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Alumni in film, music, and art

Kennedy Center ovation for 'Tongues'

Spirited 'Black Nativity' concert founder

Graphic novel phenom

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Spring/Summer 2009

STARBURST

ALUMNI

FACULTY

SHOW AND TELL

'Tongues' production speaks to national audience

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The UNIVERSITY of IMAGINATION

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ARTS AND CULTURE are the soul and truest expression of a society, no matter how



NASA \$1.4 M grant funds CSUEB, county effort to lift high school science education

Science professor Jeffrey Seitz says he's long believed that the United States should produce the world's brightest top scientists, as was once the case. With fewer students in the state and nation pursuing degrees and careers in the sciences, however, Seitz ranks near the bottom of the pack.

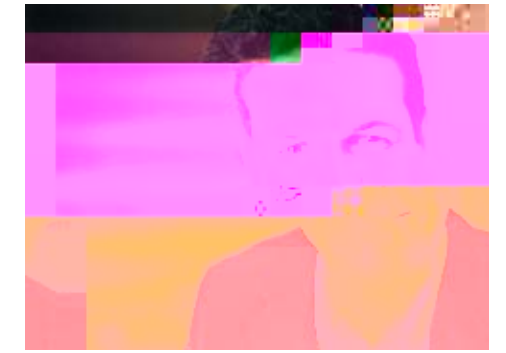
A two-year, \$1.4 million grant from NASA will help Seitz, chair of Cal State East Bay's Department of Earth and Environmental Science, and his colleagues improve science education at high schools in Alameda County as they work to turn the tide.

The NASA LIFTOFF grant, awarded to the Alameda County Office of Education March 31, is the

honor school Seitz says

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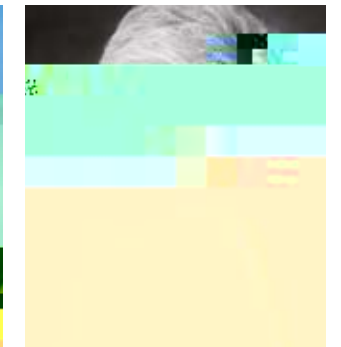
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Khaled Hosseini



Scott Kriens



Leo Fontana

After a global search to fill Cal State East Bay's first endowed chair, Jaideep Singh, an expert in comparative ethnic studies, assumed the Dr. Ranjit Singh Sabharwal Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies during winter quarter.

"There are several Sikh studies chairs across the nation, but none of them focuses on Sikh Americans," Singh says. "I want to innovate the entire field."

Singh has served as a visiting lecturer at University of California campuses including Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara. In 2003, he was an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Ethnic Studies.

In his new role, Singh says, he will concentrate on exploring a 21st-century phenomenon. "One of the things we've learned in the post 9/11 world is (about) the role of race and religion," he says. A troubling mix of racial and religious bigotry has led to what he describes as the "racialization of religious identity." He has written on the subject in several academic publications.

A program within the Department of Ethnic Studies, Sikh and Punjabi Studies is open to all students, Singh says he hopes to recruit more students from rural parts of the state, who traditionally have been underrepresented at universities.

Singh earned his doctorate and master's degrees in comparative ethnic studies at University of California, Berkeley, in 2008 and

moving forward with new projects, driven by an inner spring of creativity that bubbles over with more stories than he'll ever have time to ink onto a page. He's begun partnering with illustrators to free his time to concentrate on storytelling.

"My ambition always was to do graphic novels and, now that I'm doing them, I want to keep doing it," says Yang, who also teaches computer science classes at Bishop Duguid High School in Oakland. "I don't think I've proved I'm not a one-hit wonder yet."

at assessment is open to debate.

In early April, his serialized comic strip "Prime Baby" completed an 18-week run in the New York Times magazine. Before it hit book stores in late April, Booklist highlighted Yang's next title, "Eternal Smile: True Stories," with a starred review. During the summer, he'll be a featured speaker at Comic-Con International 2009, the nation's leading comic book convention. Comic-Con last year drew approximately 125,000 attendees in San Diego for the four-day pop culture extravaganza that annually features big names from the comic book and film industries. ("This year I get to be a special guest," Yang says. "I hope that means they'll pay for my hotel.")

HOW GRAPHIC NOVELS

The past decade has seen an explosion in graphic novel growth. In 2008, graphic novel sales totaled about \$395 million, up from \$75 million in 2001.

