Wherever I’ve traveled as Fresno State president, even abroad, our alumni never seem to tire of demonstrating their Bulldog pride: wearing red, cheering our teams, helping our graduates start careers, creating opportunities for our alumni of tomorrow.

Fresno State alumni have set high standards for today’s and future students in a broad range of careers around the world, even into space.

While we have graduates who are living and working in nearly every corner of the globe, many Fresno State alumni choose to stay in Central California. They are our neighbors, leaders, employers, growers, caregivers, educators, builders, artists, intellectuals, law enforcement officials, clergy and social services providers. And our region is richer for their contributions and influence.

As catalysts for positive change and triumph over shared challenges, our alumni are the foundation of university engagement with the community and the region’s greater good.

I am confident that the university will continue to thrive, and our community with it, because of the commitment and quality of our alumni.

John D. Welty, President

Letters to Fresno State Magazine:

Wanted you to know how much I enjoyed the tribute to Philip Stephens (Spring 2012 issue). I was an RA in the dorms and knew Philip well. He even came to church often with several of us and showed off his enthusiasm during hymns! We all loved his BIG life and his wonderful attitude and sense of humor. I filled in as his class note taker several times when schedule conflicts occurred. He was a blessing to all who met him and I am so glad his legacy will last at Fresno State.

— Emily Wheatley (1975) via Facebook

My compliments to your team for the recent issue of FresnoState Magazine. I especially wish to thank you for the article on Bob Nicol and his gift to Deaf Studies and Dr. Paul Ogden’s Silent Garden Chair. I hope all the wonderful offices that support the faculty and students get a well deserved morale boost from the issue.

— Dr. George Diestel, professor emeritus of Communication
Like all Fresno State alumni, Alejandra Garcia will have many connections to campus when she graduates in 2013.
PRESIDENT WELTY WILL RETIRE FROM FRESNO STATE, BUT NOT FROM SERVICE

By Lindsey Bickel Burgess
After more than 21 years of service, Fresno State’s longest-serving president, Dr. John D. Welty, will retire in summer 2013, leaving both the university and Central California forever changed.

From his first day on campus, Welty, a first-generation college graduate, was passionate about providing opportunities for an increasingly diverse population as well as for investing in and engaging with the Central California region.

In looking back, it is clear that his energy, creativity and commitment helped transform that vision into reality; and as we look ahead, the university community can be proud of an innovative leader who strengthened an already strong institution and the region that it serves.

His service to the community was recognized in November 2012 when he was named among the “Central Valley Legends” – the 20 most influential business people of the last two decades – by The Business Journal in Fresno.

Under Welty’s leadership, Fresno State became one of the first CSU campuses to offer a doctoral degree (Educational Leadership), and this fall, two new doctoral programs were added: Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Welty was also a key player in the development of the Smittcamp Family Honors College, considered among the best in the California State University system. Each year, this program accepts 50 top California high school graduates who participate in specially designed courses and curriculum.

Always a champion of community engagement, Welty focused on leveraging the university’s resources for the good of Central California, and as a result many centers, institutes and community partnerships were developed.

Due in large part to his passion for volunteerism, service learning was incorporated into the Fresno State curriculum. The university has since been nationally recognized multiple times by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education for its efforts.

Welty’s leadership and hands-on collaboration were critical to the success of the university’s fundraising efforts, especially important as state funding for the CSU has declined in recent years.

Welty’s fundraising legacy includes the Craig School of Business, Kremen School of Education and Human Development, Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Lyles College of Engineering and the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, among many others.

During his tenure, the campus has been transformed with $425 million in new facilities, which benefit both the university community and the Central California community at-large, including the award-winning Henry Madden Library and the state-of-the-art Save Mart Center.

A native of Amboy, Ill., Welty has served in higher education since graduating from Western Illinois University, Macomb in 1965. He earned his master’s in College Student Personnel Services from Michigan State University and his doctorate in Administration of Higher Education from Indiana University, Bloomington. Before coming to Fresno State, Welty served as president of Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Although Welty will leave Fresno State in the summer of 2013, it should not be a surprise that he will remain involved in education. In addition to serving on several boards and commissions, Welty will serve as a Trustee Professor for the California State University at a CSU campus.

– Lindsey Bickel Burgess is the senior writer/editor with the Office of University Communications.
After decades of steadfast dedication, the Fresno State Alumni Association is initiating major changes that university and association officials hope will broaden and strengthen the organization, making it a stronger link between alumni and their alma mater.

**How distinctive is this transformation?**
Here’s one example: No more dues, because everyone associated with Fresno State – now or in the past – is now automatically considered a member of the Alumni Association.

What’s more, the association is committed to more effective communication with the alumni family of the region’s leading higher educational institution.

“For me, there’s one key word, and that’s engagement,” says Dr. Peter N. Smits, vice president for University Advancement.

“The big picture is a refocused plan to engage all of our constituents. This is paramount for us,” he adds.

Clyde Ford, a businessman and Alumni Association board president, describes the initiative as “absolutely critical.”

“This is something that we began discussing three years ago. Just to be effective with our mission, these changes need to occur,” Ford says. “This gives us the ability and the plan to get to that end.”

The objective is to spark increased interest and involvement, spurring a rise in engagement, volunteerism, and advocacy on behalf of the university and to imbue in all students – from their first day on campus – the desire to stay connected and give back to their campus.

The Alumni Association’s board of directors and university representatives are following recommendations presented in March 2012 by the Renaissance Task Force. The group was convened after President John D. Welty established a commission to evaluate the future of university development.

The commission wrote that the university should “evaluate a realignment to a high-visibility, high-impact, all-inclusive engagement unit providing programs and services that add value to current students and to all alumni” and recommended consideration of a new-model Alumni Association.
Jacquelyn Glasener, an alumna and executive director of the Fresno State Alumni Association, says the plan is for a full roll out of Renaissance Task Force Plan by Jan. 1, 2013. However, officials acknowledge it will take time to fully implement the new model.

Smits says, “It’s going to take more than the Alumni Association to do this. It will take the entire university pulling together to engage people.” And Glasener adds, “It’s changing the culture.”

In the past, says Smits, the university believed alumni should be engaged at the moment they graduated.

“What’s different now is that we’re thinking that’s too late,” Smits says. “We need to start engaging that constituency the first day that they hit campus.”

Fresno State plans to offer more programs and activities that energize and involve alumni. Young alumni rank career counseling high on their list of needs, Smits says, “So we’re going to figure out a way to partner with the university’s Career Services office and also come up with ways on our own to give our newest alumni what they want.”

As the task force plan takes hold, the Alumni Association and its 18 affinity chapters and clubs will tap into a vast network of people beyond the membership cultivated under its dues-paying approach.

In its first 101 years, nearly 220,000 students earned degrees from Fresno State and more attended classes but didn’t graduate. Additional tens of thousands of individuals with a campus connection are parents or guardians of students, current and former Fresno State faculty and staff, volunteers and benefactors.

The old membership approach was sustained by substantial time, energy and funds, but it enticed fewer than 2 percent of alumni to become dues payers. The alumni board decided it was time “to shift that energy and their time away from chasing memberships to developing engagement,” says Smits.

Glasener notes, though, that the approximately 2,500 alumni who donated to be life members will continue to be recognized in that category for their generosity, as will alumni who have contributed to the scholarship endowment or made outright donations.

The Fresno State Alumni Association dates back to just after the university’s beginning in 1911 as Fresno Normal School. In its first 20 years, the association was a volunteer effort that pledged to maintain school traditions and to support the administration and students, according to “A Century of Excellence 1911-2011,” a comprehensive history of Fresno State published during the university’s centennial year.

