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Individual dies by suicide at SJSU

North Garage was closed for several hours on Monday afternoon

By Rainier de Fort-Menares
NEWS EDITOR

An individual died by suicide falling from the North Garage on 10th and San Fernando streets, at around 2:15 p.m. on Monday.

Frank Belcastro, San Jose State UPD Captain, confirmed that the individual took their own life.

The individual "was not a faculty member, staff member or a currently enrolled SJSU student," wrote Charlie Faas, vice president for administration and finance, in a campuswide email Monday.

"Our common humanity means that we feel this tragedy acutely, and it also serves to remind us of the importance of community and being open to asking for and accepting help," Faas wrote.

Belcastro said there was no criminal activity or threat to campus following the events.

AlertSJSU notified the campus community that the North Garage was closed for police activity in the afternoon. After the garage was

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ALESSIO CAVALCA | SPARTAN DAILY

SJPD police cars sit parked in front of the North Garage on the intersection of 10th and San Fernando on Monday afternoon.

San Jose State University
COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SJSU.EDU/COUNSELING

Mental Health RESOURCES

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources

Personal Counseling (on campus)
408-924-5910

Crisis Intervention (on campus)
408-924-5910

Case Management (on campus)
408-924-5910

INFOGRAPHIC BY VANESSA TRAN SOURCE: SJSU WEBSITE

Title IX forum addresses student, faculty concerns

By Alina Ta
STAFF WRITER

The Title IX Office and San Jose State's Chief of Staff, Lisa Millora, hosted a listening session for students to share what they want to see in SJSU's new Title IX and Gender Equity Officer on Tuesday and Thursday.

SJSU's Interim Title IX and Gender Equity Officer, Peter Lim, is helping the university rebuild its Title IX Office since Feb. 21, 2022, according to a May 30, 2022 email by the university's former Interim President, Steve Perez.

Title IX is a federal law that protects students and employees in educational settings from discrimination based on sex or gender, according to a California Department of Education webpage.

Lim said the Title IX Office's role is to respond to reports of any form of discrimination that is done based on sex or gender, including sexual assault, sexual harrassment, stalking and more.

"Our goal, of course, is always to foster gender equity across our campus and in all of our education programs or activities," Lim said.

Lim said as SJSU's current Title IX Officer, his role has four main functions.

He oversees the university's response to reports of sex or gender discrimination, ensures investigations are done thoroughly within a reasonable timeframe and raises awareness on issues related to Title IX.

Lim also communicates with external agencies that interact with the Title IX Office.

He said he hopes the school will find a candidate to replace him by the summer.

"I think each individual that applies for the position will have a unique set of attributes that will evaluate and determine whether or not they are a qualified candidate to serve in this role," Lim said.

Lim said no single individual will be in charge of deciding who will replace him.

He said instead, staff in the Title IX Office and Millora are aiming to include input from the campus community first.

"We want to include as many individuals as possible who have the technical expertise and who know the campus, to be part of the search process," Lim said.

He said the listening sessions are meant to give the campus community an opportunity to share what they want from the Title IX Office and to share ideas on how it can improve.

"[Students] have a very specific perspective to bring," Millora said.

The department and SJSU reached a $1.6 million settlement after concluding the university failed for more than a decade to respond adequately to reports of sexual harassment and sexual assault against female student athletes, according to a Sept. 21, 2021 news release

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reopened, 10th Street between San Fernando and Santa Clara Streets remained closed to traffic.

Belcastro said students already inside the garage after its closure were free to leave, but some of them were questioned by UPD as potential witnesses.

Associated Students President Nina Chuang said she was in the middle of an Academic Senate meeting when she found out about what happened at the North Garage.

"Something like this, it's just shocking. Literally, in the senate meeting today, I tried not to cry," she said.

Chuang said she sends her condolences to the family, people affected and to the commuter students who use the garage.

