Citizens of the world
Fresno State offers a world of opportunities

Welcome to the Fall 2007 edition of Fresno State Magazine. It’s always great to take another glimpse into campus life and the people who make Fresno State such a special place.

We are truly a university of opportunity. In the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno State is the main path for women and men of all backgrounds to fulfill their dreams of a college education.

Our continuing commitment to providing opportunities is reflected in outreach throughout our diverse region, in our broad range of courses, in students who are the first in their family to go to college and in community partnerships that promote public service and work experience.

Since Fresno State’s founding in 1911, our mission has broadened dramatically both geographically and in the variety of disciplines through which we prepare our students to be good citizens of the world.

Each year, we welcome our campus hundreds of students and faculty from outside of the United States, who help us expand our horizons as they expand theirs.

Through partnerships, initiatives and exchanges, we send students and graduates out into the world – even into space – to study and pursue careers, learn about other cultures and share their own perspectives.

As we provide opportunities and serve the people of the Valley, we’re also serving people around the world. It’s the perfect association with the images that they, too, can be part of the university community in the future.

From our readers

Photographs inspire third-graders

I really enjoyed the photographs in the (Spring 2007) magazine. I’m a third-grade teacher at a school in central Fresno. What the pictures represent to my students are positive images of people in their community. For example, the picture of Mr. Laurin Marshall (Grinde) with the rocketship or the four alumnae in front of the new library construction or the students who received the Peter Robertson scholarship. Though the students might not be able to read the articles, they can quickly make an association with the images that they, too, can be part of the university community in the future.

Tony Garcia (2002) Fresno

Flores should have been listed

Not to offset Lake Kiffen or the Raiders, I’d like your article very unjust and unfair in referring to someone as a successor to former Raiders head coaches Madden, Gruden and Shell without acknowledging Tom Flores. Flores, born in Fresno County, raised in Oak Park and a graduate of Sanger High School, was the successor to Madden as Raiders head coach. He took the Raiders to – and won – their last two Super Bowls (VI in 1981 and XIX in 1984). I might also mention that Flores was the Raiders as a player, as an assistant coach and as a head coach. Flores also has the distinction of having been an assistant coach, head coach, general manager and president in the NFL. Who else has done that?

Sam Bogosian

Proud of his alma mater

As a freshman reading my first issue of Fresno State Magazine (Spring 2007), I realized how Fresno State has grown up and matured since I attended. Well done! It makes me proud to be a graduate. Keep up the great work.

Larry D. Reiner (1978)

Fresno, Calif.

Yearbook mislabeling perpetuated

Unfortunately my picture was mislabeled years ago when it appeared in the yearbook. This error was reflected once again when my picture appeared on Page 42 of the Spring 2007 Fresno State Magazine under “Blasts from the Past.” It is the 9th item: Can you name this fraternity sweatshirt? The answer indicates that my name is Marilyn Daniels. It is correct that I was the sweatshirt for this fraternity. However, my name is Elizabeth Daniels, not Marilyn.

Elizabeth Daniels Luke

San Ramon, Calif.

Stay in touch!

We’d like to hear your comments about Fresno State Magazine. Please e-mail them to magazine@csufresno.edu. If you receive more than one copy of Fresno State Magazine, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State. If you’d like to support Fresno State, please visit www.supportcsufresno.com to make a contribution.

John D. Welty

President

Fresno State Magazine is published twice annually by the Office of University Communications at California State University, Fresno.

Fall 2007

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Players on a worldwide stage

Stories about students, faculty and alumni reflect some of the many ways Fresno State connects around the globe. People from the university study, teach, do research and pursue careers abroad, while the campus hosts students and faculty from all over who share their cultures and experiences, expanding knowledge and appreciation of diversity.
Grad student’s groundbreaking work helps farmers harvest more precisely

By Charles Radke

When Sivakumar “Siva” Sachidhanantham came to Fresno to pursue a master’s degree in industrial technology, he didn’t expect to spend so much time in a vineyard.

But thanks to an important collaboration between Fresno State’s Viticulture and Enology Research Center (VERC) and professionals from California’s grape and wine industry, that’s precisely where he has found himself. “Precise” is an apt descriptor for his work.

Sachidhanantham left a family manufacturing business in southern India for Fresno State’s graduate program. He was taking a geographic information systems (GIS) class when his professor, Dr. Matthew Yen, noticed his commitment. “He stayed late to complete all his assignments,” Yen says.

Yen recommended his enthusiastic, promising student to VERC director Dr. Robert Whipple, who needed a graduate student to help with the mapping component of a larger project. Sachidhanantham was invited to join the research team and charged with using global positioning systems (GPS) and GIS technologies to create data maps for a 45-acre vineyard near Lodi.

“Siva was instrumental in demonstrating such technology for the first time in the world,” Yen says.

The idea was an extension of Wample’s previous work using near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) to measure grape quality in the vineyard. Combining NIR and GPS, Sachidhanantham created “quality maps” of the vineyard to guide harvesting. “We generated a surface map of high-quality and low-quality zones and uploaded the map into a mechanical harvester,” says Sachidhanantham.

Kingsburg’s Oxbo International Corp. provided the harvester and equipped it with the technology necessary to sort the grapes into two gonolas. One was for grapes of higher quality and one for grapes of lesser quality, says Oren Kaye, a former Fresno State graduate student who now is winemaker for research and development with Constellation Wines U.S., a partner in the project.

Sachidhanantham’s contributions to the differential harvesting project, says Kaye, have been extremely valuable.

“Siva was learning on the go, which was very exciting for him,” Kaye says. “This type of mapping application represents a giant step forward in the marriage of viticulture and technology in the California wine industry. A lot of people are trying to get where we are now with this kind of mapping.”

The research team was so satisfied with the initial results, a bigger project was scheduled for the 2007 harvest. Based, Kaye says, on “the presumption that differential harvesting will be economical.”

Sachidhanantham is excited about the opportunity to continue working in the industry after completing his degree. “We’ll have to see what happens,” he says, “but I’m open to staying in the country and doing this work.”

Addi Yen, “I am very pleased to see his life blossoming.”

Fresno State, university in Japan establish exchange program

Fresno State’s newest exchange program is an agreement with Japan’s Niigata University of Health and Welfare that provides opportunities for students, professors, administrators and researchers from both schools to study health and human service programs abroad.

During the three-year planning stage, Dr. Marilyn Miller, associate professor of physical therapy at Fresno State, arranged for more than 65 students and faculty to visit the campus and gain a global perspective on physical therapy and social work education. This three-year initiative was supported by the community, the Department of Physical Therapy and the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Fresno.

“We are committed to providing enriching experiences for students and believe that by introducing them to a different way of life, we are expanding their opportunities for personal and career growth,” says Dr. Peggy Trueblood, chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at Fresno State.

Trueblood gave a special presentation on programs to reduce the risk of falls for older adults at the 42nd Congress of Japan’s Physical Therapy Association Conference in 2007. She also published an article on the subject in the association’s journal.

Senior Dr. Hikouda Sakakibara, left, and Dean Benjamin Cuellar conclude an exchange agreement between Niigata University in Japan and Fresno State.

Revier. The Fresno State delegation to Japan includes Dean Cuellar, seated third from left, his wife, Julia, and Drs. Peggy Trueblood and Marilyn Miller, from left of Cuellar.

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University partners with fig industry in revitalization project

The California Fig Advisory Board and Fresno State’s Viticulture and Enology Research Center are partners in a program to help revitalize the California fig industry, which is centered in Fresno.

The California State University’s Agricultural Research Initiative, headquartered at Fresno State, authorized the partnership project to expand market opportunities and update industry practices. The work is in response to studies of the health benefits of eating dried figs and the trends and opportunities in the market.

Cognitive science program approved

Fresno State has launched a cognitive science program that offers both a minor and a bachelor of science degree.

Cognitive science draws from courses in computer science, linguistics, philosophy and psychology to develop an introductory understanding of human intelligence.

Students choose from among three tracks: cognition and knowledge, language and social interaction, and computer science and informatics.

First Generation story

Putting fear into perspective

I grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., but first and foremost I consider myself a Jamaican. My family immigrated to the U.S. when I was 4.

My mother was one of 13 children, and she gave birth to four of her own – three girls and one boy. I was the second born. My family immigrated to the U.S. when I was 4. I grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., but first and foremost I consider myself a Jamaican.

I am reminded of something a friend once told me. “Do you know what the definition of fear is?” he asked. When I shook my head no, he said, “FEAR [is] false evidence appearing real.” Since then I’ve taken the advice of Ulysses S. Grant. I’ve chosen not to take counsel in my fears. In fact, now I’m considering my next career move.