By 1934, the group was becoming more organized and resourceful and started awarding scholarships. The Fresno State Alumni Association leads all alumni organizations serving the 23-campus California State University system in scholarship dollars awarded. Glasener says the goal is to increase the current $125,000 presented each year to help more students.

During the 1940s, the Alumni Association initiated another idea that continues: satellite branches in Kern County, the Visalia-Tulare area and the East Bay. Today, the Association’s chapters and clubs represent alumni from specific academic areas, ethnicities, the Bulldog Marching Band and the Smittcamp Family Honors College.

The group also was dedicated to honoring alumni killed in action during World War II, and, later, in the Korean War. Funds raised through donations and talent shows for the project helped support a much-needed Student Health Services building at the original University Avenue campus. In 1960, after the campus relocated, a large memorial was erected at Cedar and Shaw avenues.

Seeking innovative ways to reach out to alumni, the alumni group in the 1950s sponsored annual general meetings and an alumni variety show televised on Channel 47.

Since the 1950s, the Association has expanded its activities during the annual Homecoming week to attract alumni. The first Homecoming Tailgate Picnic was hosted in 1973, leading to tailgate activities becoming a popular staple at all Bulldog home football games.

The group also wanted to recognize distinguished alumni. In 1953, it presented the first Outstanding Alumni Award. Today, the Top Dog Alumni Gala on the eve of Homecoming, honors alumni from all Fresno State academic schools, Athletics, Graduate Studies, Student Affairs and the Henry Madden Library.

In 1975, the Arthur Safstrom Alumni Service award was added both to honor Safstrom’s service in Fresno State student facilities and to recognize alumni service to the community and university.

By the late 1980s, the Alumni Association offered various programs to serve alumni, such as insurance, travel packages and discounts for campus cultural events and merchandise sold at the Kennel Bookstore.

A significant highlight for the Association was the opening of the distinctive Smittcamp Alumni House in 2000 that has become not only alumni headquarters, but the campus’ most striking point of entry.

Fresno State wants to increase use of the Smittcamp Alumni House to connect with alumni and to earn revenue as a meeting and events venue.

Like the university, the Fresno State Alumni Association is committed to improving and elevating its purpose and results in the 21st century, says Smits.

Beyond engagement, Glasener says other prime focuses will be on scholarships and recognition.

Cultivating new alumni chapters and clubs has received “a lot of thought and research,” says Ford, adding, “A graduate’s affinity, if you will, is stronger to their individual college or degree than to the university as a whole. We want to strengthen that stronger relationship and support those organizations.”

The Fresno State Alumni Association, which updates alumni about classmates and events through publications such as the e-newsletter Bulldog Byte and FresnoState Magazine, also will boost its communication efforts through direct contact, social media and other methods.

The Alumni Association initiatives will be measured by engagement of students and alumni in new programs, growth in financial contributions, attendance at alumni events and activities, number of volunteers rising, response to communications, Alumni House bookings and people acting as university advocates.

The bottom line is to create a bond between Fresno State and its family that is more robust, energized and enduring. And while it will take time to accomplish all the goals, Ford is confident, saying, “If we can move the needle a little bit this next academic year, we’ll be succeeding.”

— Felicia Cousart Matlosz (1982) is a freelance writer based in Fresno.
The day had finally arrived. The weather was great, the flowers were in place, the guests took their
places and Nicole Rios and Brian Jennison were ready to pledge their lives and love to each other.

Nicole and Brian were new to all this, but for the Smittcamp Alumni House, the Rios-Jennison nuptials
on June 2, 2012, were another great occasion in its connection between campus and community.

And there could be more such events as the Fresno State Alumni Association actively markets the
grand, traditional Smittcamp Alumni House for weddings, receptions, business meetings, banquets
and other events.

In its first 12 years, the Alumni House has become a busy venue. With the help of Facebook and Google
Places pages, started in 2011, the intent is to increase the pace by engaging students, alumni and
the community.

“Many people meet at Fresno State, get engaged and want
to have their wedding or reception here,” says Hank Charles
(2009), the assistant director of business development for
the Fresno State Alumni Association. “We want to grow the
awareness that the house is available. Every student, by
graduation, should know about the Smittcamp Alumni House.”

The Smittcamp Alumni House
offers four meeting and conference
rooms, which can hold 10-95 guests
depending on the event, reception
and social areas, an alumni library
and two courtyards.

For more information and
reservations, call 559.278.2761
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays or
visit www.FresnoStateAlumni.com
When it comes time to mark significant personal events or schedule workshops or other meetings, Charles hopes that the Smittcamp Alumni House will be a top choice. That was the goal from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 2012 that a position was created to seek off-campus rentals of the Smittcamp Alumni House, cultivate and oversee affinity partner agreements and secure sponsorship for major Alumni Association events.

The idea for the Alumni House stemmed from many discussions by alumni and long-time Fresno State supporters William Forbes (1948) and Earl Smittcamp (1939).

Shortly after Jacquelyn Glasener (2002) became the Alumni Association executive director in 1997, Peter N. Smits, vice president for University Advancement, called her into his office to discuss plans for an alumni building. Some of the money would come from a gift from Earl and Muriel Smittcamp to develop an honors college and an alumni house.

The 10,000-square-foot Smittcamp Alumni House opened its doors on March 21, 2000 – the first stand-alone alumni headquarters building on any of the 23 California State University campuses.

An immediate benefit was visibility for the Alumni Association, previously housed in the nondescript Keats Building in the center of campus, says Glasener. The setting wasn’t particularly captivating, and there was little room for staff, let alone visitors.

The Smittcamp Alumni House is “a monument on campus that distinguishes a place for generations of Fresno State alumni to come together,” Charles says. “From current students to alumni who’ve graduated over the decades, the house is available to them in many different ways.”

Inside the towering double doors of the Alumni House, between pillars that help provide a distinctively classical architectural look, is a desk in the lobby staffed by students. A sweeping staircase provides access to the balcony and second floor; a piano, chandelier and period furniture add to the atmosphere.

Students welcome visitors, direct them to locations around campus and guide guests to events in the Alumni House or on the manicured, colorful grounds outside.

“Students play a key role for us. When we have after-hours or weekend events they are in charge,” says Jennifer Burgess, the Alumni House manager. “We couldn’t host all of the events here if it weren’t for our student staff.”

Bryan Felix, a junior Mass Communication and Journalism major from Selma, is a Smittcamp Alumni House intern, responsible for greeting guests, answering phones and providing tours.

“It’s an awesome job to work in a building that was made possible by a family of Fresno State alumni like the Smittcamps,” Felix says.

Recent updating, painting and technology upgrades should add to its appeal as an event and meeting venue, as well as a photo backdrop, which has benefitted from the ultramodern University High School, just to the west.

“We have a lot of people who like the urban-style photos, so we’ve seen photos with University High School in the background because that sunset has a really nice glow when you’re standing out on the lawn area of the Alumni House,” Burgess says.

“We loved the look of the house, and it was large enough to accommodate us, but more personal than a hotel,” says Nicole Jennison, who had also attended many events at the Smittcamp Alumni House as a Smittcamp Family Honors College President’s Scholar.

Having a double connection to the campus as students and to the Smittcamp Alumni House, she adds, “was a nice, natural fit.”

And the Alumni Association is hoping for more such choices as the Smittcamp Alumni House more strongly establishes its role as the campus’ welcoming front door.