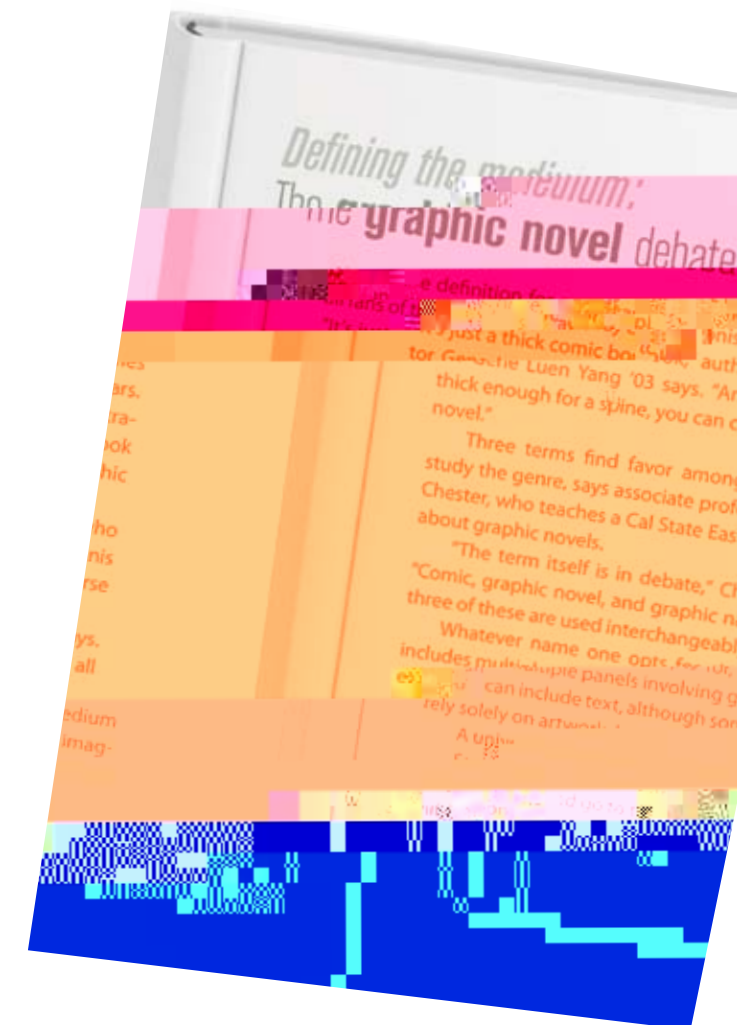
Not everybody reads in the same way," observes Debraski of the LA.

"A bound book just with words is not always the form people are reading now. Reading takes a lot of different forms now, including audio books and different technological ways as well, texting and online, things like that."

Yang-8(i)-170(-)-41(t)86 Td [(w)14- 9Ga12(e)4(x)-6(t)5(i)-5(n)93*/b6(g)-5(r)1Ri9Ga14 -1.28(-)7925(f)8rtrs kd12(e)4(xg-15()21(e)15e)10(-)-152(k)-5(n)10(-)3152(k)20

MONKEYING AROUND with LITERARY KING

B





SPEAKING IN

Triumphant production mulls over mortality through dance, song and spoken word

SHORTLY BEFORE THE LAST SCENEN "TONGUES" T HE CAL STATE EAST BAY THEATRE AND DANCE DEPARTMENT PRODUCTION THAT EARNED TOP HONORS AT A PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL THEATER FESTIVAL IN FEBRUARY. STUDENT ACTOR BRADFORD "BEE AY" BARNES MASHES BARRIERS BETWEEN DANCE GENRES. EVEN AS HE BRINGS THE SHOW'S REFLECTION ON LIFE AND DEATH TO A U YET CLOSE.

In the sequence, Barnes mashes up hip-hop street performance, modern dance, and high-minded theater. His moonwalk-like footwork, "popping and locking" gestures, and staccato, mechanical breathing evoke breakdancing. But Barnes, a 20-year-old junior majoring in ethnic studies and theater at California State University East Bay, emphasizes breath and posture over any beat, tapping the tradition of modern dance luminaries Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham. And as he gradually retreats to a chair and takes hold of a staff, the movement stops, concluding the show's meditation on mortality.

one. But he wanted another dancer in a wheelchair to fit his vision for the choreography. Kupers, 37, strapped himself in and took lessons from Kay.