First Generation Project experiences resonate with today’s students

Tanya Crabbs’s story and those of a dozen other Fresno State staff members and faculty are collected in “First Generation Stories,” published in August 2007 as part of Fresno State’s First Generation Project.

The effort is dedicated to sharing experiences of people on campus who were the first in their families to complete college. Their experiences help today’s first-generation students – an estimated one-third of all new students at Fresno State – by inspiring them and providing guidance on issues they’re likely to encounter.
Fresno State State addresses critical lack of nurses

The Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing at Fresno State, grants for new training programs and California State University money to admit new students are components of the university’s response to the region’s critical nursing shortage.

The center, opened in May 2007, is the foundation of Fresno State’s effort, serving as a valuable repository for nursing research, education, leadership and policy in the San Joaquin Valley. It also is a catalyst for partnerships with regional providers and a means of keeping lawmakers informed of challenges and realistic solutions.

“Crisis in Care: The Nursing Shortage in the San Joaquin Valley 2007,” details the increasing gap between the supply of nurses and the demand for health care.

“We have an ambitious agenda that will focus on enhancing nursing education and practice at both the graduate and undergraduate levels,” says Dr. Mary Bakrakzi, director of the center and lead author of “Crisis in Care.” “This will be accomplished by bringing together local and regional leadership and interests to collaboratively address these complex problems.

Supplementing the center’s efforts, a state grant helps the Family Nurse Practitioner Training Program develop new community-based clinical training sites and the CSU allocation opened opportunity for 34 more nursing students during the 2007-08 academic year.

The region’s nursing crisis is new, and establishing the Central California Center for Excellence in Nursing took years of planning, explains Dr. Benjamin Cuellar, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

He says, “It’s exciting to watch the center develop and to see new collaborations being formed that support innovative and long-term solutions to the Valley’s nursing shortages.”

Emergency preparations given top priority

Planning for emergencies – Topic A at virtually every college and university in the country – has taken on even more significance at Fresno State in the past year.

Two high-profile shooting incidents – one on the campus and the other nearby – prompted clear, decisive action on the scene and in days following to refine Fresno State’s emergency procedures.

The campus has reviewed its crisis planning. It has changed some of its training for police officers and staff and it has initiated multiple communications techniques to inform campus and community.

“The safety of our students, faculty, staff and guests is our most important mission,” says University Police Department Chief David Huerta. “We received guidance from other university police agencies, conducted campuswide emergency drills, evaluated communications equipment and trained hard to honor our commitment to protect the campus community.

“There is no 100 percent guarantee, but our efforts this past year have made Fresno State just about as safe a campus as you will find anywhere.”

On the second day of classes in August 2006, bank robbery suspects sped through campus on Barstow Avenue, shooting at pursuing Clovis Police officers. Fortunately, no one was injured, and the suspects were apprehended several hours later.

The incident required closing part of Barstow and guiding students from some parking lots during the investigation.

In May 2007, at an apartment complex a block away from campus, one resident was shot to death and two others wounded. Another resident, who was a student, fled the building and surrendered several hours later. He was charged with murder.

The fatal shooting occurred less than three weeks after 32 people were shot to death at Virginia Tech, stirring nationwide concern about campus safety.

President John D. Welty closely monitored the situation near Fresno State as it unfolded throughout the morning and determined that the campus would remain open for classes.

Based on the ongoing information we received from Fresno Police, we felt confident that the campus was not threatened,” says Welty.

Throughout the 13-hour incident, the university communicated vital information to the campus and community through several channels:

- Mass e-mail messages
- Web postings
- Campus emergency radio station
- Telephone hotline
- Portable electronic signboards
- Notification by building safety officers
- Distribution of news and announcements to area news media, which provided important alerts and updates.

“Our emergency communications plan worked very well,” says Mark Aydelotte, associate vice president for University Communications. “We will continue to seek the best communication methods to reach people during emergencies.”

Winemaker earns international acclaim

The International Office of the Vine and Wine Prix de l’OIV was awarded to enology professor Kenneth Fugelsang, the Fresno State Winery manager, and Dr. Charles Edwards of the University of California, Riverside.

The Paris-based office, an intergovernmental scientific and technical body with 43 member nations, has overseen the world’s grape and wine industry for more than 65 years. “The OIV plays a major role in the regulation of the world wine market from grape growing to soil management and winemaking,” says Fugelsang.

Fugelsang joined the university in 1972, and the campus commercial winery’s first harvest was in 1987. The student-operated Fresno State Winery has won more than 200 awards in major wine competitions.

Yale summer biology study helps four Fresno State students

Four Fresno State biology students participated in Yale University’s elite summer program of classroom and lab research in genomics and bioinformatics, disciplines that use computers to analyze biological data, some of which is locked in genetic code.

Fresno State participants in the Science, Technology and Research Scholars (STARS) program are students Christian G. Aguilar of Riverside, Leslie M. Dominguez of Placentia and Melany R. Klauser of Visalia, and junior Jacqueline M. Ma of San Jose.

The opportunity to study at Yale arose because of the work of Dr. Alejandro Cardenas-Urrea, an associate professor of biology at Fresno State, with Yale researchers to increase interest among his students in Ph.D.-level research in biological sciences.

Fresno State in the news

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At Yale University for a summer program are Fresno State students, from left, Jacqueline Ma, Leslie Dominguez, Christian Aguilar and Melany Klauser.

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When Fresno State was founded in 1911, its mission was to train the region’s teachers and farmers. Today, the university prepares men and women for world citizenship. That means graduates trained as businesspeople, medical personnel, criminologists, irrigation specialists and – yes, teachers and farmers – ready to take their places on the ever-shrinking world stage to lend their expertise on global issues.

It’s not surprising that the campus is an international hub. Fresno State is in one of the most culturally diverse regions in the United States with more than 75 languages spoken and people from about 100 cultures. The region’s economy depends on developing links to global markets and understanding business, history, religion and culture on a world scale.

“Like most American universities, Fresno State realizes we live in an increasingly global economy and increasingly diverse society,” says Dr. Robert Hudgens, director of Fresno State’s International Programs Office. “We try to provide students with the skills they need to function in that global society.”

The International Programs Office offers more than 100 opportunities to study in other countries: one-to-one foreign exchanges, summer study tours and overseas semester programs. In 2006, nearly 250 Fresno State students studied abroad, and the university aims to triple that by its centennial in 2011, Hudgens says. The university also sponsors study tours abroad that attract community members who want to expand their horizons.

Fresno State faculty spend time every year at foreign universities as Fulbright fellows or recipients of international travel grants. They lecture, present research findings at conferences, publish their writings and consult overseas on all kinds of subjects. Students and faculty learn how they fit into the world by experiencing cultural differences abroad and by being exposed to people of different cultures on campus.

“Employers today seek recruits who have some global understanding and who can work comfortably across cultural and linguistic boundaries,” Hudgens says.

Fresno State regularly hosts nearly 600 students and 50 visiting scholars or guest lecturers from points across the globe, helped by the office of International Student Services and Programs. It enriches the campus and the Valley to have students and scholars from other countries come here and share their knowledge.

Fresno State exposure students, faculty and the entire Valley community to the ever-shrinking world by building understanding and forging partnerships to enrich the region and the world...

– Marni Katz is a freelance writer based in Fresno.
Research by alumnus
Wayne Craig helps feed world’s hungry

By Adrian Rodriguez

Dr. Gerald Wayne Craig already had the beginnings of a world view when he left Fresno State in 1976 with degrees in Russian and chemistry, but the guidance and enthusiasm of some of his professors steered him to a career helping feed the world.

Honduran-born Craig went to Fresno State from the farm center community of Reedley. He says he never thought he would be a chemist for one of the world’s biggest crop production companies (Syngenta). Nor did he envision becoming a citizen of Switzerland, where he has lived nearly two decades.

In the lab, Craig specializes in developing fungicides and insecticides by synthesizing molecules with biological properties designed to protect specific crops without harming others. It’s constant evolution, Craig says: “We often discover new ways to modify molecules and glean how chemical reactions and rearrangements take place.”

However, early in his college career, he says, his direction wasn’t as well-focused as now. “It wasn’t clear how I would connect Russian with chemistry.”

Dr. George Kauffman, now a chemistry professor emeritus, became the catalyst for connecting Craig’s passions. He put Craig to work using his Russian expertise to do research for a journal article about major contributions to platinum compounds developed in Russia.

Craig was a teacher’s assistant for Dr. Joseph Toney, who received his Ph.D. and began a career distinguished by more than a dozen journal articles and winning 12 patents for research in herbicides and fungicides.