– Nicole Maul, a senior agriculture communications major, is a social media student assistant in the Office of University Communications.
When a devastating earthquake struck Haiti in 2010, Ronald Garabed Jr. (2007) knew he needed to go and use his nursing and anesthesia training to help people in need. Classmate Gwen Burks (2007, 2009) saw Haiti as an opportunity to make a difference as she'd been taught at Fresno State.

Burks says the desire to make the world better was part of her educational experience at Fresno State. Under the guidance of Dr. Alfredo Cuellar, her master’s career adviser and “a significant role model for me,” this passion helped shape her life’s journey.

“He loves teaching and conveyed how it can change a student’s life,” Burks says. “He offered me numerous opportunities to make a difference in the world around us. He taught me to take everyday life and look at it with eyes of change and use every experience to make me and the world better.”

She earned a liberal studies degree and a master’s in education, with an administration and supervision option, all while working as executive assistant and program and budget manager for the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement.

In 2011 and 2012, Burks travelled to the suburbs of Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, and Canaan, a suburb of Croix-des-Bouquets, to visit schools and conduct Bible studies.

“I taught in orphanages, church schools and community schools,” Burks says, adding that she was “blessed to be able to connect with children … sharing with them that the United States is very interested in helping the children and the country.”

Another of those good Samaritans in Haiti, Garabed was completing his master’s studies at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia when the quake struck.

After earning his degree in anesthesia, Garabed joined the Harlem Hospital Center, which serves people from disadvantaged backgrounds, some of Haitian descent. He says providing “safe and tailored” anesthetic service to the Harlem residents “has become my passion.”

In March 2012, he got his chance to volunteer as a nurse anesthetist in Milot, a town near Haiti’s major port of Cap-Haitien, traveling with a gynecological surgical unit. “Supplies and equipment were in low supply, and we had to make do with what we had,” Garabed says.

“Some supplies we used were left behind by missions that dated back to the earthquake.”

When Garabed started at Fresno State in 2001, he didn’t declare a major. Eventually he focused on the medical field, earning his degree and working at Community Regional Medical Center’s Trauma and Intensive Care Unit, before his acceptance at Thomas Jefferson University.

He has experienced a lot but he hasn’t forgotten his time at Fresno State. “To this day, my way of maintaining relations with Fresno State is by way of the Garabed Family Scholarship,” he says. “It is awarded based upon academic achievement, community leadership and a passion for anesthesia.”

Garabed reflects positively on his experience at Fresno State, saying, “I was surrounded by admirable mentors and instructors who have helped lay the framework of professionalism, work ethic and community, which has helped prepare me for my life’s journey.”
While Soma Norodom (above, inside the Royal Palace) attended Fresno State, few suspected she was a princess in their midst.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications in 1993, with an emphasis in news and public affairs and continued her studies in the master of mass communication program. Her life has extended far beyond those studies, leading back to her native Cambodia.

Her father, Prince Norodom Vatvani, and their family came to the U.S. in 1975, just before Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge, settling in Fresno, where Vatvani helped found the Cambodian community. By the early 1990s, Vatvani returned to Cambodia to help rebuild the country. His brother, the prime minister, appointed Vatvani air force commander-in-chief.

In the meantime, Soma Norodom was on a roll, establishing a lively career in media as a sports commentator for an all-female sports talk show in Atlanta, appearing in national commercials, films and the TV series “Atlanta Homicide.”

But when her father became ill in 2010, Norodom moved to Phnom Penh to take care of him. It didn’t take her long, though, to establish herself with her column, “Royal Rebel, the Social Agenda with Princess Soma Norodom,” in the Phnom Penh Post, and on Cambodia’s first university English radio talk show.

Norodom says she feels a responsibility to improve the media in Cambodia. “The country does not have freedom of the press, and criticizing government or high-ranking officers can lead to fines and even prison,” she says. “As a journalist, my main duty is to seek the truth, in the interests of the public’s right to know, whatever the consequences.”

Additionally, Norodom serves as an ambassador for the Happy Tree Orphanage for children with HIV/AIDS and is writing a biography about her father and the royal family.

She says her Fresno State master’s program “groomed me to become the person I am today.” Professors such as Paul Adams and R.C. Adams became “an integral part of my life” during a time when her parents returned to Cambodia and she became guardian for her brother and sister. Norodom stays in contact with professors and others from her Fresno State days and plans to establish a foundation, to honor her father, by providing scholarships to Fresno State students to intern in Cambodia.

“Since graduation, my life is like a movie, with many changes, good and bad,” Norodom says. “But, at the end, it’s how you live your life. I chose to live my life to the fullest, doing what I love to do.”

When the State Department sends Neil Gibson (2005) home for a month to rest from his diplomatic duties, he walks around the Fresno State campus to reminisce and admire the changes since his previous visit.

As a student, Gibson distinguished himself as the 2005 President’s Medalist and as president of the Associated Students Inc. Since graduating with a degree in agricultural business and a minor in classical studies, Gibson has taught English in China, earned a master’s degree in international relations and joined the State Department as a diplomat in the Foreign Service.

“My mission is to promote peace, support prosperity and protect American citizens while advancing the interests of the United States abroad,” he says.

Gibson has been serving in Taiwan since the summer of 2011, following work in the Philippines. He moves to a new assignment every two to three years and is currently applying for his next overseas assignment.

Although Gibson’s job takes him all over the globe, his most unforgettable experience since graduation remains “getting married to the most wonderful woman in the world, followed by having two great sons.” His wife is Momo, and their sons are Troy and Truman.

“I am blessed to have such a wonderful family,” Gibson says. “We all enjoy the life of traveling around the world. They move and live with me wherever I go.”

Fresno State, Gibson says, “provided me with a world-class education and taught me valuable life lessons. My professors were not only outstanding scholars and instructors, but role models as well.”

“I still keep in touch with several of my professors at Fresno State and seek their advice from time to time,” Gibson says. “The Smittcamp Family Honors College enhanced my educational experience further by stretching my abilities within a network of talented professors and amazing classmates.”

Gibson stays connected to the university by reading www.FresnoStateNews.com and the Alumni Association’s monthly e-newsletter, Bulldog Byte. The team at the Smittcamp Family Honors College also keeps him updated. Best of all, he says, “my classmates at Fresno State are the best friends I have, and they fly out to visit me from time to time. I am blessed to be a Bulldog.”

continued
Chris Healy graduated from Fresno State in 2004 with a major in business and a minor in English and was enjoying a busy, successful career at Sigma Nu fraternity national headquarters in Lexington, Va. As director of expansion, he helped build a strong network and formed lifelong friendships visiting 47 of the 50 states.

His life changed in March 2006 when he met a Sigma Nu alumnus who had traveled around the globe and described it as “the experience of a lifetime.”

In 2012, Healy (below at the Taj Mahal) embarked on his own once-in-a-lifetime adventure: an 11-month, six-continent, 25-plus country adventure.

When Fresno State Magazine contacted him, Healy was in the Czech Republic, the 19th country on his trek scheduled to conclude in December, “just in time for the holidays.”

The “outstanding education” he received at Fresno State and his fraternity experience have shaped his life, so he represents the university and fraternity wherever on the planet he travels and gets photos with his Fresno State/Sigma Nu flag (custom made by his mom). He plans to produce a video compilation of all the photos.

“I could have taken a different path right out of college,” Healy says, “Perhaps earned more money and be more established. But the wealth I’ve accumulated in relationships, experiences, travel, and life lessons is, for me, invaluable. And, writing from a cafe in Prague right now, I wouldn’t trade this for anything.”