Kupers' wheelchair adventure is in keeping with his exploratory approach to making theater. "I tend to work in

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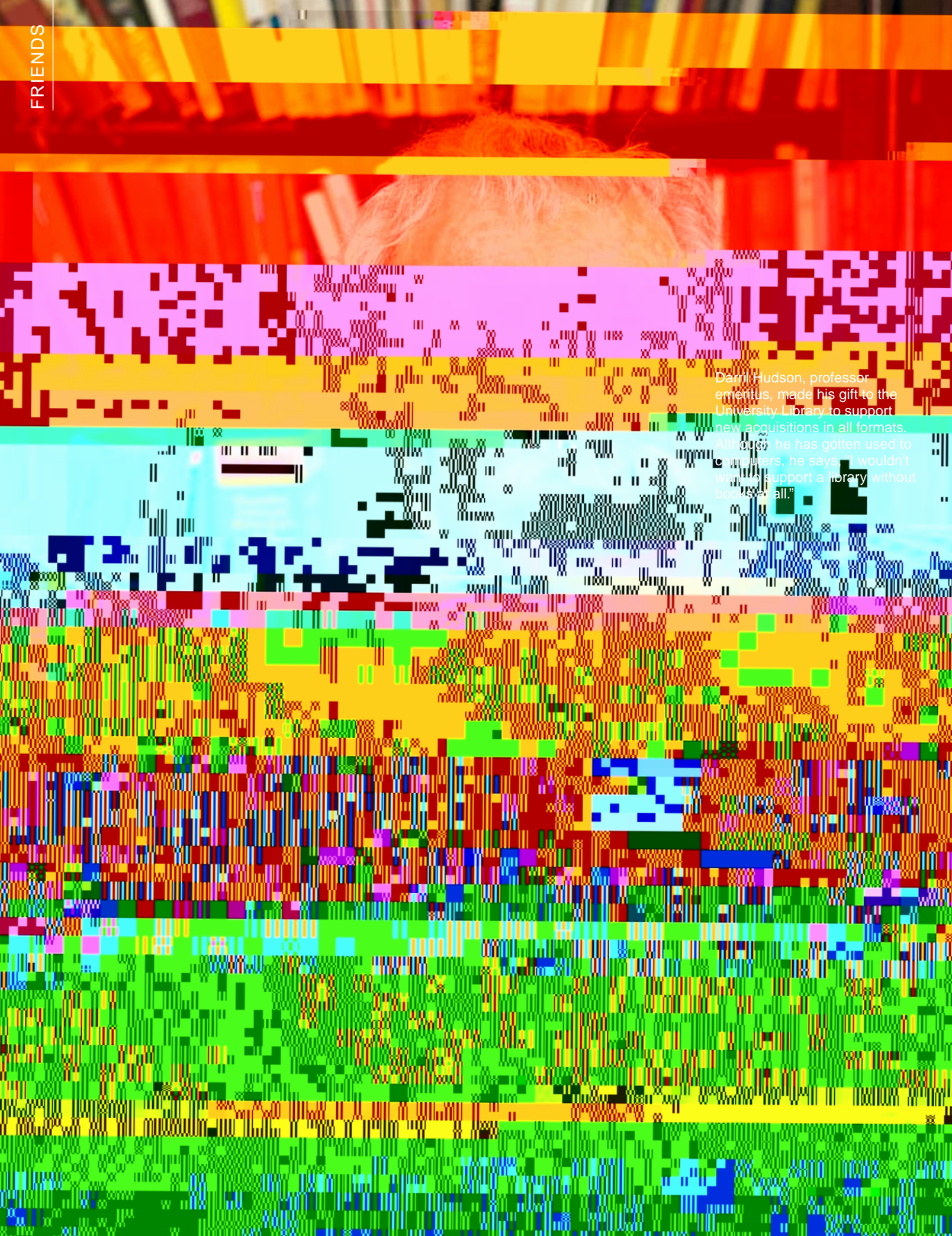


the 2007 study “Pathways Student Success: The Impact of Learning Communities on the Success of Academically Under-prepared College Students.”

In summarizing results of a three-year study of learning community programs at 19 institutions nationwide, along with more focused examinations of five programs – including Cal State East Bay’s – the Syracuse scholars concluded that “curricular linkages matter.”

Deeper Learning

In other words, when students participated in linked, integrated courses, they gained deeper learning experiences. Students also displayed increased levels of interest and engagement, and the program was perceived to be more efficient and easier to navigate than stand-alone classes.



Darril Hudson, professor emeritus, made his gift to the University Library to support new acquisitions in all formats. Although he has gotten used to computers, he says, "I wouldn't want to support a library without books at all."

EMERITUS PROFESSOR DARRIL HUDSON IS A MAN OF THE WORLD. SAN FRANCISCO HAS BEEN HIS HOME BASE FOR MANY YEARS, BEGINNING WHILE HE WAS TEACHING IN CAL STATE EAST BAY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT AND CONTINUING THROUGH HIS RETIREMENT. BUT HIS INTERNATIONAL ATTRACTION BEGAN IN CHILDHOOD.