Dr. Craig visited the Mediterranean island nation of Cyprus during 2006. It spent long days and nights studying borrowed chemistry books from Professor Toney. He often had philosophical discussions about how organic and inorganic chemistry were evolving.” Craig says, “This was only achievable with enthusiastic chemistry professors such as Stephen Rodemeyer and Richard Ciula of Russian literature professor Helen Dmitriew.” (Dr. Rodemeyer retired as a chemistry professor in 2004 and directs the Smithcamp Family Honors College. Dr. Ciula, an emeritus chemistry professor, died in 2007. Dr. Dmitriew is an emerita professor of Russian literature.)

Other major influences were chemistry professors Dr. Ron Martinhek, who retired in 2008, and Dr. Howard Ono, who remains on the faculty where he has taught since 1972. Craig says, “They were always accessible for thought-provoking discussions about chemistry problems and interesting philosophical ones, too.”

After graduating from Fresno State, Craig started his graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, where he spent two years learning about alkaloid chemistry from medicinal chemist Henry Rapoport, who “taught me the essence of living and breathing chemistry,” says Craig.

He moved on to the University of California, Davis, where he received his Ph.D. and began a career distinguished by more than a dozen journal articles and winning 12 patents for research in herbicides and fungicides.

After moving to Basel, Switzerland, in the late 1980s and reading the research work of chemists from all over the world, the combination of science and language makes perfect sense to Craig, who’s added French, Spanish, and German to his repertoire.

Of parallel and equal importance to his research work with Syngenta, Craig says, is living a well-balanced life in a community where people are respected for their contributions. In addition to being a “democratic country modeled after Switzerland is environmentally considerate. It looks for other ways to utilize energy rather than oil, and it is a perfect eco-conscious country for a backpacker, cyclist, tennier, history and language enthusiast like myself.”

Craig also revels in the history of chemistry found in Switzerland, the birth of what is called “the central science.”

His continuing work with Kauffman, who is an editor for The Chemical Educator. The two reconnected in 2005 to work on a series of articles about 101-year-old Albert Hofmann, who discovered LSD.

“Hofmann works in Switzerland, in the pharmaceutical industry, and Wayne speaks fluent German, so I asked him to collaborate,” Kauffman says.

Craig calls his initial and current work with Kauffman “a tremendous influence” on his interest in writing historical articles concerning chemistry.

In a way, Kauffman says, it’s like coming full circle for Craig. The two are collaborating on another profile, this time about an unusual pair of Americans – analytical chemist Frederick Pearson Treadwell and his son, William Dupre Treadwell, who also adopted Switzerland as their home.

– Adrian Rodriguez is a freelance writer based in Fresno.
Students’ global experience is a two-way street

By Dorina K. Lazo

Study abroad has expanded considerably from the days when only the privileged could afford it. Now, Fresno State students from the United States may savor gelato in Italy or debate international politics in Germany while others from Saudi Arabia, Ecuador or India get hands-on experience in a Fresno State lab and a cultural education inside and outside the classroom.

During 2006-2007, nearly 250 students participated in international programs through Fresno State, while 547 residents of other countries traveled to the heart of Central California to learn.

Elsa Galván studied business for a semester in Torino, Italy, and spent time in Rome on a State Department internship. In Torino she found a city bigger than she expected (about 1 million) with a world of open-air markets, gelato shops and coffee bars. She learned to speak Italian in a region where very few people speak English.

“The only way you notice the culture is by experiencing it and living it,” says Galván, who graduates in spring 2008 and will take her global interest and experience into a career in international business.

“I think it is important for everyone to take the opportunity to live at least one time away from your country. Such an opportunity helps you to grow as a person,” says Galván. “In my case, studying abroad was a positive experience that I want to repeat as many times as possible.”

Chuck Slaght, a senior history major headed for grad school, probably would agree after studying history and German in Luxemburg, Germany, where he saw the world with new eyes and discovered world politics was the main topic for debate.

“Here in the United States, our culture has us sheltered from the world,” Slaght explains. “People have different obligations, traditions and ways of doing things, and it only helped me to see and relate to how other people see the world and the United States.”

Slaght’s time abroad taught him an important life lesson. “My making me a fuller person,” he says, “I feel that I can contribute to society better as a whole.”

While Galván and Slaght left the U.S. to experience life beyond their native culture, Juan Pablo Moncayo immersed himself in an unfamiliar setting by coming to Fresno State from Ecuador.

Elsa Galván, former director of International Services and Programs, introduced Moncayo to the university during a recruiting trip to Ecuador.

Fast forward to May 2008 when Moncayo was elected student body president – the first international student to hold this post.

“Fresno State has an excellent international student program,” explains Moncayo, a senior majoring in finance and physics. “I am fortunate enough to be a part of it.”

It wasn’t an easy road. Moncayo remembers, even though he had lived several years in Southern California before returning to Ecuador for his teen years. When his family moved to Florida to live, Moncayo, arrived at Fresno State.

“The first two days were pretty scary,” he says. “I was terrified.” Moncayo remembers, leading to restroom pep talks to himself to cope with some situations. Moncayo taught salsa dancing, talked with more and more people and looked for a way to express his concerns as a student.

He won election as A.S. president in 2006 and was re-elected without opposition in 2007, then went to New York for a summer internship he hopes will increase his global connections and further his planned business career.

Similar stories about seizing opportunities at Fresno State can be told by students like junior Ali Shwaiheen from Saudi Arabia studying mechanical engineering and Yamishka Rodrigues, a graduate student in business administration from India.

Shwaiheen won a scholarship and had heard that Fresno State professors used creative teaching methods – something he felt his nation’s schools lacked. Shwaiheen says his teachers give him a greater vision for the world of mechanical engineering and he helps classmates understand Saudi culture.

Rodrigues says life in Mumbai, India, is distinct from Fresno, but she has learned to embrace the differences. Through the Wise Owl Tutoring program, she volunteers time to help schoolchildren from an economically disadvantaged neighborhood near downtown Fresno.

Rodrigues is thankful for instant messaging, MySpace and Webcams that help her stay close to family and friends in India despite the 8,500 miles that separate them.

Rodrigues recognizes that, “In today’s world, most companies have some global connection.”

“Coming to another country for my education has helped me understand the culture, thinking and way of life of not only the American people but also of people from various countries represented here on the campus,” she says. “Now, being here, I know that I belong not just to India, but to the world. I am a global citizen.”

– Dorina K. Lazo is a freelance writer, children’s book author and teacher in Fresno.
Sanchez diplomacy extends to and from his alma mater

Peach plucker, cotton chopper, fig picker – Phil Sanchez was all of those and much more on his trip toward becoming a virtual man of the world.

Over 78 years, he’s packed a portfolio matched by few: farmworker, fraternity president, college student body vice president, county administrator, National Guard general, War on Poverty general, ambassador, publisher, grandfather and president, county administrator, National Guard general, War on Poverty general, ambassador, publisher, grandfather and president, county administrator, National Guard general, War on Poverty general, ambassador, publisher, grandfather and president.

In the mid-1940s, he often was the only Latino in a classroom, but he sensed no racism, subtle or otherwise. “Education at Fresno State leveled the playing field. It was all a part of my development,” he recalls.

Sanchez earned his educational wings at Fresno State when it was still a college just off McKinley and Welton, hearing the wisdom and advice of such legendary professors as Hubert Phillips, Dallas Tuelier, Carlos Rojas and Jose Canales.

“They talked to you person to person and you learned about the world,” he says, adding with a chuckle, “And there was a lot of criticism, of course.”

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Sanchez is greeted by people in Medellin in 1976.

As ambassador to Colombia, Sanchez is greeted by people in Medellin in 1976. Sanchez meets Mother Teresa at a meeting where a party elder about-to-be Republican remembered his seat of learning, taking on jobs to raise money for the school and serving on its National Board of Visitors.

During the 1980s, he was elected president of Sigma Chi fraternity and student body vice president, ruling with President Robert Coyle. “We were Mutt and Jeff,” he says of his tenure with his much-taller schoolmate who would become a federal judge.

Like most of his contemporaries from south of the border, Sanchez was a registered Democrat, a party stalwart, president of the Fresno County Young Democrats, all that suddenly changed at a meeting where a party elder was asked about Mexicans. As the about-to-be former Democrat and soon-to-be Republican remembers, “He said something about getting a couple trucks and have ‘em all over.”

Brilliant move, as it turned out, except for one misstep. After nearly a decade as Fresno County chief administrative officer, he was asked into running for Congress, only to be beaten by the unbeatable B.F. Sisk. “Something I’m trying to forget, though I didn’t do badly,” he says.

Closing on 80 years, Phillip V. Sanchez has come full circle. He has seen the world and likes what he has seen. “I would like to see us as one great-granddaughter.