Healy maintains a hefty network of contacts with Fresno State professors, staff, and the many friends he made on campus and also with those who read about his adventures and his commitment to four values (growth, service, fitness, and connection) at www.followchris.me.

Reflecting on his journey’s “collection of unforgettable experiences,” Healy says, “It’s something I set a vision to achieve, something I had to work at and make sacrifices for; something that will likely change me forever and always be a part of me.”

Jennifer Reimer says her path from Fresno to Dubai was “indirect and unplanned.”

But, perhaps, inevitable for someone who has led a life of purpose, serving along the way as president of Fresno State’s Associated Students Inc. and appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger as a student California State University trustee.

In 2006, she earned a bachelor’s degree at Fresno State in business administration, with an option in finance, and also majored in clarinet performance, then earned master’s in both public relations, she discovered – to her delight – that a career and travel did not necessarily have to be separate endeavors.

“I had some great teachers at Fresno State who encouraged me to follow my love of travel and showed me how I could combine it with skills I developed in class,” Reimer says. “I was shown a way to combine my interests and thrive in an area that I hadn’t previously considered.”

Reimer works in media and advertising, running the online operations division of a business-to-business publishing house in Sydney, Australia.

Her path there involved a couple of stops. “I always loved to travel and wanted to work in different parts of the world, so when a job opportunity came up to transfer from San Jose to the New York City office for a media company I was working at,” Reimer says, “I jumped for it.”

She spent four years in New York in international media, cultivating contacts around the globe through her job and networking associations, which led to Australia.

Reimer has worked in the Empire State Building; represented media in Austria; and represented the International Advertising Association in Moscow. She’s traveled throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the South Pacific.

“I keep in contact with friends and teachers from my time at Fresno State and think back fondly,” Reimer says.

“I would have taken a different path right out of college,” Healy says, “Perhaps earned more money and be more established. But the wealth I’ve accumulated in relationships, experiences, travel, and life lessons is, for me, invaluable. And, writing from a cafe in Prague right now, I wouldn’t trade this for anything.”
Raymond Ibrahim is a writer and a Middle East and Islam specialist, who is in regular demand for his expertise and observations. His first major book, “The Al Qaeda Reader,” stemmed from his translation of secret documents by Al Qaeda and was published in 2007.

Ibrahim says Fresno State was vital to his growth and maturation in his field. He earned both his bachelor’s degree (1999) and master’s degree (2002) in history, focusing on ancient and medieval Near East, with dual minors in philosophy and literature. He studied closely with renowned military-historian and columnist Victor Davis Hanson.

“It was at Fresno State that I really developed and honed my passion for knowledge, which was always there, though it never had a proper outlet,” he says. “I certainly enjoyed my years there and found them edifying on several fronts. I made lasting friendships, mostly with professors.”

Since leaving Fresno State, Ibrahim was accepted for advanced studies in Middle East history at Georgetown University, but says, “I never finished because the exigencies of life would not permit: I soon landed a full-time job at the Near East section of the Library of Congress.”

After that, he concentrated on researching and writing at think tanks.

Today, Ibrahim writes articles, essays and books. He is fluent in Arabic (he was born and raised in the U.S. by Egyptian parents). He deals with the Middle East and the Islamic world, he says, “from a historical and contemporary perspective, often demonstrating continuity.” He has appeared on TV (such as PBS, Fox News and Al-Jazeera) and on radio (NPR). His writings have appeared in publications, such as the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times, and scholarly journals, such as Middle East Quarterly and the Almanac of Islamism. He’s also testified before Congress. He lectures regularly at universities and other venues. And, he is working on another book.

With such a busy schedule, Ibrahim isn’t locked into living in just one place.

“I actually travel frequently and have lived for long durations on both coasts of America, as well as the Middle East and elsewhere,” he says. “Due to the nature of my work, as long as I have my laptop, I can essentially live anywhere.”

In his native Tokyo, Hiroyuki Sakai wanted to study in the United States, specifically on the West Coast, narrowing his list to three California State University campuses.

Fresno State officials didn’t hesitate and were the first of the three to send him an admission letter. He graduated in 2002 with a degree in mechanical engineering and a minor in math, which was a stepping stone to his work today for Mitsubishi Motors in Japan, where he lives in Kariya, about 200 miles west of Tokyo.

He doesn’t hesitate saying his best assignment has been with the Mitsubishi racing team, where he worked on engine design and testing before the company later withdrew from racing. “The job was very demanding. But when we won the races, everyone in the team was filled with a feeling of accomplishment,” Sakai says. “I miss the motor sports job a lot.”

These days Sakai is designing systems for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, a detailed process involving steps such as computer simulations and hardware interfaces.

Sakai says what he learned at Fresno State is not always applied to his jobs, “but the basic way of thinking is for sure helping me solve problems.”

“I’m originally a mechanical engineer, but now I do a lot of electrical engineering,” he adds. “I still use text books from the school at work.”

In addition, Sakai’s English skills help him communicate with people from other countries: “I think the reason they assigned me to the racing team was because I learned in the U.S. and speak English,” he says.

Sakai stays in touch with his friends from Fresno State through emails and social media and in visits—two since graduation, most recently in summer 2012. “Fresno is my ‘must’ place to visit.”

Fresno State sows seeds of educational opportunity and Dr. Dupe Akintobe (1983) took advantage of that chance and now sows those same seeds in her native Nigeria, where she’s a college professor and world-renowned expert on seeds that grow food.

She chose Fresno State in 1981 for her post-graduate studies because it offered hands-on research. She was Professor Jeffrey Steiner’s first post-grad student and the first Nigerian woman to receive grant support to study in the United States.

She fondly remembers “my colleague Hossain from Argentina and a host of other Nigerian students and families. I cannot forget my host family in Clovis” nor that they took her surfing at the Central Coast.

Akintobe remembers Fresno as “a beautiful small city full of life, and where most residents are farmers. I particularly cannot forget that most of these farmers park helicopters in their garages instead of cars.” Akintobe’s best Fresno State memories include seeing a “card-reading computer for the first time in my life” and her 3.85 grade point average while doing research on onions.

She did even better in doctoral studies—a perfect 4.0 at the University of Ibadan, in Nigeria (1991-96). Akintobe has established an international reputation for seed research and teaches at the Department of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology at the University of Agriculture in Abeokuta, Nigeria. She has three children and three grandchildren and is an ordained church elder.
WHERE IN THE NATION ARE OUR ALUMNI?

Of the more than 170,000 Fresno State alumni, the vast majority – almost 140,000 – live in California and another 5,800 aren’t far away – residing in Oregon and Washington. And the map of the entire United States shows the alumni ranks thin the farther east you go.

And in California, you’d expect Fresno County would lead the way with about 60,000 alumni, but Bulldog alumni are also found throughout the Golden State in all 58 counties. It’s no wonder you see proudly displayed Fresno State apparel and license plate frames pretty much wherever you go.

ALUMNI STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Alumni</th>
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170,546 TOTAL IN THE USA

TOP 10 COUNTIES

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139,513 TOTAL IN STATE
Bob Wagner
turns classroom lessons into career success

By Shirley Melikian Armbruster

As a Fresno State student in the late 1950s, Bob Wagner thought his future lay as a pilot in the Navy. But that plan didn’t fly.

Instead, he fulfilled his military obligation and returned to campus. He earned his degree in business administration with a marketing emphasis, propelling him into a different high-flying career – heading sales and marketing teams for nationally known consumer brands Colgate Palmolive, Johnson Wax, Sara Lee and Treesweet.

