing process that you can make up and change as you go," he says. "I find that rich and exciting, and I try to convey that to my students."

"One of the things that attracts me about being at Cal State East Bay is the type of students here," he adds. "A lot of our students are the first in their family to go to college. There's this sense of making more of a difference here that is important to me."

In school and at home, Rhabyt encountered little artistic encouragement as a young student.

"No one in my family was an artist," he says. "I fought it all the way along. My dad was an engineer. In high school, I did no art at all."

In college, he studied computer science, psychology and philosophy. It wasn't until after he graduated and began learning that art could be more than a realistically rendered portrait or a lone genius holed up in a studio that his own creative impulses stirred.

"Seeing it as much more of a hybrid, open endeavor made it much more attractive to me," Rhabyt says. "Post-modern art is about context, about community art. It's art that responds to history and the environment and has political content."

Such sentiments may have helped earn him a coveted Fulbright, but he'll never know for sure. The selection committee gives recipients no feedback about why their project has been chosen. Rhabyt suspects his diligent research into finding the right university and establishing ties in advance with his Croatian counterparts helped.

"I really looked for a place where new media was happening and exciting and they had a need for teaching talent and where an injection of American perspective would have a substantial impact."

"There was this time warp in Croatia," he says. "What you're having now is this snap into modernity ... The possibilities are expanding." ■

BY MONIQUE BEELER

## CSUEB FULBRIGHT FACTS

The nation's top international educational exchange program, the Fulbright Program was created in 1946 through legislation introduced by Sen. J. William Fulbright. He believed, his widow once said, "that if we could get to know one another and learn to exchange ideas, then perhaps we might not be so willing to exchange bullets."

Approximately 105,400 scholars from the United States, including Cal State East Bay faculty, have received the prestigious award. Read on for more CSUEB Fulbright figures:

**55** — The number of CSUEB Fulbright scholars since 1964.

**32** — Number of countries where Cal State East Bay Fulbright Scholars have taught and studied.

**5** — Times the winningest CSUEB faculty member — Herbert Eder, professor emeritus of geography — received the award.

**1** — Number of countries hosting CSUEB Fulbright Scholars that no longer exist (Czechoslovakia split into two independent states in 1993).

# Talkingpoints

Speech pathology student charts a career course through *volunteerism*

**Sasha Larsen** came to the Cal State East Bay speech pathology graduate program as a student but with plenty of professional experience on her resume. Through a CSUEB summer volunteer opportunity, she soon gained something equally valuable: on-the-job life experience.

A former co-teacher for a private practice speech clinic in Redwood Shores, Larsen, 30, enjoyed helping lisping toddlers or children with special needs make small changes in tongue placement or breathing that made their speech clearer.

After moving to Oakland last year to be closer to the Hayward campus, Larsen looked around for a position closer to home. Her search led her to the career center, where she learned about the Community Service Scholarship Program.

"I wanted to work somewhere that was more a part of my community in the East Bay and that gave me a little bit of funding," says Larsen, a petite woman with blond spiral curls.

The CSSP matches Cal State East Bay student volunteers with nonprofit organizations eager to give them a real world setting where they can put current skills to the test while developing new ones. Participating nonprofits must provide direct services to community members. At the end of the 100-hour summer program, student volunteers receive a \$1,000 stipend.

PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

"Most students go beyond their 100 hours, because this is such a great thing, and they're helping so many people," CCSP Coordinator Susana Moraga says. "They see the need of helping people as very compelling. It touches students at a heart level and changes them."

Through CSSP, Larsen found a teaching position at the East Bay Agency for Children's Therapeutic Nursery School in Oakland, which provides early childhood education and mental health services for preschoolers.

Larsen previously had worked with children under 3 from primarily stable, affluent backgrounds. At the Therapeutic Nursery School, she taught children 3 to 5 1/2 with behavioral, emotional and learning problems caused by trauma. Most come from troubled families where neglect, multiple foster care placements or an incarcerated parent is not unusual.

The children frequently acted out, loudly defying instructions or climbing on the table in the middle of class. Far from being discouraged, Larsen says, each time she worked with a child who wouldn't sit still, didn't pay attention or told her, "No," it made her a better speech therapist-in-training.

"It helped me draw on everything I've learned thus far — including experience working with kids and basic teaching elements — and how to work with people," she says.

The nursery school's parents also needed extra attention from staff members.

Larsen watched closely as the program director coached one struggling mother about meeting the program's strict

attendance requirements, including taking three buses if necessary to get her child to the nursery school each day.

"It was a good chance for observation of positive encouragement and being really firm," Larsen says. "The director told her, 'You can do this. You will do this. I believe in you. You're an adult. You can get this together.' It

Sasha Larsen served a Community Service Scholarship Program internship at Therapeutic Nursery School in Oakland. Larsen praises CSSP for allowing volunteers to shape internships to best meet the host organization's needs.



PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

“You can read books all day long, but it's not the same as firsthand experience.”

**Sasha Larsen**  
STUDENT

was really impressive.”

Leading basic reading and writing sessions, occasional art projects and the daily lunchtime routine filled Larsen's days. When time permitted, she analyzed the speech difficulties of some of the children, ranging from stuttering to problems forming individual sounds.

"What I've learned in school has shown me how to identify a lot of communication issues in children,"

Larsen says. "The strongest thing I learned that summer was how much more I have to learn about how to implement treatment."

During spring quarter, Larsen is strengthening her job skills by working in the on-campus speech pathology clinic, where she works with adults struggling with speech difficulties and international

Moraga says. "One human development student was working with the elderly and fall prevention and said she'd never considered working with older people. She said it was a lot of fun."