Six children, three of them adopted, and have 15 grandchildren and sports a boyhood tattoo on a shoulder in her honor), managed to raise six children, three of them adopted, and have 15 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

As ambassador to Colombia, Sanchez is greeted by people in Medellin in 1976. Sanchez was a registered Democrat, a party stalwart, president of the Fresno County Young Democrats, all that suddenly changed at a meeting where a party elder was asked about Mexicans. As the about-to-be former Democrat and soon-to-be Republican remembers, “He said something about getting a couple trucks and have ‘em all over.”

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“I came in second.”

Despite the setback, he was on his way to Washington, D.C., anyway, tapped by the Nixon Administration to be second in command of the Office of Economic Opportunity. Two years later he became the numero uno poverty warrior when the boss, Donald Rumsfeld, stepped aside.

That was followed by ambassadorships in Honduras and Colombia, where the Mexican from Pinedale was known as the Gringo Ambassador. “Not a bad word at all,” he remembers, because the South Americans reasoned that the Gringo from the north would protect their neighbors in the south. After four years of state dinners, toasts, many handshakes and much hugging, Sanchez was back in the states, this time in New York, where he donned another hat as newspaper publisher – first of Noticias del Mundo, then the New York City Tribune, among others. He also was vice president of the Washington Times.

Three years ago, the frequent flyer flew back to Fresno, but not to hang his hat permanently. The world is still his stage as he travels from one speaking engagement to another. Nor has the 1977 Fresno State Distinguished Alumni Award winner forgotten his seat of learning, taking on jobs to raise money for the school and serving on its National Board of Visitors.

“I don’t have hair as thick as when I was walking the farmrows of the Valley,” Sanchez can have no plans to retire. “I am not allowed to,” he says as he prepares to fly to Korea for a speaking gig. “I’m pulled here and there.”

The only institution from which he ultimately finally is the Army Reserve, as a colonel.

Throughout it all, he and his wife of 57 years, Juanita (he still sports a boyhood tattoo on a shoulder in her honor), managed to raise six children, three of them adopted, and have 15 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

“After all, it’s really a small planet.’”
Found in translation

By Lisa Lieberman

It’s only fitting that a university with such a culturally di-
verse campus community serving a region that counts about
100 ethnic and cultural groups should be getting a growing in-
ternational voice.

That’s because Fresno State faculty who are authors
have been “discovered” by readers around the world thanks to
translations of their literary works into dozens of languages.

“So many fantasy novels are populated with just white
people, except for maybe an elf or a dwarf, which stands
for cultural diversity,” says Durham, who is African American.

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“The trick with the novel is that it’s about situations that
don’t matter where you came from or how you got here,” says
Yarbrough. “All that matters is your talent as a writer and
your ability to connect with readers.”

Steve Yarbrough, left, and David Anthony Durham

empire is built on the slave and drug trades.
Unlike some fantasy novels, where white characters are
portrayed as being “good” and black characters are “bad,”
Durham’s “Acazia” is more multidimensional.

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“When all of this says about Fresno State is that it
attracted international audiences with his 2006 novel, ‘Pride
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faculty who have
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Alex Espinosa

“My favorite fantasy novel is ‘The Lord of the Rings,’
which tells the story of the struggle between good and evil.

“I think that people are always surprised to find out that
race relations in the Deep South haven’t advanced any further
than they have,” Yarbrough says. “What you have is a school
system where all black kids go to public schools and the white
kids go to private schools. It’s a completely racially divided
society.”

International readers relate to the racial inequities in his
stories, Yarbrough says, because most countries have their
own “dirty secrets.”

“Poland’s dirty secret is its anti-Semitism,” he says. “There
are fewer than 10,000 Jews left in the country, and so
prejudice is something that Polish readers understand very
easily.”

Two newer writers are recent additions to the Fresno
State Department of English — Alex Espinosa and David
Anthony Durham — also are making a splash interna-
tionally.

Espinosa, who was born in Mexico and raised
in Southern California, had his first
novel, “Still Water Saints,” published by
Random House in January 2007. The
novel has appeared in Spanish and
is being translated into Italian.

The story is set in a small Latino
community and centers on a 72-
year-old proprietor of a general store who helps her clients cope
with issues of sexuality and cultural identity.

“The trick with the novel is that it’s about situations that
aren’t just specific to one culture,” Espinosa said. “They’re
struggles that everyone faces.”

Durham attracted international audiences with his 2006
novel, “Pride of Carthage,” which tells the historical tale of Han-
nibal and his 218 B.C. march on Rome. The book has been
translated into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian
and Polish. The Spanish edition spent seven weeks on the
best-seller list in Chile.

Durham’s fourth novel, “Acazia,” was published this sum-
mer. The 522-page fantasy, published by Doubleday, chron-
icles the rise and fall of the imaginary Akan Dynasty, whose
India intrigues visitors from Fresno State

By Joan Sharma and Brijesh Sharma

For 13 days a group that included Fresno State students, former students and community members, took a close look at northern India, visiting sites of historical, religious and architectural interest and encountering hospitality that extended to a parade in our honor and a group meditation.

Our 13-day tour began with our arrival at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, where each of us received a long-stemmed rose. It didn’t take long until the next display of hospitality when we were greeted at the Taj Mahal Hotel – one of India’s finest – with a jasmine and rose garland.

The tour was more than just a vacation. Like other programs through Fresno State’s Division of Global Education and Extended Learning, it was designed as an educational experience, exposing participants to the history, customs and people of northern India.

In Delhi, we visited Qutub Minar – an ancient Hindu capital conquered by Muslim rulers in the 12th century – famed for its high minaret and red sandstone monuments decorated with Arabic calligraphy carved by Hindu artisans.

At the majestic Bahai Lotus Temple, we saw one of Delhi’s most frequently photographed buildings, and then the second Mughal Emperor Humayun’s tomb, whose architects and designers appear to have influenced some aspects of the Taj Mahal. Our busy day concluded with folk and Indian classical dance performed in Parsi Anjuman, the Zoroastrian fire temple of Delhi.

Traveling to Agra, we stopped at an archaeological museum famous for its sandstone and metal sculpture from the first century during the Kushan Dynasty. The Kushans originally were Han Chinese who migrated towards Afghanistan in the second and third centuries BCE and intermarried with Greeks, who stayed after Alexander the Great returned to Macedonia.

By the first century, when they conquered northwestern India, their facial features resembled people of Greek origin and they had converted to Hinduism and Buddhism. Sculpture from this period depicts both religions’ deities with Greek features and flowing Greek robes.

At the mausoleum of the third Mughal Emperor, Akbar, popularly called Akbarabad, the main entry gate into vast geometrically planned...
garden is more impressive than the mausoleum. This entrance gate was added during the reign of the fourth Mughal Emperor, Shahjahan. We left our hotel at 5:30 a.m. to witness sunrise over the Taj Mahal. As the Taj Mahal emerged from the night’s fog, its white marble surface constantly changed color reflecting the changing light. We remained there three hours to admire, reflect on and photograph this work of inspired and majestic design.

After this breathtakingly beautiful monument, we visited a local factory where descendants of artisans who worked on the construction and intricate inlay at the Taj Mahal continue to create beautiful objects using marble and semiprecious stones. Today’s artisans work with the same implements used 300 years ago.

As we were leaving Agra, we stopped at the white marble palaces at Agra Fort, where the fifth Mughal Emperor, Shahjahan, was kept prisoner by his own son during the last eight years of his life. About an hour’s drive west of Agra is another World Heritage Site – Fatehpur Sikri, home to the palaces and mosque of the third Mughal Emperor, Akbar, a visionary who established the capital so he could enjoy the company of Sufi spiritual master Sheikh Salim Chishtie, who had prophesied that the emperor would have three sons. The architecture reflects the emperor’s tolerant and liberal religious philosophy.

Our tour continued to the rose pink city of Jaipur – a capital established by Hindu Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727 and planned to reflect the founder’s interest in astronomy and the ancient Hindu treatise on city planning, the “Brihka Shastras.”

Jaipur was constructed in 1727 to honor a visit by the Prince of Wales. All building facades were painted with distinctive pink mineral paint. We stopped at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), a viewing gallery only three feet deep with finely carved lattice screens designed so royal ladies could watch the Maharaja’s ceremonial processions in privacy without being seen by the public on the streets below.