Promotions, accolades and awards were frequent, and he eventually started and grew his own company for 13 years before selling and retiring to Roseville in 2000.

Wagner’s journey from San Joaquin Memorial High School, Fresno City College and Fresno State took him around the U.S. While he always appreciated the educational foundation that Fresno State provided, it wasn’t until recently that he reconnected with the university.

Following a brief phone conversation to request a copy of FresnoState Magazine, Wagner visited the university and made a $10,000 gift to the Craig School of Business.

WE ASKED HIM HOW HIS FRESNO STATE EDUCATION HELPED HIS BUSINESS SUCCESS.

FresnoState Magazine: What was the greatest lesson you learned in the classroom?

Bob Wagner: The hands-on experience we got working with a team on a project. I learned that I had the ability to communicate well and present ideas to the other team members. In “Production Management,” my organizational skills improved greatly as I learned about time-motion studies, flow charts and working as a team to get our product from Point A to Point B and out the door to the customer. During my last two years in college, I was working full time in sales at Hollywood Camera, and that plus my “Consumer Economics” class pointed me toward sales and sales management, plus product management.

FSM: Tell us a little more about your 37-year career.

BW: I interviewed at Fresno State with Colgate Palmolive and started with the company immediately after I graduated. (I didn’t even get to go through the graduation ceremony, which I’ve always regretted.) Colgate has its own direct sales force, which I was part of until I was promoted to corporate offices in New York City to work in the Ajax Product Management Group. It was like an MBA education! I worked with R&D (research and development), package design, advertising agencies and the sales management team to introduce new products.

Next was SC Johnson Wax, a family-owned company. I was a member of its direct sales force for 10 years. We introduced Raid, Off!, Glade air freshener, SHOUT and Edge shaving gel, just to mention a few.

Then I went to the Sara Lee frozen baked good division as a district manager, and nine months later I was promoted to a regional manager with a team of five district managers. Months later, I teamed up with a product manager, and we put together a program for underdeveloped markets. It was successfully implemented in other markets. I was selected as Sara Lee’s 1976 Man of the Year.

I then came back to Northern California to accept the challenges of lost market share for Treesweet, and I also helped form the Frozen Food Council of Northern California and was its first president. In 1987, I started my own business, Wagner Performance Sales, a food broker company, and found a successful niche distributing products to convenience stores.

FSM: How do you keep busy these days?

BW: My main interests are my daughters. Erica W. Lundquist worked several years at NASA/Lockheed Martin as a senior project manager in the Life Sciences Division of the shuttle program. She and her husband Mark live in Southern California and have three beautiful children. My other daughter, Kari Wagner, is an environmental specialist for the county of Sacramento. Both my daughters have degrees in biology. My other interests are my grandkids, golf, reading and photography. For the past seven years I have really enjoyed volunteering at Veterans Administration hospitals.

FSM: Can you sum up your career?

BW: Have I had a fun career? Absolutely!

– Shirley Melikian Armbruster is associate vice president for University Communications at Fresno State.
In 2005, Fresno State launched the first comprehensive fundraising campaign in its history.

Driven by a vision to support the university’s students, faculty, facilities and programs, Fresno State set out to raise $200 million in private funding. The university turned to Jan and Bud Richter to lead the effort – two highly respected Fresnans with decades of experience giving to and working for the university and the community and also in persuading and inspiring others to follow their example of generosity.

Not only was it the largest fundraising effort since the university opened its doors in 1911 as Fresno Normal School, it was one of the largest and most-ambitious campaigns in the history of the 23-campus California State University system.

At the time, there was no way to predict the global economic crisis that still resonates through Fresno State’s service region in unemployment, housing, limited business development and cuts in public services, including education from pre-school through university graduate studies. Despite unprecedented fiscal uncertainty, the incredible generosity of Fresno State’s friends and alumni never diminished.

We will officially celebrate the conclusion of the campaign in spring 2013. And in these final months of the Campaign for Fresno State, we cannot help but consider how remarkable an effort so many have made to transform our university.

While our state Legislature was systematically disinvesting in higher education, the community invested in Fresno State, providing thousands of future students opportunities they would not otherwise have to be the leaders and contributors in the future of our region and beyond.

Perhaps the most noticeable example of giving on campus is the Table Mountain Rancheria Tower at the Henry Madden Library, an architectural landmark that also is home to study, shelf, exhibit and community space.

It is a signature of an ultramodern academic building that replaced a nondescript concrete relic from the 1950s that opened with 120,000 volumes in its collection. Today an estimated 9,000 students visit the library each week – about double the entire student population when it opened. This stunning facility dramatically enhances the academic experience of our students by comfortably housing more than one million volumes and with room for hundreds of thousands more.

Table Mountain Rancheria’s generosity helped pay for design and furniture enhancements and a native plant garden that carry out the library’s theme of university connection to the region’s Native Americans. The gift also funded a new directional signage system for Fresno State that will begin taking shape in spring 2013, making the entire campus easier to navigate for students and guests.

The Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has been revitalized by the power of private support. Thanks to the naming gift from the Jordan family in the East Bay, planning is under way on a 30,000-square-foot research center, scheduled to open in fall 2015. Additional projects made possible by university friends are the Foster Farms Poultry Research and Education Facility and a new Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market building, both scheduled to open this winter.
Engineering education in Central California has forever been changed by Dr. William Lyles and his family. Their gift made it possible for Fresno State to continue its rich tradition of educating the construction managers and civil, computer, electrical, geomatic and mechanical engineers who will drive innovation for decades to come.

A multitude of centers and programs were born out of the campaign. Among them are the Center for Creativity and the Arts, the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, the Gazarian Real Estate Center and the Dandoy Center for Excellence, which supports faculty development and leadership in education.

Fresno State Athletics would not be what it is today without the support of many donors, including the Chukchansi and Tachi Yokuts tribes. The program has also been enriched by the Meyers family, whose generosity made possible construction of the state-of-the-art Meyers Family Sports Medicine Center set to open in fall 2013.

Our faculty has grown thanks to the Bronco Wine Chairs in the Department of Viticulture and Enology, the Roshan Professorship in the College of Arts and Humanities and the Robert Duncan Nicol Endowed Chair in the Silent Garden for the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies.

Finally, but perhaps most important, the campaign has enabled hundreds of students to achieve the dream of higher education with privately funded scholarships. Opportunities like the Husband-Boeing Honors Scholars program in Engineering, Smittcamp Family Honors College, Jensen scholarships, Cook nursing scholarships, Beck endowed scholarships, Brown liberal arts scholarships and Harvey scholarships provide life-changing support to students every year.

Every corner of the Fresno State campus has been touched by the success of the Campaign for Fresno State.

As we embark on the final months of this extraordinary effort, we should all applaud the dedication and commitment of the many donors who have made this campaign such a remarkable success. We should all be proud that more than 31,000 individuals have provided nearly 130,000 gifts. Not only does that speak to the depth and breadth of support for our university, it is testament that every gift – big or modest – is an investment in Fresno State that opens doors of opportunity for future students.

But we are not done yet. The campaign will soon end, but the need for philanthropic support will only increase. Fresno State’s ability to thrive is inexorably tied to the willingness of the community to support the university, which also has a 102-year record of commitment to helping the entire community thrive.

Chukchansi Indians pledge $1 million to help preserve language

By Kathleen R. Schock

Cary Edmondson

pledge $1 million to help preserve language

Provided by Holly Wyatt, Chukchansi tribe.

