

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

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Education

As the new president of Expression College for Digital Arts, **Spencer Nilsen** plans to give young techies the skills to interact with other people as well as they interact with their computers.

Emeryville-based Expression, founded in 1999, offers an accelerated bachelor's degree program in three disciplines -- animation and visual effects; sound arts; and motion graphics.

"It's not the technical skills, it's the people skills," Nilsen said. "Most of these young people have grown up in a one-on-one relationship with their computers. One of the biggest challenges that we face in this field is teaching students how to collaborate with others and socialize. Anyone can learn to use the tools, but those who are personable are the ones who thrive."

Nilsen, an artist who was also able to turn his passion into a successful career, said that he understands what it takes to make it in digital arts. A Marin native, he began his career as a musician before he could even drive; His mom used to drop him off at recording sessions. After studying music and film at San Diego State University, Nilsen worked in the concert industry with bands such as the Who and U2 and later produced, directed and composed scores for television shows, commercials and music videos as co-founder of a production company. In 1992, Nilsen joined SEGA as the head of its music department, composing video game soundtracks.

Several years ago, Nilsen became a consultant to Expression and he later joined the school full time as a program director and instructor.

"What better environment can you be in than a college campus?" Nilsen said. "(I get to be around) all the stuff that I just dig and still be up-to-date on technology. I find it to be the most creative and energetic environment that I've ever been in."

Nilsen will continue to guest lecture at Expression, but his main focus as president will be to promote the college, fine-tune the curriculum and bridge the divide between the different plans at the school. He also anticipates continued expansion of the school, which now has more than 1,000 students.

Accounting

Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP hired **Christy Chow** as director in its valuation services practice. Chow, who is based in San Francisco, will lead the fair value review practice in Deloitte FAS, Northern Pacific region, supporting professionals in their auditing of fair value estimates presented as audit evidence.

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