"I think it's important for us as a community to really band together and support one another during this time," she said. "My hope is that for any really saddening event like this, that [students] don't lose hope on their future – they don't lose hope on who they are as individuals – and to know that our San Jose State community is trying its best and it's doing its best to really support them."

> "Our common humanity means that we feel this tragedy acutely, and it also serves to remind us of the importance of community and being open to asking for and accepting help.
>
> **Charlie Faas**
> vice president for administration and finance

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. Call or text 988 or chat at its website.

SJSU's Counseling and Psychological Services provides confidential online and limited in-person services relating to stress, depression, anxiety or relationship problems.

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from the U.S. Department of Justice, DOJ.

In June 2020, the Educational Opportunities Section of the DOJ also investigated allegations to retaliate against SJSU Athletic employees in connection to reports made against the athletic trainer, according to a resolution agreement between the DOJ and SJSU.

During the session, Lizeth Villarreal shared their personal experience with the Title IX Office.

Villarreal said in March 2021, during her freshman year, she had an incident with another student.

She said she reported the incident to the resident advisor, but she never heard anything back and she still doesn't know why she hasn't received a response.

"Unfortunately, I didn't have a great experience with [the TItle IX Office]," Villarreal said.

She said since her first experience with Title IX, she hasn't gone back to the office to make new reports, even though she has experienced similar incidents.

"We never want anyone to feel 'Oh, I've got to have X, Y and Z before I come [to] the Title IX Office,' " Lim said. "We are the subject matter experts and we want to share your experience and allow us to carry that burden for you."

He also said he doesn't want students or faculty to feel they can't reach out to the Title IX Office because of issues on whether or not their matters will fall under the office's jurisdiction.



ALINA TA | SPARTAN DAILY

SJSU's Staff of Chief Lisa Millora (left) and Peter Lim (right) SJSU's Interim Title IX and Gender Equity Officer, responding to students's comments on Thursday's listening session in room 3B at the Student Union.

"I don't want there to be limitations on who accesses our services, because individuals need care and support if they feel or suspect that they're being mistreated," Lim said.

Millora said the effects of a poorly run Title IX Office can last longer than what most would expect.

"I think [what is] not always obvious to folks is that because the negative impacts of doing Title IX badly can last for years, decades, you know, a lifetime," she said.

Villarreal said she felt the forum gave her some clarification and relief after meeting the Title IX Office staff in person.

"It is kind of intimidating," Villarreal said. "You know, you don't know if they're older, if they're not gonna understand you or not . . . That's what I wanted clarification on."

Millora said she agreed with students during the forum.

She said she thought all of the input was really valuable and that it is important to educate the campus on what Title IX is and what the Title IX Office does.

Lim said he agreed with students when they shared ideas about finding new ways to help the Title IX Office become more familiar to the campus community.

He said he thinks it is a brilliant idea to find ways to encourage people to engage with the office's resources before they need their services.

Millora said it's important to demonstrate to the campus community that their input matters.

"It's another way of making good on our commitment to be open, and sharing information and consulting with our community about matters that are really important," she said.

Millora said the input they received from students will inform the search committee while the office searches for a new candidate to take the Title IX and Gender Equity Officer position.

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Feds open investigation after bank fail

By Alessio Cavalca
MANAGING EDITOR

Morew than 10 days after the Silicon Valley Bank collapse on March 10, the United States Department of Justice opened an investigation on the company on Friday, aiming to clarify and establish the causes behind the failure.

The Federal Reserve, the central bank of the U.S., announced that it will review the supervision and the regulations of Silicon Valley Bank, according to a March 13 press release.

"We need to have humility, and conduct a careful and thorough review of how we supervised and regulated this firm, and what we should learn from this experience," said Michael Barr, the Vice Chair for Supervision who is leading the review, in the press release.

Although the results of the inquiry will be public starting May 1, legal experts say the

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NATHAN CANILAO | SPARTAN DAILY

Silicon Valley Bank collapsed on March 10, causing customers to panic, leading to massive withdrawals from the deposit accounts.