CHUKCHANSI LANGUAGE

HUMAN BODY

body: xo’in
head: och’o
hair: shilish
ear: tu’k
nose: sinik’
eye: shasha
mouth: shama
neck: mik’ish
shoulder: k’apshal’
back: k’ewet
arm: weebin’
elbow: kuyu
wrist: kuyu
hand: p’onosh
ribs: xamach’
stomach: balik’
buttocks: holoshuy
thigh: k’owi
knee: boshon’
calf: t’aaxish
shin: baw’
ankle: kuyu
foot: dadach’

SEASONS

winter: domooxish
spring: dishamyu
summer: hayaalat
fall: xoshee’wat’aw

WEATHER

cold: xoshew
rain: shee’al’
snow: ’eeni
fog: k’umul
wind: shokow
cloud: som’
sun: ’op
hot: xapil

COLORS

white: shik’win
gray: humk’uk’un
black: limik’
yellow: ‘alk’ik’in
orange: shakaka
red: habilk’ay
pink: saliikin
purple: mukana
blue: litany
green: ch’wik’ay
brown: kapew’ne
When European settlers arrived in North America, an estimated 300 native languages were spoken across the continent. Today the Association on American Indian Affairs believes only 155 native languages are still spoken and 135 of them are in danger of extinction.

The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, based in the Sierra foothills near Coarsegold, is taking steps to ensure its historically significant language will not die out. The tribe has pledged $1 million over five years to Fresno State’s Department of Linguistics to be used to preserve and revitalize the Chukchansi language.

This gift comes in support of an ongoing relationship between Fresno State and the Chukchansi tribe. Since 2009, Linguistics faculty and students have worked with native speakers to devise a writing system and start developing a Chukchansi dictionary and grammar.

Members of the tribal council say they have made great strides in recent years to sustain their language and culture, but only a handful of fluent Chukchansi speakers remain.

"We are proud to make this gift as part of our efforts to preserve, protect and revitalize our cultural identity and traditions," says tribal chair Reggie Lewis.

Dr. Vida Samiian, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, said the Chukchansi tribe’s gift will enable the university to document the language so it can be brought back into social and ritual use. She says such a unique and complex project is a dream come true for the Linguistics Department, adding, "This is a rare and exciting opportunity for the students and faculty."

For the past three years, language experts from Fresno State have volunteered their time to work with the Chukchansi. The gift – the largest in the Linguistics Department’s history – allows university linguists to dedicate half of their work schedule specifically to this project.

The funds are being used to support faculty work to complete a grammar and dictionary, assemble native texts, create curriculum to teach the language to future generations and provide program and scholarship support.

In conjunction with the work at Fresno State, the tribe is also offering Chukchansi language emersion courses for children and adults. For many tribal members, the classes are the first exposure to their native language and will help establish the curriculum to teach the language.

Says Chukchansi tribal chair Lewis, "It is extremely important to us that the language of our ancestors is not lost and that future generations of Chukchansi are able to learn and speak our native language."

– Kathleen R. Schock is the director of media and development communications at Fresno State.
DIFFERENT SPORTS, LOTS IN COMMON

By Paul Loeffler

Both were standout student-athletes in college. Both married football coaches. Both are raising a son and a daughter. Now both are in their first year as Fresno State coaches and both face the prospect of following the most successful coach in their respective program’s history.
The parallels are not lost on Raegan Pebley and Trisha Ford.

“She’s been my sounding board, which is great for me,” says Ford, Fresno State’s new softball coach. “Raegan knows exactly what I’m going through, and I know exactly what she’s going through.”

Pebley, who came to the Bulldogs after nine seasons as the women’s basketball coach at Utah State, doesn’t view what they have in common as coincidence. “I can see a pattern in the type of coaches our administration has brought in,” she says. “They want people who have a tradition of academic success, winning and very similar values and visions of how we run our programs.”

Pebley takes over a program that won a school-record 28 games last season and made the NCAA Tournament for the fifth straight year under Adrian Wiggins, who left the Bulldogs to coach at Ole Miss. “The bar that I always set for myself is exactly where Adrian’s bar was,” says the former WNBA player.

“There is pressure there, but it’s a positive, motivating pressure, not a debilitating, suffocating pressure,” Pebley adds.

She promises her squad will still deliver up-tempo basketball and rely heavily on three-point shots. With four of five starters returning, including 2012 WAC Player of the Year Ki-Ki Moore, Pebley expects the Bulldogs to elevate their game as they CLIMB into the Mountain West.

“CLIMB is our acronym for the values you must possess when you come here to play basketball,” Coach Pebley says. “We’re going to help you refine them over four years.”

“I love that ‘B’ is last,” says Pebley. “Because if you don’t take care of the C-L-I-M, that belief is more dogmatic and it’s not tangible and it’s not something that’s going to help you in tough times. If we do it right, it will be sincere, and that belief is what fans are going to recognize the most at the Save Mart Center.”

“COMMITMENT
Be unconditionally committed to each other and the program.

“LEARN
In the classroom and on the court, take an educational approach.

“INVEST
Don’t let your expectations exceed your work ethic.

“MENTAL TOUGHNESS
Overcome adversity with the right focus.

“BELIEVE
Being a Bulldog is not something just anyone can do. You are a part of something really special.
Across campus is Bulldog Diamond, with its instantly recognizable sign trumpeting Fresno State’s 1998 NCAA softball champions. “It’s a friendly reminder that we can do it,” says Ford, a nine-year assistant at Stanford, where she mentored a prodigious parade of pitchers.

Is it daunting to follow NCAA winningest coach Margie Wright, who retired in June after 27 years at Fresno State and 10 trips to the Women’s College World Series?

“You can take it as a burden or you can take it as a challenge,” answers Ford, who led the nation in doubles (25) as a St. Mary’s junior the year Fresno State claimed the national title.

“I’m a half-full kind of person. Margie was phenomenal, and I give my utmost respect to her, but I’m not trying to be Margie.”

The oldest of Lennie and Nancy Dean’s three children, and the first member of her family to earn a college degree, Ford says her dedication and drive to achieve are products of her upbringing.

“My dad’s a laborer. He would work two jobs while my mom stayed home and did daycare,” says Ford. “They worked hard so we could have opportunities. That’s what I am, too – a worker.”

The coach envisions her work ethic serving as an example to her student-athletes and being contagious. “Everything they do needs to have a purpose,” explains Ford. “Warming up, hitting, throwing, practicing, studying, anything they do in life, I want them to do it with tenacity and conviction, fully engaged.”

Ford and Pebley try to model full commitment to their sports, crediting their husbands’ coaching experience for helping make it happen.

Eddie Ford is a former college football coach with a California teaching credential and a degree in child psychology. He is content to stay home in Clovis with the couple’s 5-year-old daughter, Emma, and year-old son, Eddie.

“As it turns out, he also has a kindred spirit, someone navigating that same journey from football coach to stay-at-home dad – a coach he served with on the St. Mary’s College staff before the Gaels dropped football in 2004: Keith Pebley.
“He’s had lots of opportunities,” says Raegan Pebley of the man she first met when they were both assistants at Colorado State. “We’re grateful for those, but he wanted to take a year off so he could be with the kids during this transition.”

For Keith, that means the only football practices he’s attending are their 9-year-old son Joe’s. Instead of breaking down game film for next week’s opponent, he’s escorting 5-year-old daughter Harper to her children’s class at church.