Volunteering at the Therapeutic Nursery School prompted Larsen to want to learn more about behavior modification strategies and what therapies work for different speech and communication impediments.

She isn't sure she's ready to work full-time with older or disadvantaged children, but she says she'll reconsider once she's completed her Cal State East Bay education.

"I feel like I'm learning a lot," Larsen says. "The professors are great. I like that there's the hands-on clinic, because you can read books all day long, but it's not the same as firsthand experience." ■

BY MONIQUE BEELER

## PUTTING THEORY INTO PRACTICE

Through the Community Service Scholarship Program, approximately 225 Cal State East Bay students have given some 24,000 hours of service to homeless people, the elderly, and disadvantaged children throughout the Bay Area.

The program was established in 1992 through a gift from Bruce and Marie Rosenblatt.

"The internship needs to be related to the volunteers' major or career goals, so they get specific experience related to their field," says Susana Moraga, CSSP coordinator.

CSSP interns have filled roles from mental health worker to database technician at organizations including The Watershed Project, Tri-City Homeless Coalition, and Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence.

For additional information, call 510.885.3621 or visit [www.csueastbay.edu/cdc](http://www.csueastbay.edu/cdc).

Freshman Parris Moore, a former member of the Berkeley YMCA, has started a program to help educate students at the YMCA and nearby schools about paths to college.

PHOTO: JESSE CANTLEY

# A DEGREE OF altruism

Parris Moore *gives back* to her home community



PARRIS MOORE DISTINGUISHED HERSELF ON CAMPUS FROM THE START OF HER FRESHMAN YEAR. WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT CAL STATE EAST BAY IN FALL 2007, SHE SOON JOINED GROUPS SUCH AS THE GOSPEL CHOIR AND THE ON-CAMPUS RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION. FOR HER MOST RECENT PROJECT, SHE IS ORGANIZING AN OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR YOUTH IN THE SOUTH RICHMOND AREA.

Moore, 19, was born in Oakland and raised in the North Oakland and South Richmond areas. She participated in YMCA programs as a child. Approximately six years ago she became a youth recreational coordinator for the Coronado YMCA in South Richmond, a low-income area where she planned museum and aquarium trips and other activities to engage the minds of participants.

While Moore no longer works for the YMCA, she often thinks about ways to improve the lives of children in the area. As a student assistant in the CSUEB Planning and Enrollment Services Department, she initiated a college outreach program for South Richmond area students planned for spring in her old workplace, the Coronado YMCA.

"My goal with this program is to inspire and inform students about the options and wonderful opportunities that are available to them in college," Moore says.

For her program to succeed, Moore says, she'll need to bring together her coworkers and University admissions counselors with young people at the YMCA. She also plans to invite members of the Greek fraternal organizations and clubs to discuss social aspects of campus life.

While Moore stresses academics above all, she acknowledges that the thought of studying for four years beyond high school intimidates some of the students she wants to reach. Hearing current college students talk about their activities beyond the classroom will help build the comfort level of prospective students, she says. The program will provide information for middle school and high school students but specifically targets high school juniors and seniors.

"I want to show the juniors all the ways that they can get into college, what they need to do to be on track," she says. "If there are any seniors out there who maybe fell off the track to college, I want to show them their options, how to get back on track by maybe going to a junior college."

Moore said that she was inspired to come to California State University, East Bay, after attending the African American Education Summit, which

shares with teenagers and their parents information on subjects such as preparing for college, the admissions process, on-campus life, and paying for college. CSUEB students at the summit Moore attended praised the accessibility of the teachers and the diversity of the people on campus.

Moore says she also was attracted by the fact that Cal State East Bay offers an entrepreneurship option in the business program.

"Not too many schools offer that," she says. "Then, of course, there is the factor of affordability."

Passionate about helping those less fortunate than herself, Moore hopes one day to give back to the community by starting a nonprofit organization with the degree that she is earning.

"There are so many resources out there for us to use to help people, but what's the point of having them if we never use them," she says. "I plan on using them. I'm taking information to those who need it." ■

BY ALEXIS PEREZ

“There are so many resources out there ... I plan on using them. I'm taking information to those who need it.”

Parris Moore  
STUDENT

## PLANNED GIVING TAKES ROOT



Endowing CSUEB  
with a bright future

AFTER A 22-YEAR CAREER AT CAL STATE EAST BAY, JODI SERVATIUS SAYS HER COMMITMENT TO THE INSTITUTION REMAINS UNWAVERING.

"I have a real affection for the University," says Servatius, interim dean of the College of Education and Allied Studies. Servatius and her husband have put bequests in their will that one day will benefit CSUEB's Renaissance Scholars Program, which assists students who have been in foster care.

Through charitable gift planning, alumni and friends of Cal State East Bay, such as the Servatius family, make gifts that boost their favorite programs, scholarships, and academic departments. They also make contributions to the University endowment which benefits the institution as a whole, says Kim Clark, director of gift planning.

"Charitable gift planning is the process people use to structure their gifts to the university," she says. "It's a powerful way of giving that often can allow donors to make larger gifts than they thought possible."

One of the most familiar methods is including Cal State East Bay as a beneficiary of a living trust or will. This form of revocable plan works best for people who want to retain control over their assets, Clark says.

Many types of irrevocable plans also are available, including a charitable remainder trust, which provides the donor with income during his life. Any money remaining in the trust would one day go to CSUEB to support projects that are most meaningful to the donor.

"You can arrange the gift now, knowing that your favorite interest will continue to have the funding and attention in the future that it has today," says Robert Burt, vice president of University Advancement.

Donors of high net worth may take advantage of another irrevocable plan called a charitable lead trust.