"I've always been interested in foreign places and fascinated by maps," he says. "In my bedroom as a child I had a map that filled the whole wall."

Not surprising, then, that following his undergraduate years at the University of California, Berkeley, Hudson headed overseas. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in international relations at the London School of Economics, where he met his life partner, Peter Boesch '70.

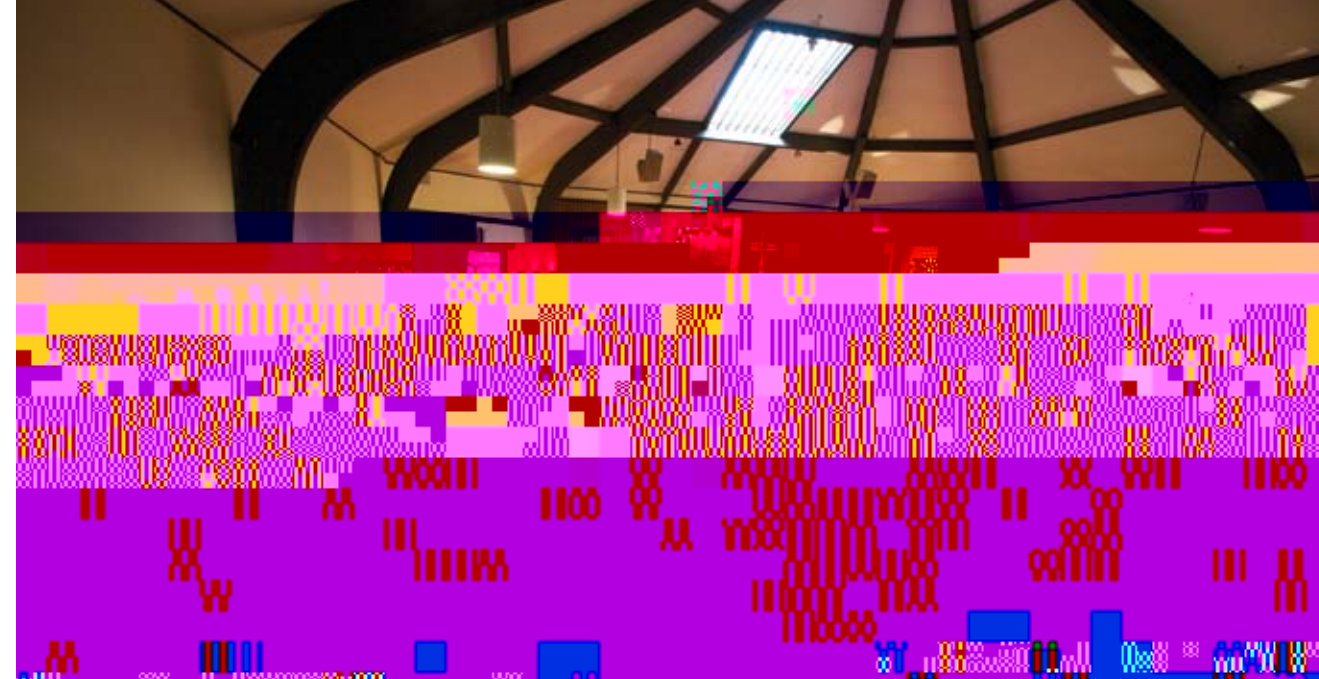
Born in communist East Germany, Boesch escaped at age 14 after being apprenticed to a stonemason. "Who ever wants to be a stonemason I don't know, but certainly not Peter," Hudson says. Boesch was a hotelier by trade, equally interested in travel and eager to see the world with Hudson.

Their relationship, which spanned 33 years, seven seas, and destinations near and far, has been commemorated through the Darril Hudson and Peter Boesch Book Endowment Fund, established with a \$20,000 donation Hudson recently made to the University.

University Librarian Linda Dobb says special endowments, like Hudson's, "encourage serendipity" by creating collections with depth and range, allowing the library to acquire materials beyond the basics.

"I go with students to Asia. Pi far, ha ()"

Hudson and his late partner, alumnus Peter Boesch '70, met in Europe and spent many years traveling internationally. This photo of Boesch was taken during a trip to Greece in the late 1960s.



“Kids grow up looking forward to being a participant,” Gadling says. “We have (whole) families in the production.”

Carol Litzsey, a church member for 18 years, participates in “Black Nativity” and the church choir, and her daughters have grown up participating in the concert. She says



CLASS NOTES

1960s

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What cultural offerings at Cal State East Bay do you find most enriching?

The San Francisco Bay Area is known for the richness of its cultural activities and the diversity of its population, qualities reflected on the campus.