Raised with “coachspeak” as a second language – Ray Scott, Pebley’s father, has been coaching women’s basketball for more than three decades – and now the wife of a coach, Raegan is energized by the leadership lexicon she and Keith have in common.

“We coach each other a lot,” Raegan says. “I don’t know anything about football, and he’s not going to tell me anything about our offense, but we do talk a lot about the psychology of coaching, and what you can recognize in teams.”

Ford and Pebley are both grateful for the traditions established by their predecessors, and appreciative of the talent and character represented in their rosters of returning student-athletes.

One final parallel pursuit for Pebley and Ford is the quest to perpetuate something that became both a product of and a factor in the winning ways of Wright and Wiggins: community support. Fresno State has etched a perennial perch among NCAA attendance leaders for softball and women’s basketball, and the new coaches are determined to see that vital connection between their teams and the Red Wave continue to thrive.

“Fresno is a great community,” says Pebley, noting similarities between her current home and the agriculture-based culture she left behind in Logan, Utah, where people put a premium on honesty and hard work.

“You’ve got to look people in the eye,” Pebley adds. “It’s about values and relationships, and I think our fans will see those priorities reflected in our team.”

– Paul Loeffler is the radio voice of Bulldog Athletics.
In the 10 years he spent at the Air Force Academy as both a player and a coach, Tim DeRuyter walked past more than a few signs warning Danger: High Explosives.

After his first fall at Fresno State, he might consider hanging one of those harbingers above the FieldTurf® of Jim Sweeney Field.

From a 97-yard touchdown pass from Derek Carr to Isaiah Burse, to the 94-yard scoring scamper just three minutes later that carried Robbie Rouse to the top of Fresno State’s all-time rushing list, explosive plays have become an expected element of the Bulldog Stadium experience.

Aside from opponents and their fans, the only people dissatisfied with the Bulldogs’ high-scoring habits at home might be the Fresno State Army ROTC cadets who have to do as many pushups in the south end zone as points the Bulldogs have scored. In this season’s game against Colorado, Fresno State had scored 55 points and each cadet had contributed 249 pushups. All before halftime.

More plentiful than those pushups are the demands on DeRuyter’s time. Film study, team meetings, practices and recruiting visits are a few of the focal points as DeRuyter tries to improve Fresno State’s football future, both immediate and distant. But somehow, he has found time to reach back into the program’s proud history and engage stars of the past with a personal touch.

“We want to honor and recognize the Bulldog history that has been built here. It helps our players understand who paved the way for the opportunities they have now, and also to visualize what they can become.”

With organizational assistance from Kevin Jordan, an offensive lineman for Pat Hill’s 1997-2000 Bulldog teams, DeRuyter welcomed more than 100 former Fresno State players onto the field before a 52-40 Homecoming victory over San Diego State. In addition, the coach has established honorary alumni captains for each home contest.

He has had help from Athletics’ assistant director of communications Jason Clay to track down the former gridiron greats, but DeRuyter insists on making all of the phone calls himself.

In Edmond, Okla., 94-year-old Jack Mulkey was surprised when DeRuyter called before the Bulldogs traveled to Tulsa for a game.

Mulkey had concluded his All-American career at Fresno State 71 years earlier by becoming the first Bulldog to play in the prestigious East-West Shrine Game. Later in 1941, the Chicago Bears made him Fresno State’s first National Football League pick.
Mulkey, whose speed and instincts allowed him to shine on offense, defense and special teams, had to put football on hold to serve in the Army during World War II. Lt. Jack Mulkey spent eight months as a surgical assistant on the Pacific island of Kiritimati, and eventually found himself rehabilitating wounded soldiers at Dibble Hospital in Menlo Park.

During that assignment, he received permission to play for the San Francisco Clippers of the American Professional Football League. The NFL had not made it to the West Coast yet, and was also two years removed from racial integration. So when Jack played in the upstart league’s 1944 Pro Bowl in Los Angeles, he did so alongside former UCLA All-Americans Kenny Washington and Jackie Robinson.

Mulkey, soon had a choice to make, and his decision might be difficult to fathom for some of today’s Bulldog players.

Clippers coach Buck Shaw offered him $7,500 to reprise his Fresno State role as a star pass catcher. Fresno High School needed a football coach right away, however, and couldn’t pay him even half that amount. Then 27 years old and married with two children, Mulkey saw fulfillment and stability in the coaching position, and signed on the dotted line. It’s a decision he says he has never regretted.

Timming and travel issues prevented Mulkey from accepting DeRuyter’s offer to join the Bulldogs for their game against the Golden Hurricane, but a surprise arrived on his doorstep: a Fresno State football, signed by the entire 2012 team and inscribed in silver ink: Jack, Our great legacy started with you. Bulldog born, Bulldog bred! Tim DeRuyter

“ ”That makes me feel real good,” Mulkey says while wiping tears from his eyes. “It makes you feel that you’re not forgotten. I’m glad that I can pass a legacy on to those players. I would love to meet them sometime to talk a little bit.”

DeRuyter didn’t give up trying to get Mulkey to a Fresno State game. The old Dog who was full of tricks when he played, was one of the honorary alumni captains for the regular season finale against the coach’s alma mater, Air Force. The Nov. 24 game also marked one of the Bulldogs’ most important victories in years. The 48-15 win over Air Force secured Fresno State’s position as Mountain West Conference co-champions.
Dr. Wendell Bell, an internationally acclaimed futurist and emeritus sociology professor at Yale University, has written about his formative academic experience at Fresno State, which he began attending in 1946 after World War II service as a Naval aviator.

Bell’s recollections are excerpted from his book “Memories of the Future,” published in 2012 (Transaction Publishers/$44.95). They provide glimpses of Fresno State life at right after World War II.

**BELL:** Summer school at Fresno State was about five weeks long. I took typing and “bonehead” English. Strange choices? Perhaps, but being able to type as a student and then as a scholar has been a definite asset.

“Bonehead” English? I didn’t have a choice. My adviser told me that I had flunked the English test, so it was a requirement. I couldn’t believe it, but I didn’t argue with him. I learned later that I actually had received one of the highest grades on the test. But I’m glad that I took the course. It was a great review, and I learned things I had not known before. Although my writing today may not be great, it is better than it would have been without that boost.

I followed (future lawyer) Bill Forbes’ example and chose a pre-law program, having given up the idea of becoming an airline pilot, mostly because I was afraid that in the long run I couldn’t continue to pass the eye examination. Becoming a lawyer provided a good living, intellectual challenge, and a profession that one could do even wearing glasses.

That fall (1946), a senior professor recommended that I major in social science, thus I planned to take courses in political science, economics, anthropology, criminology, and social psychology in addition to the required core courses in science and the humanities. I chose a combined minor in speech and English, partly because I thought that they would help me as a lawyer and partly because I enjoyed them.

He also told me that my Navy education had been evaluated and was equal to one-and-a-half years of college credits. Thus, I could graduate in two-and-a-half years of work at Fresno State. Of course, I loaded up with additional courses each semester and ended up with an excess.

My life changed at Fresno State in many ways, but none more dramatic than in my first political science class. I had arrived early on the first day and was sitting in the front row, talking with four other veterans waiting for the professor, Carl Buckman, to arrive. A gorgeous young woman with her hair coiffed in a unique way stepped into the room, looked around at the few students already in the lecture hall, then walked over and slid into a seat next to me.

It turned out to be Lora-Lee Edwards. I can’t say that it was love at first sight but I was overwhelmed. She turned out to be a delightful person, a speech and drama major, a drum majorette and a prize-winning speaker and baton twirler with a cute figure (partially on display at football games in her majorette outfit).