Before Jaipur’s construction, Kacchawaha Rajputs ruled the area. As we were leaving, we passed through the village of Nimaaj. We rode on brightly decorated, hardworking elephants up a winding path to the hilltop palaces in Amber Fort, whose architecture is an intriguing mixture of Hindu Rajput and Mughal. The palaces of Maharaja Jai Singh I are noted for tiny convex mirrors cut into ornamental shapes and inlaid in plaster on the walls. Jaipur is famous for its City Palace, where descendants of the former royal family continue to live. The public areas of this palace house India’s largest collection of beautiful Mughal and pre-Mughal miniature paintings and manuscripts in Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic. Just outside is the Chaturmukh Jain Temple is surrounded by the Aravali Mountains, shimmering like a pearl in a sea of emeralds.

The chief priest offered to lead mediation for our group. He chanted ancient Sanskrit verses that resonated throughout the stone temple constructed in the 15th century of marble and white granite. Each pillar in the courtyards is uniquely carved and decorated, while the interior is filled with intricate sculpture.

After visiting the City Palace in Udaipur, the city of lakes and palaces, we boarded decorated boats on the shores of Lake Pichola for the trip to the 263-year-old Jag Niwas Lake Palace Hotel to enjoy a sumptuous lunch. The hotel is on an island in the middle of the lake. That evening, a local woman decorated the palms of some in our group with intricate henna motifs, and we celebrated the 40th birthday of one of our tour participants with a gala that included decorative lighting in the garden and stage, local folk performances, a DJ, lively music, dancing and fireworks.

A short drive north of Udaipur is the small, ancient kingdom of Devgarh, where we stayed in the exquisitely renovated, restored Jodhpur palace of the Maharaja of Devgarh. We went horseback riding for a few hours throughout the countryside and saw local folk performances, a DJ, lively music, dancing and fireworks.

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Where in the WORLD is Fresno State?

ILLUSTRATION BY TODD GRAVES
During summer 2007, Sham Choy was honored as Nkosuo-Bago, a Development Queen Mother who chairs Fresno State’s Department of Counseling and Special Education, has made several trips to Ghana since being inspired by her university mentor in Toronto, a Ghanian. She travelled to Ghana “to appreciate indigenous knowledge,” traveling to parts of the country it was cool to walk out and watch the Olympics as a kid. She was always the first boy to reach the water and willing.” Sham Choy keeps in touch by phone and online with all the other athletes from her country it was cool to walk out.

Cholotida Perera, a Zimbabwean native and former Olympic football player (2003) and student, has completed a Master’s degree in Nutrition and Physiology and is working on her PhD to develop leadership around the world in the area of women and sport.

When we called on Vaughan in her office it was easy to see why she was so revered. "Our athletes here are like family to me," she says. "I always welcome our champions as kids. This brings me one step closer." Barbara Wester, a key contributor at the New College, is the place to go for a fallen brother, concluding: “This brings me one step closer.”

Dr. Claire Sham Choy

campaign banners proclaim campaign theme

New banners are out on the Fresno State campus calling everyone to the emphasis on “Powering the New California” in the theme of the Fresno State campaign.

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“Tribal rulers and government leaders in Ghana before she was installed as Development Queen Mother.”

Fresno State specializes in applied research, innovation and entrepreneurship, aligning the university’s resources with the needs of the San Joaquin Valley. Fresno State degrees were cornerstones in the careers of state and national elected officials and executives with Microsoft, Boeing Company, Amazon, Patagonia, HSBC Bank and other international businesses. Other alumni are leaders in education, health, agriculture, service, business and resource enhancement and protection. Fresno State has the faculty and community relationships in place to bring together the resources of the area to bear on the key issues of the region. The 1.3 million faculty members, working with 22,000 students, address the key issues of Central California today but also encourage development of people who will be the innovators and creative problem-solvers in the years ahead.

Fresno State alumni who have served in prominent leadership positions such as Phillip V. Sanchez, ambassador to Honduras and Colombia and Paul O’Neill, secretary of the Treasury, Two space shuttle commanders the late Col. Rick Husband and Col. Steven R. Nagel are Fresno State engineering alumni.

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Dynamic shifts in population, culture and the economy are at the heart of Central California’s transformation into the New California.

For nearly 100 years, Fresno State has provided a way to develop leaders for today and tomorrow in education, health, aging, agriculture, business, and resource enhancement and protection. Fresno State is ensuring that the university’s resources with the needs of the San Joaquin Valley.

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The region is home to dynamic people who have achieved great things. For nearly 100 years, Fresno State has provided a way to develop leaders for today and tomorrow in education, health, aging, agriculture, business, and resource enhancement and protection.

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The New California is vibrant, efficient and diverse. The region includes research on issues vital to the area, partnerships to develop leaders to effectively manage change. Fresno State is truly powering the New California, the fastest-growing region in the state.

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For Central California students to reach their highest dreams, The Fresno State story continues to be one of hard work, perseverance, inspiration and achievement.

For California and the U.S. to thrive will require well-prepared students from diverse backgrounds to serve the New California. From the halls of the state Capitol, to executive boardrooms, to the command deck of the Space Shuttle, Fresno State produces those students.

Already there are great demands on regional resources. Fresno State is developing ways to preserve them while supporting growth. Water supplies and air quality take center stage, but the need to preserve the region’s economic base – agriculture – remains a key component.

The university also is keenly aware of another resource – financial support. The state treasury funds the essential core of the university, but to live up to Fresno State’s growing status as a nationally acclaimed university, requires much more support. Hard work through the years has positioned Fresno State to attract substantial donations from private individuals and organizations.

The margin of excellence at great universities is private support, not reliance on public funds. Many of the most significant academic and program initiatives on campus have been funded through private gifts. Some obvious examples: the Henry Madden Library expansion sponsored by Table Mountain Rancheria, the proposed Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, the Downey Planetarium, the Smittcamp Family Honors College and Smittcamp Alumni House, the Craig School of Business and the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

The Campaign for Fresno State is a historic effort to transform the university, its academic programs and the lives of its faculty and students through a sustained investment in academic excellence.

To continue offering the highest-quality undergraduate and graduate-level education in the region, Fresno State must continue to develop and encourage a nationally acclaimed faculty dedicated to teaching and research. The Campaign is designed to provide the resources to attract and sustain top-notch faculty in an environment that also encourages continued student success at Fresno State.

Now, Fresno State is asking many of those who have benefited from its near century of leadership to step forward to assure a promising future for the university in its vital role of powering the New California.

— Jill Wagner is director of communications for the Campaign for Fresno State.
Q. (Fresno State Magazine): Since you arrived in 2005, what are your most significant accomplishments?

A. (Athletics Director Thomas Boeh): Our first priority was to assemble an experienced senior management team equipped to immediately resolve and stabilize unfortunate issues of the past relative to NCAA compliance, academics, gender equity, student-athlete conduct, finances, personnel and professional collegiality.

Of course, we still have some issues that have not yet been fully resolved. However, we believe that it remains the role of the courts and other oversight agencies to determine the legal interpretation of what transpired in the past and to alert us to the need for any appropriate additional corrective measures. Our role as the leadership of today’s Fresno State Department of Athletics is to learn from previous issues and remain focused upon working toward a better future.

Distractions aside, it is imperative to remain mindful that Fresno State Athletics has achieved a great deal the past several years. Many dedicated student-athletes and staff members have provided countless thrilling moments, individual academic honors, enhanced community service, numerous WAC titles and advancement to post-season competition. It is fitting and important that we continue to celebrate and take pride in their many accomplishments.

I am very pleased with the senior administrative team that we have recruited over the past two years – a diverse group of individuals with significant experience at the NCAA Division I-A level. I believe we now have the leadership team in place to guide the program into a “New Era of Bulldog Athletics.”

Q.: Who’s on the management team?

A: Senior Associate Athletics Director Betsy Mosher, who enjoys an outstanding national reputation, is the cornerstone of the senior administrative team. Her extraordinary experience and expertise have provided an immediate and positive impact toward our efforts regarding NCAA compliance, gender equity, student-athlete conduct, academic achievement and other student-athlete welfare issues.

Associate Athletics Director Paul Ladwig and his staff have quickly made improvements within marketing, broadcasting and communication, as well as the daily and game-day fan experience. Numerous other initiatives lie ahead for more effective outreach to Bulldog fans everywhere and expanding the Red Wave.

John Kriebs has been elevated to associate athletics director for facilities and operations. John has displayed terrific leadership and loyalty, and...
Athletics Director Thomas Boeh meets frequently with sports reporters to talk about Bulldog student-athletes’ accomplishments. His experience at Fresno State provides the new members of the staff historical perspective.

Balancing the athletics budget the past two fiscal years was also a significant accomplishment for our entire staff, requiring a great deal of hard work, creativity and sacrifice. We recruited Martina Buckley, a CPA with several years of Division I-A experience, as an associate athletics director to oversee our business office and further stabilize and grow our budget and financial operation.

Associate Athletics Director for Development Danny White arrives with experience and success at three Division I-A institutions. His energy, creativity and insight will be key to expanding the outstanding fundraising traditions of the Bulldog Foundation.