"Typically they want to transfer assets — anything from a business to growth stocks — to their family," Clark says. "By establishing a charitable lead trust gift, the University gets income from the asset for a certain period." Later, the property gets transferred to the donor's family at a significant tax savings.

Other types of irrevocable gifts, such as a charitable gift annuity, interest donors who want to make a substantial gift today while receiving income during their lifetime. In this arrangement, the donor gives the university cash, securities, or other assets in exchange for a fixed, guaranteed payment for life.

A retained life estate falls into the split-interest gift category. It involves giving a future interest in a donor's home to the university. In the meantime, the donor continues living in the house throughout her lifetime.

Donors frequently earmark planned gifts for the institution's endowment to use where it's most appropriate to meet student and campus needs.

"Large endowments help strengthen universities by ensuring future students that our programs and offerings will remain as healthy tomorrow as they are today," Burt says.

Servatius says she's happy to contribute to the stability of a program that helps students with limited resources. "We're not Rockefellers," she says. "If I had \$1 million, I'd lay it on them right now. But what we can do is make a bequest in our will."

For more information, contact Kim Clark at 510.885.4035 or [kim.clark@csueastbay.edu](mailto:kim.clark@csueastbay.edu). Or send in the reply envelope inserted in Cal State East Bay Magazine, and check off the "I'm interested in planned giving" box. ■

BY MONIQUE BELER

# HISTORY OF Home runs

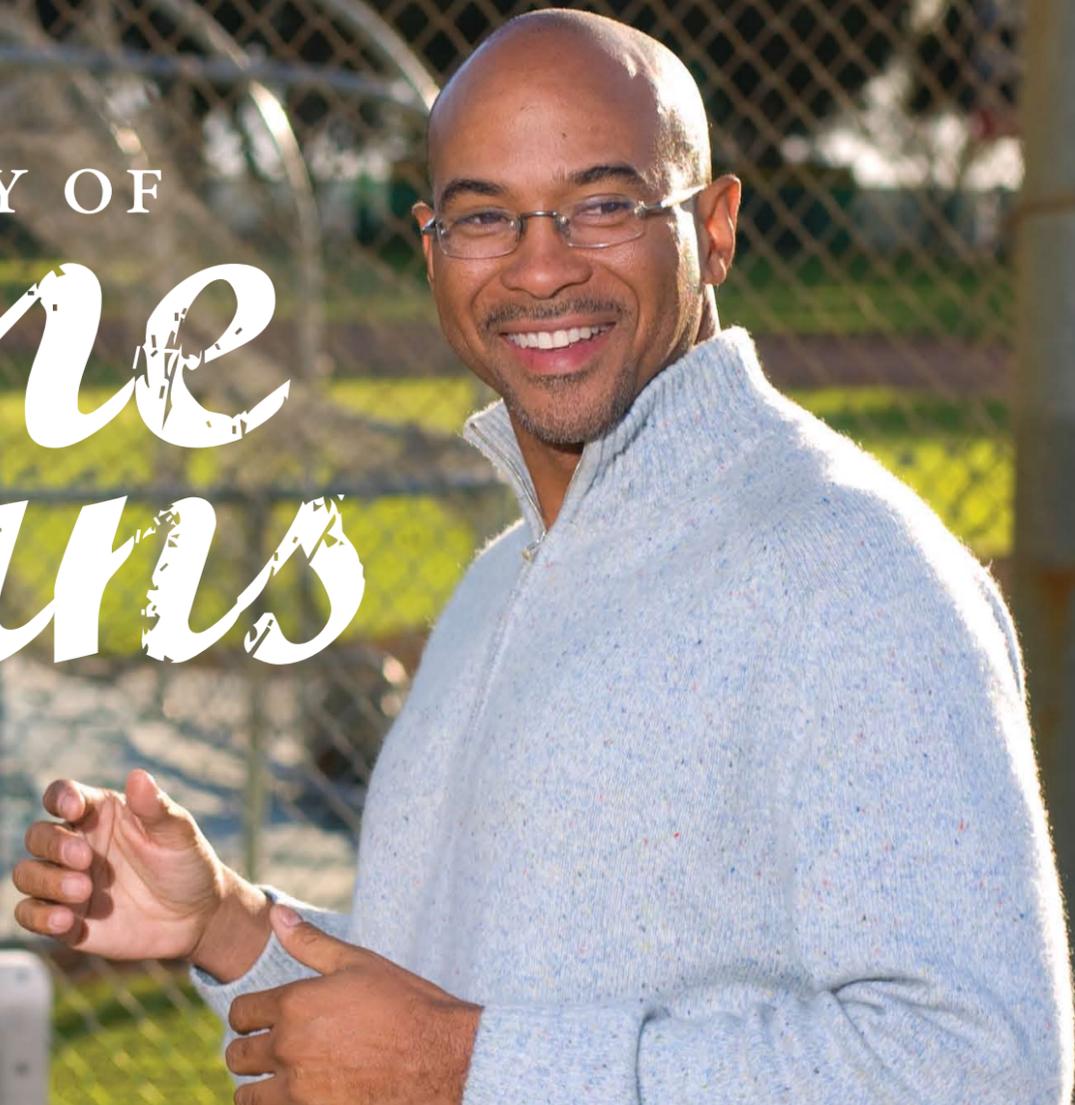


PHOTO: BEN AILES

## ONE-TIME ATHLETE SCORES AGAIN FOR affordable housing market

AS A BASEBALL PLAYER, ALLEN WARREN '89 WAS A SLUGGER WHO ALSO COVERED A LOT OF GROUND IN CENTER FIELD.

Twenty years after completing his athletic career, including two years spent in the New York Yankees organization, he's still slugging away and covering a lot of ground as president and chief executive officer of New Faze Development.