Q: What excites you about Fresno State Athletics?
A: I have been impressed with the skill level, commitment and resilience of many of our student-athletes. It is clear that we have a wide array of talented young men and women committed to academic, athletic and social achievement.

We are fortunate to have an experienced, talented and dedicated coaching and support-services staff that is deeply devoted to creating an exceptional experience for our student-athletes. It also is gratifying that we have the support of President Welty and other members of the university’s central administration.

And finally, it is clear that Fresno State enjoys an exceptional fan base that is deeply committed to the Bulldogs. Their passion and often-demonstrated loyalty will be critical for the continued growth and ultimate success of the entire athletics program.

Q: What does the future hold for Fresno State Athletics?
A: The reality is that the environment within major college athletics is changing at a rapidly accelerating pace. We appear to be at crossroads of sorts, and the next 10 years will likely be critical to the long-term placement and sustainability of Fresno State Athletics. As a community, we must confirm our collective commitment to maintaining our place among the NCAA Division I-A institutions, the nation’s highest level of collegiate athletic competition as well as academic prestige.

Fortunately, we are located in a fast-growing region known as a hotbed of exceptional high school student-athletes. Further, our university serves as the educational and cultural center of “The New California.” Subsequently, our athletics program could become a more significant force within Division I-A in the same manner that the San Joaquin Valley is emerging in national significance.

A critical step toward that end is for our institution and the Department of Athletics to review and adopt the industry’s best practices and achieve industry standards in every component of the program.

The New Era in Bulldog Athletics envisions a broad-based, nationally competitive and honorable program where all applicable sports teams are consistently ranked among the Western Athletics Conference elite and participate frequently in NCAA championships. To realize that vision:

1. We will identify and recruit highly skilled professional staff members positioned to demonstrate exceptional leadership and management techniques.
2. We will identify and recruit the most promising student-athletes available and provide them with a campus and intercollegiate athletics support infrastructure designed to foster the West Coast’s finest “student-athlete experience.”
3. We will be a highly transparent organization and adopt new methodology to communicate regularly and effectively with key athletics constituents, as well as with the community at large.
4. We will foster a “culture of NCAA compliance” based primarily on a consistent approach, continual education, built-in accountability and an unwavering decision-making process.
5. We will significantly improve the NCAA-defined academic progress rates and graduation success rates of student-athletes.
6. We will promote and celebrate gender equity, diversity, sportsmanship and collegiality. We will continue our commitment to full compliance with Title IX, which will include additional women’s sports programming in the near future.
7. We will provide our student-athletes and coaches with the state-of-the-art facilities that are necessary for competitive achievement, as well as for success within today’s highly competitive recruiting environment.
8. We will continue to boost revenue streams and implement operating efficiencies to achieve sustainable fiscal stability and better support the efforts of our student-athletes.
9. We will build upon the extraordinary success and traditions of the Bulldog Foundation Annual Scholarship Fund to expand all fundraising ventures.

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Fresno State women’s tennis is thriving with its mix of international and homegrown student-athletes bringing different backgrounds and sharing their experiences to build a competitive, close-knit team.

Danon Beatty, a native of Bakersfield, says having teammates from around the globe has been an opportunity she’ll never forget: “It’s been an amazing experience to play with such high-caliber players who are also such a great group of girls, both on and off the court.”

Fresno State’s 2007 roster includes players from the Czech Republic, Russia, Brazil, Jamaica, Canada and Australia. Of 13 players, six are from the United States. Their coach is French-Canadian.

The mix has proved to be a winning formula. Fresno State ended 2007 ranked No. 14 in the nation after winning its sixth Western Athletic Conference title and advancing to the NCAA championship competition and was a four-time All-WAC Academic honoree. He also was selected for the 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 8 team – one of 10 student-athletes from western universities.

The balance between academics and athletics was especially strong in spring 2007. Fifty-four Fresno State student-athletes were named to the All-WAC Academic team for all their student-athletes play competitively for Bulldog teams and prepare for future careers outside athletics.

Finding time is a balancing act

By Adrian Rodriguez

For Clint Stitser, practicing time management isn’t merely an academic exercise. Like all student-athletes, Stitser does double-duty. As a kicker for the Bulldogs football team and also working on his MBA in the Craig School of Business, the Reno, Nev., native has managed his time well enough to become a solid athlete and a Dean’s Medal winner for academic achievement. He graduated in May 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a finance option.

And while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average (good for All-Western Athletic Conference Academic recognition), he has volunteered time with the Big Heroes-Little Heroes program that helps patients at Children’s Hospital Central California increase self-esteem and establishes role models. Teammates elected him to the Fresno State Football Leadership Council and Student Athlete Advisory Council.

That kind of balance is a cornerstone goal of the Fresno State Athletics Department for all its student-athletes: play competitively for Bulldog teams and prepare for future careers outside athletics.

Another success story is Ryan Moore, who hopes to make his mark in the legal world after studying political science, starring on the Bulldog track and field team and forging a 3.83 GPA.

The Visalia native won two WAC 400-meter hurdles titles, qualified three times for NCAA championship competition and was a four-time All-WAC Academic honoree. He also was selected for the 2007 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District 8 team – one of 10 student-athletes from western universities.

The balance between academics and athletics was especially strong in spring 2007. Fifty-four Fresno State student-athletes were named to the All-WAC Academic team at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and participation in half of the team’s contests. Spring sports at Fresno State are men’s and women’s track and field, softball, baseball, men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s golf.

Scheduling can be challenging. Stitser credits Fresno State’s Academic Gameplan, taught by Associate Head Football Coach John Baxter with helping him get organized. “Just as the saying goes, ‘If you want something done, give it to someone who is busy,’” Stitser says. “I learned to manage my time throughout school by breaking huge projects down into small tasks. Then, by staying on top of those small tasks each day, the project is done before you know it and there is time to meet all your other daily needs such as football, leisure, etc.”

Stitser hopes to take what he’s learning at Fresno State about investment banking – and, presumably, time management – into business ownership.
Memories to last one Bulldog backer a lifetime

By John Wallace

It was a dark and stormy night, as many were, when this cub radio reporter lugging a bulky Wollensak reel-to-reel tape recorder sloshed his way to Ratcliffe Stadium’s small brick restroom, doubling as a dressing room, to interview mud-caked Bulldog gladiators. It was the fall of 1969 and the beginning of my relationship with Fresno State athletics.

Many Bulldog supporters with far more history than I have a wealth of memories about their experiences – some undoubtedly ignoble. Mine are of obscure occurrences forming a patchwork quilt of joy and laughter that transformed me from professional observer to avid fan to involved booster.

I remember our quarterback, Neftali Cortez, sprawled on his back at midfield after a vicious sack. As J.R. Boone rushed to his side, Nef said, “I’m okay, coach. How are the fans taking it?” Cortez, by the way, now gains ground as a successful land baron in Southern California.

Also in that venerable venue, perky Fresno State cheerleaders spent pre-game hours dyeing white handkerchiefs red to distribute to the 12,000 souls for the first-ever Red Wave. It was a Bulldog-San Diego State game. Or maybe it was Long Beach. Whatever. Also, the hankies turned out pink and the ‘Dogs played more pastel than red.

History will remember that Fresno Bee reporter Ron Orozco coined the term Red Wave to describe caravans of scarlet-clad fanatics who navigated Pacheco Pass, rallied at South Bay shopping malls and easily outnumbered hometown Spartan faithful in San Jose during the early 1980s.

It was pure family fun when Cheri and I and our growing brood joined the Barkers, Duncans, Lewises, Gaykians and other loyalists traveling to a pack, wearing our red and having a common purpose: Bulldog pride and support.

From Billings, Mont., to Baton Rouge, La., Wichita, Kan., to Waco, Texas, Indianapolis to San Juan, Puerto Rico – we shared the team’s fortunes and missteps. The last locale, in a diminutive gymnasium, provided me with another indelible memory. Chris Herren got into a deafening shouting match with his brother, Taylor, which was in the stands as Chris stood at the foul line for the front end of a one-and-one. Chris missed and water quickly became thicker than blood.

Through thick and thin: that’s the way it’s been. We have seen, supported and welcomed into our community thousands of student-athletes who built the bridge for today’s Sursdorfs, Glorias and Stitsers to cross.

Art Williams, perhaps the Bulldog who singularly changed our basketball fortunes; Bobby Davis, best slam dunk EVER; Mariann Sjotun, whose travails led to an unforgettable meeting with Michael Jordan; plus Marvin Carter, Rod Kraft, Mark Gardner, Bobby Jones, Gena Strang and so many others. They played and they stayed.