At 25, Warren launched New Faze, a land development firm headquartered in the Del Paso neighborhood of Sacramento, he says, "To build quality affordable housing in the North Sacramento area where I grew up."

As a collegiate player in 1986 and 1987 — known by his middle name, Wayne — Allen set the school's single season record for homeruns (13) while also leading the Northern California Athletic Conference in runs-batted-in (45) and batting average (.368).

Former professional baseball player Allen Warren '89 wanted to "make a difference" after leaving the game. He founded New Faze Development, which is transforming his old neighborhood near Sacramento with new homes and plans for a bookstore, restaurants, and a museum.

“I wanted to try and do something that I thought would be significant.”

**ALLEN WARREN**  
'89 ALUMNUS

The motivation he showed on the baseball field also marked his professional life.

"I wanted to try and do something that I thought would be significant," says Warren.

Baseball was his first career choice. He appeared on track when he arrived on the Hayward campus in 1985 after a successful two-year stint at College of the Siskiyous in Weed. The statistics that helped him lead his team and the league during his Pioneer baseball career under coach Doug Weiss also caught the eye of the Yankees. After Warren completed his eligibility as a college player, they signed him to play professionally.

As a member of the New York team's minor league affiliate in Florida, he played with outfielder Bernie Williams, who went on to start for four World Series championship Yankee teams.

When Warren didn't get significant playing time, he asked for his release from the Yankees.

Warren then returned to CSUEB to complete his studies as a political science major and business administration minor.

"If one were to examine my transcript, they would see how I just bumped along (in the classroom) until returning from playing baseball," Warren says. "I averaged 20 units per quarter, and I had a higher GPA than I had ever had in my previous college life.

"A light turned on inside of me and I found a way to fill the void of not playing baseball."

He credits CSUEB counselor Denise Nowlden and the late political science professor J. Malcolm Smith for being among the people most helpful in his turnaround.

Nowlden encouraged him to meet with recruiters from the Dean Witter brokerage firm. They were impressed by his background and offered Warren a job. At Dean Witter, he developed the business skills and courage to launch his own firm a few years later.

"It was either courage or stupidity," Warren says. "But it was something I wanted to do."

Today, New Faze Development boasts a real estate portfolio worth approximately \$1 billion.

"I started it to help provide quality affordable housing, and we're still doing that," Warren said. "But now we have property holdings throughout most of the state. We've done office buildings, some retail (facilities), and we have a movie theater complex and restaurants."

Warren again has returned to his alma mater, this time as a member of the Cal State East Bay Educational Foundation to support the University, including a contribution to CSUEB's Academic Incentives Fund.

It's another sign that his record of hitting home runs and helping others continues. ■

BY **BARRY ZEPPEL**

CAPITALIZING *on her*

# strengths

## Alumna takes reforming spirit to state senate

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY A RECENT GRADUATE GETS TO WITNESS HISTORY HAPPENING ON THE JOB. CHANTEL JOHNSON '07, HOWEVER, ISN'T THE AVERAGE ALUMNA IN THE TYPICAL POST-COLLEGE JOB.

One of 18 young people serving in the Capitol Fellows Senate Fellows Program in Sacramento, Johnson was thrilled to be one of a handful of capitol staff members to be on the floor of the legislature when Karen Bass was unanimously elected speaker of the Assembly in February.

"It was very, very exciting," Johnson says. "The exciting thing is they said she's the best person for the job beside being the first African American woman speaker of the Assembly."

Johnson says she admires the new speaker on several fronts, including the fact that Bass has authored several bills to reform the state's foster care system. Between the ages of 7 and 17, Johnson lived in 10 different foster care homes, including some led by members of her extended family.

She's well acquainted with the discouraging fate that awaits many of the 500,000 children in foster care nationwide. She recites from memory the following statistics:

Fewer than 50 percent graduate from high school.

Among high school graduates, fewer than 2 percent earn a college degree.

Within two years of emancipation, 50 percent will find themselves homeless, in prison or on welfare.

The youngest of five children, Johnson says, her odyssey through the social services system began when her young mother got hooked on drugs. Her father lived in Ohio and was unable to care for Johnson and her siblings. Over the years she lived with her grandmother several times, with an uncle and his family and later with various foster families in communities in Oakland, Fremont and Los Angeles.

"I was very fortunate to get really good families," she says. "I didn't have any horror stories."

She can't say the same for her early academic record.

"I was kicked out of junior high three times — I acted out, I ditched school, gave counselors a hard time, and I actually got in a fight," Johnson says. "I made a joke in high school that I showed up for two periods: breakfast and lunch."

Johnson describes her younger self as a confused troublemaker who became a rebellious teen. Her behavior, she says, made some foster home placements unworkable. Toward the end of high school, she moved to a group home. Hearing about her housemates' unfortunate foster care

“I wasn't always an ambitious person. It was through other people I realized what I could give back.”

CHANTEL JOHNSON  
'07 ALUMNUS

As a high school student, Chantel Johnson '07 says the only people she knew with college degrees were the social workers who guided her through the foster care system. Without CSUEB's support programs for disadvantaged students, Johnson — a Senate fellow at the state Capitol — questions whether she would have attended college.

PHOTO: SCOTT CHERNIS

experiences and seeing that some bore emotional scars that prevented them from functioning well in society illuminated her own life circumstances, she says.

“I had a hard situation,” she says. “But there was always someone there for me ... I always had my family in my life.”

Coming to Cal State East Bay represented an academic and personal turning point.

“I wasn’t going to go to college,” she says. “I didn’t know I was going until I showed up.”