Our children are grown. Our twin daughters, Cameron and Paige, have vague recollections of romping around in their cheerleader outfits. Cass, who became a Bulldog swimmer, was a gangly ball girl in the Ron Adams era of men’s basketball. Carson is a Fresno State grad and businessman, and Taylor is scaling new heights as a Bulldog pole vaulter.

I suspect they will carry on our family tradition as Bulldog backers. And I’m sure they’ll enjoy it as much as their parents still do.

John Wallace, a news anchor at Fresno CBS affiliate KQPE, is president of the Board of Trustees for the Bulldog Foundation Board Scholarship Fund and vice chairman of the foundation’s board of directors.
Bulldog teams shine in spring

Spring 2007 was a shining example of Bulldog athletic success as men’s and women’s teams starred in Western Athletic Conference competition and into NCAA postseason play.

And Bulldogs were stars off the field, too, with 54 student-athletes winning All-WAC Academic honors.

Here’s a brief recap:

BASEBALL
Coach Tim Batesole completed his fifth season with his second consecutive conference and championship titles and the Bulldogs’ 30th appearance in the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs fell to Cal State-Fullerton in the regional final, closing out the season 38-29 and placing six players on the All-WAC first team. Under Batesole, 21 Bulldog players have been drafted into the major leagues, including four in 2007: outfielders Brian Lapin, Ozzie Lewis and Steve Sundorf and pitcher Brandon Miller.

SOFTBALL
For an NCAA record 26th straight year, the Fresno State softball team reached the NCAA Tournament, losing in the Palo Alto regional to complete a 47-18 record with a No. 23 national ranking and the WAC Tournament championship. Six Bulldogs earned All-WAC honors, including sophomore Robin Mackin of Newmarket, Ontario, who pitched for Team Canada during the summer and hopes to earn a spot on Canada’s roster for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

WOMEN’S TENNIS
As reported on Page 38, Fresno State ranked 14th in the nation, won its sixth straight WAC title and made its fourth trip to the NCAA Round of 16. The team finished with 13 straight match victories, 11 of them shutouts.

MEN’S TENNIS
The Bulldogs lost in the final round of the WAC Tournament to Boise State for the second straight season after winning 13 consecutive matches during the regular season. Jakub Cech completed his college career with 71 singles victories. Charles Irie ended with 68 singles triumphs to rank 16th and 18th in program history. Cech won first-team All-WAC honors in singles and freshman Mirko Zapletal was a conference first-teamer in doubles.

TRACK AND FIELD
Freshman pole vaulter Andrew Pancotti kept a streak going when he won the 10th straight WAC title in his event. Senior Roy Phelps was second and junior Ryan Rupeich fourth. The men’s team placed fourth in the conference and the women’s team seventh. For the third time, Malley Webb, a senior, earned All-America honors in javelin, and discus thrower Katie Richardson qualified for the NCAA Championship.

EQUESTRIAN
Bulldog riders finished seventh in the 2007 Varsity Equestrian Championships in Waco, Texas, defeating host Baylor in their final match and ranked eighth in the nation at the end of the season. Cambria Kissell had four straight victories, earning praise from Coach Becky Malmo: “She’s a special student-athlete and continues to rise to the occasion against good competition.”

WOMEN’S GOLF
The Bulldogs finished fifth at the WAC Championship led by junior Laura Leuthke, who tied for second in the final round and ranked eighth in the nation at the end of the season. The Bulldogs finished their season with the lowest score of the day.

MEN’S GOLF
Freshman Grant Dover-spike, using borrowed clubs (his had been stolen) and battling swirling winds, won the individual WAC title and led the Bulldogs to a fourth-place finish in the conference championship. Matt Ryan and Doverspike were All-WAC honorees.
Francisco Galvez (1986) wins iPod for sharing a campus memory

Francisco Galvez now has another reason to appreciate being an alum of Fresno State. He’s the winner of an iPodNano awarded by the Fresno State Alumni Association to one of the people who responded to a quarterly edition of FresnoStateMatters magazine.

็กικι in a 1996 engineering graduate who works as an electrical engineering associate with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He is now frequently quoted. "When I look back and think about the people I met, the friends I made, the camaraderie and school spirit, and of course the education I received," he says, "I think the most memorable thing about being an alumnus of Fresno State was attending the Bulldog football games. Go Bulldogs!"

Galvez is a proud lifetime member of the Alumni Association, too.

Katie Johnson (2003) joins FSAA staff

Katie Johnson (2003) is now the new alumni relations administrator for the Fresno State Alumni Association. Most recently, she was director of alumni relations at California Polytechnic State University. Johnson jokingly says her favorite pastimes are traveling, kayaking and rooting for Bulldog State Alumni Association.

Note: Alumni News is a section of Fresno State magazine dedicated to current events, reflective columns, alumni stories, and more. This issue focuses on the Fresno State Alumni Association.

Do not hallucinate.
Alumni News

Class Notes

Blasts from the past

Fresno State alumnae congregation on campus for all kinds of reasons.

Some flock to Bulldog football games, others to concerts and lectures and still more to work with others to advance their mission.

That’s the case for these three alumnae from the 1960s, who were prominent in the 2007 Top Dog-Alumni Awards Gala. Can you identify them?

1. This past student senator from the School of Social Welfare, and one of the founders of the Oriental Students Association, who was a member of the class of 1969.
2. This 1963 graduate was junior class vice president and president. He also was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.
3. This alumna from the Craig School of Business graduated on the spot as he did when he attended an Interfraternity Council meeting.

Answers are on Page 46.

On further review...

A mention on Page 45 of the spring issue listing individual Fresno State alumni induced into the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame neglected to say that the 1961 Fresno State Men’s Track team also was inducted.

That was the only Bulldog soccer squad to go undefeated, capturing a 10-0-season with a 36-0 victory over Cal State in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The game raised $10,000,000 in benefit tickets of 17 members of the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo football team killed in a plane crash returning from a game against Cal State in 1962.

Team members were (front row, left to right) Bruce Servat, Glenn Riggs, Tommy Sommers, George Ward, Bill Hendrick, Don Bisnest, Bob Ruffett, Jerry Allen, Jim Gaston and Grover Manna.

Second row: Bob Knocie, Don Braddock, George Oram, Jerry Lemm, Mike Slagle, Gary Taylor, Fred Stutte, Herman Hamp, Gerald Hassler and Gail Johnson.

Back row: Bob Van Galder, Dan Carden, Jim Van Den Bosch, Steve Musick.

Daniel Walls (1966) has been awarded secretary and chief lining officer at 1st Capital Bank in Monterey.

Brenda (Carpenter) Weatherly (1966), has joined the Genoa Agency in Salinas as director of sales after working with the Horizon Magazine checklist newspaper and other San Benito County businesses and organizations.


1990s

A. Rosa Assim (1990) has developed two building projects in downtown Fresno. His work is considered one of the cornerstones of the downtown redevelopment effort, which emphasizes loft, row houses, office and retail space.

Kim Bobby (1991) has been appointed chief diversity officer for the University of the Pueblo Sound in Tacoma, Wash.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Michael Conn (2004) was deployed to a forward-operating location in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ronald Jenkins (1996), a peace officer with the state Department of Youth Authority, was featured in a documentary for his work and mentorship of a child of an youth convicted for prostitution.

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Alumni Profile

John Gomes

Fresno State stakes its claim, one lifetime alumnus at a time.

All of the things Valley people want to “shout” on license plate frames – “I love my cat” to “My grandkids are cuter than yours” – nothing tops the line of Fresno State alumni for their alma mater.

You see them everywhere you drive or park. Some frames promote Bulldog football, others pay tribute to a particular college or school at Fresno State. Others say it in three simple words: “Alumni Fresno State.”

Robert Gamzowood was hired as interim finance director for the city of Fresno for 1964 to help former students maintain campus connections. It’s now has more than 1,400 lifetime members, including association past president John Gomes, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Business in 1979 and his MBA in 1994.

“I come from the small town of Gustine,” says Gomes. “I see people, at least, as the first class of Fresno State.”

Fresno State Alumni Association is its student scholarship program. The generosity of associate members like Gomes in the past decade has allowed awards of more than $500,000 in scholarships.

“Fresno State has proud alumni, and those license plate frames let others know, too,” – by Leslie Cunningham

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Alumni News

Blasts from the past

Awards: From Page 44:
1. Markeln Dong Wong, the Outstanding Alumni for the Fresno Madden Library, is an expert on school safety programs.
2. Frank Mankaian, the Outstanding Alumnus for the College of Engineering, received the Navy’s highest award for civilian service.
3. Robert Oliver, a Fresno County Superior Court judge, was a Top Dog Alumni Award recipient in 1997. He has returned as master of ceremonies at several Top Dog Alumni Awards Galas.