She arrived on campus through the Educational Opportunity Program geared toward economically and educationally disadvantaged students. She also participated in Summer Bridge for incoming freshmen who need an academic crash course to prepare for college level work. The help she received allowed Johnson to enroll as a freshman.

She joined the orientation team and pledged a sorority. Within two years, she became president of the sorority. From there she moved onto Associated Students Inc., becoming chair during her senior year. She credits the experience with changing her life.

“That’s when people realized, ‘Oh, wow. She does have some talent,’” Johnson says. “I’ve always been a very social person. People say I draw people to me. Most of my life, I used my social skills for bad and not good. The leadership experience was the first time I used them for good.”

Today, she’s on the fast track to doing good on a broad scale.

During the summer, she served an internship in the office of Lt. Governor John Garamendi. In October, she began the 11-month Senate Fellows Program. Her orientation included meetings with lobbyists and top government officials and tours of sites such as Folsom State Prison, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee system and the California Highway Patrol Academy.

Following a round of interviews, Johnson landed a spot part time on the staff of state Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas. She spends the remainder of her time analyzing

bills for the Senate Business and Professions and Economic Development Committee.

“The analysis is supposed to be unbiased and nonpartisan,” she says. “We look at the ramifications of the bill — who it affects and the historical piece.”

In her role as legislative aide, she handles diverse duties ranging from drafting press releases to meeting with representatives of nonprofit groups seeking political support. As a staff member of the Legislative Black Caucus, which Ridley-Thomas chairs, she meet with lobbyists regarding issues including human services, education and public safety.

“Often politics has been given a bad name,” Johnson says. “Almost everyone I’ve met at the Capitol is about making change and helping people for the right reasons.”

When the fellowship program ends in the fall, Johnson won’t be thinking of a future as an elected official. The legislative experience has been fulfilling, she says, but her strength is working with people. She’s planning to pursue a graduate degree in public administration and later attend law school.

“I’ve become more passionate about working on the grassroots level and in community service,” she says. “People who know me think I’m going to go into nonprofit work.”

She points to the incoming Assembly speaker as an example of a public servant who successfully worked her way up after starting a nonprofit to clean up a Los Angeles neighborhood devastated by drug-related crime.

Johnson isn’t waiting to get involved in the causes she supports. She currently volunteers for the Urban League and is slated to join a Habitat for Humanity project in Guatemala this spring.

“The person I am now isn’t the person I was,” says Johnson, referring to her pre-collegiate days.

“There’s always been someone there to encourage me to go to the next level,” she says. “I wasn’t always an ambitious person. It was through other people I realized what I could give back.” ■

BY MONIQUE BEELER

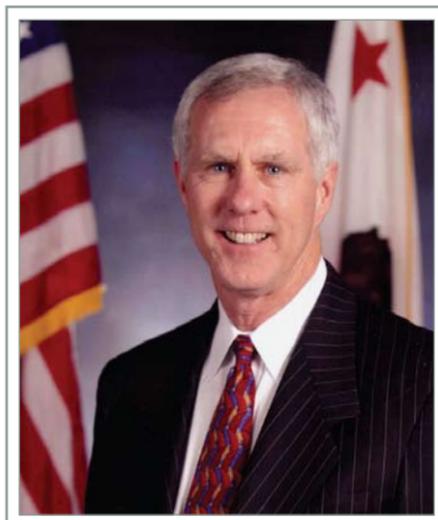


## DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SENATE FELLOW

Chantel Johnson '07 recorded a day on the job of her fellowship at the State Capitol earlier in the year. Here's how she kept busy:

- 8:30 – 9 a.m.** Read news clips and news headlines.
- 9 a.m.** Respond to e-mails and voice mail messages from the day before.
- 9:30 a.m.** Staff senator at Senate floor session.
- 10 a.m.** Go to Assembly floor session to witness historic election of California's first African American female Assembly speaker.
- 11:30 a.m.** Meet with representatives from Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.
- 12:30 – 2 p.m.** Public Policy Institute of California presentation on state's structural budget problems with former governors Pete Wilson and Gray Davis.
- 2 p.m.** Meeting with chief consultant of Business and Professions Committee.
- 3:30 p.m.** Stuff backpacks in preparation for the Black Youth Leadership Project that is happening in the capitol the following day.
- 4 p.m.** Talk to representatives from the medical board on upcoming bill I am working on.
- 4:20 p.m.** Draft letter to local churches inviting them to the Allensworth State Park exhibit in the Capitol.
- 4:30 p.m.** Meet with fellow staff to discuss goals for next week.

PHOTO: SCOTT CHERNINS



Johan Klehs received recognition for leading the effort to collect more than \$4.1 billion from tax cheats while a member of the state Board of Equalization. His outspoken support for education as a member of the state Assembly and as a lobbyist has earned him Advocate of the Year recognition from Cal State East Bay and the CSU system.

## PERENNIAL STATESMAN

## Johan Klehs '75 *named* Advocate of the Year

JOHAN KLEHS HAS SPENT NEARLY HALF HIS LIFE IN PUBLIC OFFICE, SERVING 14 YEARS IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY, EIGHT ON THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND THE FRANCHISE TAX BOARD, AND FOUR ON THE SAN LEANDRO CITY COUNCIL.

Klehs left elective office in 2006 when he lost a tough campaign for a seat in the state Senate.

Watching him on the job in his Sacramento office as president of Johan Klehs & Co., an advocacy and lobbying firm, it's clear he continues to act on his concern for the people of California.

With clients that provide affordable housing, protect the environment, and take care of park and recreational land in the East Bay region, Klehs is confident his work benefits the state's citizens, including those he represented in the East Bay while in the state Assembly, where he wrote most of the state's tax code in the 1980s. Most of the code, he says, remains in force today.