Alumni Notes


Class Notes

Amy Spitbarth has been named Teacher of the Year by the Elk Grove Unified School District, where she teaches agriculture at Florin High School.

Bulldogs of tomorrow

By the Numbers


3 Winners promoted at Napa Valley wineries.

Alumni Awards Galas. recipient in 1997. He has returned as Court judge, was a Top Dog Alumni Award recipient in 1997. He has returned as master of ceremonies at several Top Dog Alumni Awards Galas.

Write on

Frederic Aguilas has published “The Desert Has No King,” a novel about a young man who powers his way to the top in Las Vegas.


Scholar Profile

Whitney Walker

Back in the day, words like valedictorian, mathematics and scholarship winner conjured up visions of young men wearing horned-rimmed glasses, pocket protectors and neckties.

Zoom to the 21st century and, boy, have times changed.

Meet Whitney Walker, a valedictorian of the Clovis East High School Class of 2006 with a 4.4 GPA. She’s vivacious and hip. She’s also a winner of a prestigious Smittcamp Family Honors College scholarship.

“I applied to a lot of universities and almost didn’t apply for Smittcamp because it is a big undertaking,” she says. “They ask for three or four essays, plus all of the other life information, plus GPA and SAT — the list goes on. It was a lot of work.”

The effort paid off, though, and she was accepted for the full-ride scholarship much to the delight of her parents Rick and Lisa Walker, who have three more children who will be on their way to college eventually.

Part of her financial support comes from the generosity of Fresno State Alumni Association members who contribute to the FSA scholarship program. Twelve students in the Smittcamp Family Honors College this year benefit from FSA scholarship assistance.

Each year, the Smittcamp program admits 50 students and supports them by paying in-state fees, book costs and on-campus residence expenses.

Walker is majoring in mathematics with an eye on statistics. She has been a math whiz ever since third grade when Michael Raba, her teacher at Getzburg Elementary School in Clovis, recognized her potential and began teaching her algebra.

During the past summer, she worked at a daycare, tutored students in math and hung out with family and friends, before taking a 17-unit load in the fall.

“Smittcamp allowed me to stay home and get a great education,” she says. “Plus the scholarship enabled me to stay involved with my siblings. Had I gone out of town, I would have missed a lot.”

She sums up her feelings about education in a nutshell: “I just really enjoy going to school,” says Walker with a smile, adding that she plans eventually to obtain a Ph.D. as she pursues a research career, possibly in medical statistics.

Welcome to the 21st century.

– by Leah Cuming

William R. Beck (1952), who had great success in wine marketing and was a benefactor of the Bulldog Pride Scholarship Fund, died July 2 in the Bay Area town of Inverness.

Mr. Beck established his reputation as one of the people who helped the California wine industry’s initial expansion by acquainting people with wine in a variety of ways during the 1960s and ’70s. In retirement, Mr. Beck took a special interest in the Bulldog Pride Scholarship Fund, established by Peter Robertson (BA 1997, MA 1995, MBA 2005), the university’s director of annual giving.

“Mr. Beck had a sincere altruistic appreciation for his alma mater, and in the last year of his life, he made two trips to the Fresno State campus,” says Robertson.

He first was in 2006 when he attended the presentation of the inaugural Bulldog Pride Scholarship to Jared Lindo during a campus tour.

In Memoriam

The following Fresno State Alumni Association members have died:


Ronald A. Sanganor (1955) on June 16, 2007. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Fresno State and his Ed.D. from Fresno Pacific College, where he taught. He also was superintendent of the Merced Unified School District, a member of the Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees and an education consultant.


Jenifer Winikham (1972) on Nov. 18, 2006. He was honored posthumously as an Agribusiness Person of the Year at the 2007 Santa Barbara County Fair.

Russell Wilson on May 30, 2007. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.

Davon Youngcarle (1990) on June 4, 2007. After receiving a master’s degree in psychology, he worked at Fresno State as a research coordinator.

By the Numbers


3 Winners promoted at Napa Valley wineries.

Alumni Awards Galas. recipient in 1997. He has returned as master of ceremonies at several Top Dog Alumni Awards Galas.

Class Notes

Amy Spitbarth has been named Teacher of the Year by the Elk Grove Unified School District, where she teaches agriculture at Florin High School.

Bulldogs of tomorrow

By the Numbers


3 Winners promoted at Napa Valley wineries.
Alumni News

Boeing’s Larry Dickenson chosen Distinguished Alumnus

Larry Dickenson, Boeing Company’s Commercial Airplanes Group vice president for sales and a 1965 Fresno State grad, is the 2007 Top Dog Alumni Awards’ Distinguished Alumnus recipient.

The awards are presented at October’s Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala.

Dickenson, a Bakersfield native who received a bachelor’s in business administration, has been lauded in aviation industry publications for his expertise. He also is a member of Fresno State’s National Board of Visitors.

This year’s other honorees are:

- College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology: Emerzo A. Bedrosian (1956), Krilor Y. Bedrosian (1957), and J. Kenneth Bedrosian (1967), brothers and partners in raisin industry leadership and benefactors of Fresno State.
- Athletics: Dr. Joel Koff (1977), a family and sports medicine physician who has helped Fresno State student-athletes for many years.
- Craig School of Business: John E. Hohmann (1958), founder of Hohmann Financial and Insurance Services in Fresno.
- Kremen School of Education and Human Development: Dr. Larry Powell (1971), elected the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools in 2006.
- College of Engineering: Charles “Frank” Markarian (1962), who was awarded the Navy’s highest award for civilian service.
- College of Health and Human Services: Dr. Will Ruik-Keith (1972, 1974), dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies at Georgetown University.
- Henry Madden Library: Dr. Markmen Dong Wong (1969), an expert on school safety programs.
- College of Science and Mathematics: Dr. Juan Díaz-Carrascal (1970), a former California State University trustee, who is a dentist and UCLA-adjunct professor.
- College of Social Sciences: Steve Magnan (1972, 1974), a former Fresno County sheriff.
- Student Affairs: Gerald Tahajian (1963), a former Fresno State student president and prominent lawyer.
- The Arthur Safstrom Service Award recipient is Roalden Horstmann (1947), whose volunteer service and financial support has helped numerous community organizations.

**Alumni Profile**

The Fichtner Family

Now please pay attention in case there’s a Fichtner family quiz at the end.

Edwin W. Fichtner from Burlingame, in the Bay Area, made a choice when he came to Fresno State in the late 1950s. “I thought Fresno State was a better school than Cal Poly,” he says now.

Fichtner graduated from Fresno State in 1962 with a degree in animal husbandry. While on what then was a new campus, he met Patricia Baldin of Fullerton, who received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education in 1964. Ed and Patt married in 1965 and had three potential Bulldogs: Edwin C., Garrick and Scott.

Edwin C. graduated from Fresno State in 1997 in plant science. Garrick chose a different path and went to helicopter school. But Scott continued the family tradition, enrolled in Fresno State and received a Bachelor of Science in Plant Science in 1998.

No way # stops there, though. Scott Fichtner continued on to Colorado State to get his Ph.D. in plant pathology, which is where he met his future wife, Raney Dobbs of Fresno.

And while Raney didn’t go to Fresno State, her dad, Danny Dobbs, graduated in 1992 with a degree in agricultural business; her mom, Vickie Wolf Dobbs, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1972; and Raney’s late brother, Ryan Dobbs, received his animal science degree from Fresno State in 2000.

If all those Fichtner-Wolf-Dobbs graduates aren’t enough Bulldog pride for one family, in 1992 the Fichtners established the Adelaide K. Fichtner Endowment (named for Ed’s mother) through the Ag One Foundation. The endowment funds two scholarships a year, advancing other families to start Fresno State traditions in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Those Fichtners, Bulldogs through and through.

And because you paid attention, no quiz.

— by Leslie Cuming

Tree Portraits

**Crape myrtle (Lagerstroemia indica)**

This crape myrtle is one of several along Keats Avenue, south of the Music Building. It is painted in opaque watercolor on colored mat board.

Illustrator Doug Hansen teaches in the university’s Department of Art and Design.

The Fresno State campus, which has 4,000 trees, was officially designated an arboretum in 1978. If you’d like to write about a favorite tree at the university and have it illustrated for Tree Portraits, contact Hansen at dhansen@csufresno.edu or 559.278.2817.
A world of opportunities

The University Business Center displays flags from countries around the globe with Fresno State connections. Students travel abroad or come to the campus to learn. Fresno State’s citizens of the world also include faculty and alumni who teach, conduct research and pursue careers in a broad variety of fields outside the United States.