"In the political world, everyone has to prove themselves every day on the job," says Klehs '75. "And that's the way it is for me now as a consultant. My job is to solve problems for my clients."

His accomplishments as a lobbyist gained the attention of his alma mater, which named Klehs its "Advocate of the Year" for 2008. Klehs was honored by CSUEB at the CSU system's second annual "Advocacy Day" April 28 in Sacramento.

The state Capitol's recognizable dome appears prominently just outside the window of his Sacramento office, where he often talks with people he worked with in the state Assembly from 1982 to 1994 and again from 2004 to 2006. He commutes daily between Sacramento and his home in Castro Valley, which is part of the district he previously served as a legislator.

"As a consultant, or lobbyist, I find the work very exciting, just as I did as a member of the Assembly," Klehs says. "I loved being in public office, and I'm grateful to the voters who elected me."

He's also grateful to Cal State East Bay, where he earned a master's degree in public administration and a bachelor's degree in political science.

"The University's departments of Political Science and Public Administration were well grounded, connected, and completely dialed into national and state decision makers who would take you under their wing to guide you to an appropriate career path," Klehs says.

Among the Cal State East Bay faculty members he credits for connecting him to the "real world" are J. Malcolm Smith, Emily Stoper, and Gene Poschman of the Department of Political Science; Carl Bellone, Randy Hamilton, and William Sheppard of the Department of Public Administration; Franke Gries of the Department of Foreign Languages; and Willem Van Broenau of the Department of Sociology.

"I found each of these professors to be gifted, smart, and most inspiring," Klehs says. "They could open the mind of a student in ways that no other professor could. Many times during the last 30 years, I have thought of them, and asked myself, 'What would they do if they were in my situation.'"

"I remind myself that I would not have achieved professional success as I have without having met them along the way."

Given his appreciation for CSUEB's contributions to his career success, it's no surprise that education remains one of his highest priorities as an advocate. He opposes Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's cut of hundreds of millions of dollars to state education budgets, including more than \$300 million from the California State University system proposed in his 2008-2009 state budget.

"When I was a college student, Cal State East Bay provided me with an environment where I could thrive intellectually and gain important critical thinking skills," Klehs says. "Just as it did for me, the University enables today's students to compete in a real world environment, much the same as they will face after graduation."

"The funding of education shouldn't be seen as just an expenditure," Klehs says. "It is an investment in the future of California and its people." ■

BY BARRY ZEPPEL

# FILLING THE Gap

## Dentist Mostafa Barakzoy '90 cares for underserved communities

A native of Afghanistan who came to the Bay Area in his teens, Mostafa Barakzoy '90 says he never forgets his background. Using a sliding scale fee system, Barakzoy treats new immigrants and the working poor at his Fremont dental practice.



HIS IS A STORY OF UNPREDICTABLE TURNS IN THE ROAD MARKED BY HARDSHIP, HARD WORK AND HEALING.

Mostafa Barakzoy '90 was born in 1964 in Kabul to educated parents — his mother studied child psychology in Australia, his police officer father received his criminal justice education in Germany.

“My dad was a high ranking police officer,” Barakzoy says. “He was stationed in different parts of the country.”

Traveling across Afghanistan with his family exposed Barakzoy at a young age to the health needs of the poor. His interest in health care was further cemented by admiration for an uncle who had been trained as a surgeon by the United States military.

As a teenager, Barakzoy became fascinated with biology and took steps to follow in his uncle's career path. He distinguished himself by excelling in a national university admissions exam taken by up to 20,000 students. He won one of 200 coveted spots at Kabul University's medical school.

PHOTO: BEN AILES

A collection of notes and drawings from grateful clients displayed in the dental office of Mostafa Barakzoy.



His future as a doctor in Afghanistan appeared preordained.

Soon after Barakzoy began his medical studies, however, political conditions in Afghanistan deteriorated. Within five months, his father had been assassinated and Barakzoy fled to India with his mother and three brothers. In 1983, when he was 19, the family was granted political asylum by the United States and immigrated to the Bay Area.

He spoke some English when he arrived, but he studied at the Hayward Adult School for about a year to boost his mastery of the language. His thoughts soon turned to resuming his college education.

Given his third world background — and bank account — attending an American university seemed nearly out of reach. Coming up the hill to Cal State East Bay's Hayward campus for the first time, he says, filled him with awe.

He applied and was accepted. He worked his way through college as a campus safety officer at Chabot College, filling the gap with financial aid and loans.

“If it weren't for Cal State and the University of California and community colleges, I would never have been able to get an education,” he says.

He graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and went on to attend the University of California, Los Angeles, dental school. At first he worried whether he could compete with his peers who earned undergraduate degrees from elite universities.

“When I went to UCLA, there were maybe eight or nine people from state universities,” he says. “The rest were from the UCs and Stanfords.”

“We had really great classes at Cal State East Bay; I never felt second to anybody at UCLA. We were very well prepared. I always wanted to say thank you to my professors.”

Today, Barakzoy, 43, has a private practice dental clinic on a tree-lined street in Fremont. He sees his share of suburban

families with means. Through an arrangement with Tri-City Health Center, he also makes a point of dedicating more than half of his time to serving the working poor and uninsured immigrants, including many from Mexico, South America, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Tri-City Health Center provides preventative health care to underserved community members through offices in Hayward, Fremont and Livermore. Two to three days a week, Barakzoy treats the center's patients at his clinic by providing fillings, teeth cleaning, extractions and other dental services.

On a recent afternoon, an assistant wearing a beaded headscarf escorts a Tri-City Health Center patient into an exam room painted a cheerful periwinkle blue. The patient, a woman originally from Mexico, sits in the examination chair in silence until Barakzoy enters the room, addressing her in Spanish.

“Como estas?” he says. “Bien?”

“Bien,” she says.

The conversation continues as Barakzoy prepares a lidocaine-laced needle in preparation for filling a cavity.

“I taught myself Spanish,” he says. “But if I have a patient who speaks Chinese or Tagalog, I rely on someone else to translate for me.”

He also speaks Farsi, which puts many patients of Afghan descent at ease.

Devoting his time solely to his private practice — he also teaches part-time at UC San Francisco — might be more financially rewarding, but making money is not his top priority, he says.

“There's a familiar saying: ‘To those who much is given, much is expected from.’ I feel tremendously privileged to get an education, have a family and make a living,” he says. “How we take care of the poor speaks volumes about the kind of society we are.” ■

BY MONIQUE BEELER



# ALUMNI

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### HAVE YOUR SAY: JOIN THE ALUMNI BOARD

Have a say in shaping the future of alumni relations at Cal State East Bay. The Alumni Association Board of Directors invites interested alumni to consider joining the board.

A diverse and active group, board members strive to positively affect the quality of the alumni experience. Current board projects include:

- Promoting and increasing Alumni Association membership
- Building alumni support through increased outreach
- Developing a leadership pipeline to help create a stronger board
- Evaluating chapter effectiveness and policy

The board meets five times annually and holds committee conference calls between meetings. Directors must be CSUEB alumni and Alumni Association members. The next two-year term will begin July 1.

Interested in learning more about volunteering as a board member? Contact the director of Alumni Relations by May 30 at 510.885.2839.

### ALUMNI EVENTS

For information or reservations, contact [alumni@csueastbay.edu](mailto:alumni@csueastbay.edu) or 510.885.2877.

#### June 14 and 15 Association Fundraiser at Commencement

Contact Bill Firestone at [firebil@aol.com](mailto:firebil@aol.com) for information about volunteering.

#### Aug. 17 Fifth Annual Tailgate Fiesta

at the Oakland A's McAfee Coliseum. Alumni Association members and children, \$25; guests, \$30.

Purchase tickets by Aug. 1 at [www.csuebalumni.org](http://www.csuebalumni.org). ■



## What is *inCircle?*

A new online community exclusively for CSUEB alumni

- Extend your network and join over 90,000 alumni.
- Search for jobs, classmates, mentors, and more.
- Post a job opportunity or classified ad.
- Start an alumni group or discussion.
- Promote your event, business, Web site, or blog.
- Set your own privacy settings. Share as much or as little information as you choose.



#### REGISTER AT

<http://csueastbay.affinitycircles.com> using the 10-digit alumni ID number that appears above your name on the back of the magazine cover.

## CLASS NOTES

### 1960s

**Richard Enos**, B.A., speech and drama ('69), is a member of the Managing Committee for the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. A professor, he holds The Lillian B. Radford Chair of Rhetoric and Composition at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

**Gerry Fisher**, B.S., physical education ('67), serves on the Board of Directors for the Solano Coalition for Better Health. Fisher also is the superintendent/president of Solano College.

**Carol Putman**, B.A., social science ('68), is an artist listed in 2007 "Who's Who in America."

### 1970s

**Stephen Abbors**, B.S., M.A., biological sciences ('71), is general manager for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. He manages 28,000 acres of watershed and recreational lands for the East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

**Albert Campbell**, B.A., political science, ('72), recently self-published his second book, "Dubrovnik."

**Dave Cutaia**, recreation (attended '70-'72), retired as Martinez chief of police. He now serves as coordinator of football officiating for the Pacific-10 Conference. He also officiates high school basketball and Arena Football League games.

**Kevin Jones**, B.A., drama ('74), recently delivered a keynote speech, "Do Well and Do Good," at an investor conference in Hong Kong. Jones has been featured in publications such as Forbes and The New York Times.

**Deborah Nolan**, business administration ('74), is a partner with professional services firm Ernst & Young after formerly serving as commissioner of the Large and Mid-Size Business Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

### 1980s

**Donna Abrams**, B.S., nursing ('81), is now the Quality Oversight Manager for Alameda Alliance for Health (Alliance). Prior to her new position, Abrams had 25 years of experience in the health care arena.

**Tim Dutra**, M.S., kinesiology and physical education ('80), associate director of Student Health Services at CSUEB. He also serves as team podiatrist for the University of California, Berkeley, athletic teams.

**Wendy Horikoshi**, M.S., education and multicultural curriculum ('81), wrote "Teamwork Tools: A Revolutionary Approach for Managers and Trainers." She also serves as adjunct faculty for the Association of Psychological Type's Myer-Briggs Type Indicator Training Program at John F. Kennedy University.

**Al Simmons**, B.A. business administration ('87) and M.A. in physical education ('91), joined the defensive coaching staff for the UC Berkeley football team after previous experience with the San Francisco '49ers.

### 1990s

**Dan Belville**, M.P.A. ('91), has been named fire chief for the city of San Mateo. He also developed the San Mateo County Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Plan.

**Chris Corso**, kinesiology (attended '92-'94), is the new hitting coach for the Chico Outlaws, a minor league team playing in the Golden Baseball League, for the 2008 season.

**Carlos Franco**, B.S., physical education ('97), was named football coach for Franklin High School in Stockton.

**Frank Saiz**, ('94), was honored as "Firefighter of the Year" by the Hayward Chamber of Commerce in recognition for his work with the Hayward Fire Department.

### 2000s

**Loretta Canto-Williams**, B.A., human development ('00), is the director of financial aid for Los Medanos College in Pittsburg. She previously served as the associate director of financial aid at St. Mary's College in Orinda.

**Cheryl Domenichelli**, teaching credentials ('01), serves as principal for the new John C. Kimball High School in Tracy.

**Konstantin Solodukhin**, M.B.A. ('01), is the general director for the Russian long-distance telecommunications company, Rostelecom.

**Todd Willis**, M.B.A. ('02), accepted a new leadership position with the U.S. Department of Commerce where he manages international end-use programs for Commerce and U.S. dual-use exports.

### Submit Class Notes

Share news about your career, accomplishments and changes in your life with fellow alumni.

Include your address, phone numbers, degree earned, major and graduation year. Mail to: Cal State East Bay Magazine, Attention Editor, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., WA 908, Hayward, CA 94542. Or e-mail to: [monique.beeler@csueastbay.edu](mailto:monique.beeler@csueastbay.edu).



## THEATRE AND DANCE

### Performance Fusion

May 30-June 8, Director Showcase in Studio Theatre. \$10 general admission, \$7 youth and senior, \$5 CSUEB student.



PHOTO: BEN AILES

## MUSIC

### Voice of the People, East Bay Singers with the Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra

May 31 at 8 p.m. Music and Business room 1055; Buddy James, director. \$7 general admission, \$5 seniors and youth. Free with CSUEB ID.



## EXHIBITS

### Kachinas: The Spirit of the Hopi

Runs through June 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday in the C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology (MI 4047). Free.

## HAYWARD CAMPUS

## MUSIC

### Student Composers Recital

May 27 at noon in Music and Business room 1055. Free.

### Chamber Winds Recital

May 29 at noon in Music and Business room 1055. Free.

### Accompanying Class Recital

May 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Music and Business room 1055; Irene Gregorio, director. Free.

### Piano Ensemble Recital

June 3 at noon in Music and Business room 1055; Ellen Wassermann, director. Free.

### CSUEB Symphonic Band Concert

June 3 at 7:30 p.m. in University Theatre; Ellen Wasserman, director. \$7 general admission, \$5 seniors and youth. Free with CSUEB ID.

### How Lovely are Thy Dwellings Classic Oratorio Choruses, CSU East Bay Oratorio Society

June 7 at 8 p.m. in Music and Business room 1055; Buddy James, conductor. \$7 general admission, \$5 senior and youth. Free with CSUEB ID.

### CSUEB Symphony Orchestra

June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the University Theatre; Buddy James, conductor.

### Student Composers Recital

June 8 at 7 p.m. in Music and Business room 1055; Free.

## EXHIBITS

### DNA: Cracking the Ancestor Code

Runs through June 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday in the C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology (MI 4047). Free.

### Annual Juried Student Exhibition

May 21-June 5 (closed May 26) noon-3:30 p.m. in the AE building. Free.

### American Prints and Modern Books

Exhibit runs May 21-June 5 (closed May 26) noon-3:30 p.m. in the AE building. Free.

## COMMENCEMENT

June 14-15 at 9 a.m. in the stadium.

## CONCORD CAMPUS

## COMMENCEMENT

June 15 at 9 a.m. at the Concord Campus.

## THE LAST WORD:

“What does *volunteerism* mean to you?”

Every day people volunteer their time and talent to charitable, educational and other worthy community causes simply for the sake of being helpful. From 2006 to 2007, approximately 61 million people nationwide volunteered for or through an organization, meaning 26 percent of the population lent their services, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Members of the Cal State East Bay community shared the following thoughts about the meaning of volunteerism:



*Volunteerism means trying to make the world a better place in terms of social justice and equality. It means that I use my academic research to impact the community rather than just to study it. It means giving my time to the local YMCA to take kids outdoors to try rock climbing, helping them conquer their fears and make them into the kind of strong leaders that our community needs.*

**Melissa Michelson**  
Assistant professor  
Department of Political Science



*It's taking extra effort to go out of your comfort zone and take care of your community in some way; even something small and unnoticed like picking up trash or reading to someone. Volunteerism comes in all forms, sometimes formal, sometimes informal. Giving up your seat for a pregnant woman on the bus can be one of the best acts you can do.*

**Lonny J. Avi Brooks**  
Assistant professor  
Department of Communication



*It means giving back and sharing some of the skills I've gained over the years to a place that means a lot to me ... It gives you a chance to learn new things.*

**Diana Schaufler '72**  
Volunteer, University Library and Office of Alumni Relations



*It's a very noble thing to do. Volunteerism means you're actually caring for someone else, someone else's needs.*

**Ragavendai R. Naidu**  
Sophomore  
Business Major



*Helping out without asking for anything in return.*

**Morris Shao**  
Freshman  
Undeclared Major



*A generous act of benefit towards an organization or other people.*

**Patricia Medina**  
Assistant, University Library

# 'dō·a·ble

**adj.** Within one's reach, feasible, achievable; possible to do —  
*Cal State East Bay's graduate programs are rigorous but doable.*

Have you thought about changing careers or qualifying yourself for promotion and a spot at the top — but don't think you have the time or money to earn the graduate degree you know you'll need? Have you dreamed of a graduate program that's not only recognized and respected by employers, but also offers low fees, small classes, and evening and weekend classes? A program with the kind of built-in support and flexibility that makes it doable? At California State University, East Bay, the graduate degree program — and the future — you envision are within reach.

Learn more about our distinctively personal, professional, and achievable graduate degree programs. Contact us at [gradprograms@csueastbay.edu](mailto:gradprograms@csueastbay.edu) or 510.885.3286. Apply online at [www.csueastbay.edu/apply](http://www.csueastbay.edu/apply).



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