We started dating. She introduced me to her parents and her four brothers and, in a few weeks, we were going steady. I fell in love and wanted to marry her, which at the time I thought was totally my idea.

Lora-Lee and I still have a paper napkin from the P & O restaurant (at Palm and Olive) where we mapped out an early plan for us to marry soon and for me to go to graduate school and perhaps try to return to Fresno State to teach rather than to go to law school. But Lora-Lee’s mother wanted us to postpone marriage to have a black-tie announcement party later.

I was working on my studies, reading novels in American and English literature and articles and books in other classes, listening to a few mind-expanding lectures, and participating in a few fieldwork assignments.
William Beatty in anthropology guided me through an exploration of the world’s cultures. William Dienstein in criminology illustrated the principles of social control by putting some of us to work controlling crowds in a variety of public spaces. Karl Falk in economics demolished many of the stereotypes about capitalism, communism and fascism. Dallas Tueller in political science opened our eyes to the historical and comparative study of political systems.

Courses in biology, geology, psychology, and philosophy, among others, greatly enlarged my thinking. At times I was overwhelmed. I couldn’t believe that there was so much to learn.

In English, the professors opened wide the doors to the world of creative thought and ideas. Professor Earl Lyon influenced me most. He was an amazing teacher, a genius at getting a rise out of his students, whether positive or negative. Many students, I being one among them, found his teaching electrifying, often offbeat, both debatable and intriguing.

Speech and theater were equally challenging. They focused on performance, not simply studying about speech-writing and speech-making, but also writing our own speeches and delivering them, not simply reading about plays but also acting in them with appropriate emotion, enunciation, energy and empathy. Occasionally, I won a small part in a play at the University Playhouse that was open to the public.

The Playhouse students were a talented group of people.

John Harlan, for example, was to have a successful career in Hollywood for more than 40 years as a television announcer, working on a wide range of shows, including “Name That Tune,” the Academy Awards and the Bob Hope specials.

Franz Weinschenk made a lifetime commitment to Fresno, teaching in a local community college, becoming a writer and hosting a radio show.

Sam Peckinpah, who grew up across the street from Lora-Lee, went on to write scripts for television, and then became an innovative, award-winning, world famous director of “Ride the High Country,” “The Wild Bunch,” “The Getaway” and my personal favorite, “Straw Dogs.” He died in 1984.

**FRESNOSTATE MAGAZINE:** Bell’s friend Harlan (left) urged him to run for student body president and he won, adding to the pressures of life as he found out his fiancée was pregnant, got married and got a job selling life insurance before returning to class in September 1947.

As president, Bell successfully pushed to add student representatives on faculty committees dealing with academics and university governance, just as faculty representatives served on student committees. He also served on many committees because he was president.

Bell’s daughter Sharon Lee was born Feb. 7, 1948. He and Lora-Lee replanned their future to be away from Fresno. Bell wanted to do graduate work in English, but opted for sociology at the urging of English professor Lyon and applied to UCLA.

After graduation on June 10, 1948, Bell couldn’t start his studies at UCLA until the following January. Instead, he took a postgraduate independent study course on comparative cultures from Fresno State professors Lyon and Beatty. Bell wrote about the Ifugao culture of Northern Luzon, which he’d learned about while in the Philippines in World War II.

**BELL:** Lora-Lee and I sold our house, moved for our last two months in Fresno to an absolutely terrible and tiny addition to an old farmhouse – the worst place we have ever lived. The long road ahead was starting out even harder than we had planned.

We said our goodbyes to friends and family, and just after the first of the year, Lora-Lee and I took Sharon and packed everything we owned into our aging, gold DeSoto and drove to Highway 99 where we turned south for Los Angeles.

Not only did White graduate magna cum laude with a degree in physical education, he was a star Bulldog swimmer and water polo player, winning All-America recognition in both sports at the junior college (Diablo Valley) and college level.

“I lived and breathed swimming and water polo, and in many respects I initially went to college to stay involved with sports and become a teacher and coach,” White says in UCR magazine. “But a curious thing happened. I found a passion for knowledge and discovery that remains with me to this day.”

White received his master’s degree from CSU East Bay and his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley then did post-doctoral work in physiology at the University of Michigan. He is internationally recognized for research in muscle plasticity, injury and aging.

White received the 1997 Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Fresno State Alumni Association’s highest recognition. Just three years earlier, he was the Top Dog Outstanding Alumnus Award honoree on behalf of the College of Health and Human Services.

He attributes much of his success to his time as a student-athlete, saying, “Athletics helped me learn to balance my time, to develop leadership skills, to focus on goals, to feel the power of teamwork and to understand defeat and aspire to success. Athletics was more than just a conduit to academia; it helped make me who I am today.”

While he says being UC Riverside chancellor has been “one of the most wonderful periods of my life,” the opportunity to succeed Charles B. Reed as the CSU’s eighth chancellor was an opportunity to give back to the state of California.

“I feel this is a tremendous opportunity for me to try to do more for higher education in this state, at a time that is both precarious and potentially transformative,” he writes in his Oct. 5 “Friday Letters” to the UC Riverside campus. “It is an opportunity to affect the futures of some 430,000 CSU students, and those yet to come.”
5 directors of Fresno First Bank who are alumni: Chairman David Price (1954) and directors Robert Kubo (1977), Lorrie Lorenz (1982), Jared Martin (2001) and Mark Saleh (1993).

4 honorees in the Marjaree Mason Center’s Top 10 Professional Women of 2012: Nancy Hollingsworth (1982), president and CEO of Saint Agnes Medical Center; Francine Opata (1985, 2012), director of the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute at Fresno State; Matilda Soria (1998, 2000), director of research and development for Reading Beyond; and Dora Westerlund (1996), president and CEO of the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Also honored was Julie Olson-Buchanan, chair of Fresno State’s Department of Management.


3 Fresno Athletics Hall of Fame inductees: Softball players Carie Dever-Boaz (1990) and Jamie Southern-Wiggins (2005), and Bulldog men’s golf coach Mike Watney (1974).


2 involved directly in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London: boxer Jose Ramirez and award-winning Los Angeles Times photographer Robert Gauthier (1983). Former Bulldog women’s swim coach Teri McKeever was the U.S. Olympic women’s swim team coach.

2 artists who won Horizon Awards from the Fresno Arts Council: Door Art Gallery artistic director Chris Hays (1979) and organizer Richard Cencibaugh (1979). Thomas Loewenheim, director of the Fresno State Philharmonic Orchestra and Youth Orchestras of Fresno also was honored.

1950s
Joseph G. Garcia (1953) had his artwork selected for the 2012 Fresno County Blossom Trail poster.

1960s
Jerrold Alan Jones (1962), the Lemoore Citizen of the Year in 1988, was inducted into the Lemoore Union High School Foundation Hall of Fame.

1970s
Dr. Robert Halseth (1970), director of bands at Sacramento State, was appointed conductor of the Sierra Nevada Winds.

Rosendo Peña (1977) LIFE has been appointed an associate justice of the Fifth District Court of Appeal by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

1980s
Leonard Bedoian (1971) was a co-founder of Bloo Hookah Lounge in Fresno.


Lanny Chan (1981) joined Fresno First Bank as a vice president and personal banker.

Julie Cleeland (1980) was appointed CEO of EYE-Q Vision Care in Fresno.

Dr. Jody Hironaka-Juteau (1987, ’89), associate dean in Fresno State’s College of Health and Human Services, is one of 57 American Council on Education Fellows for 2012-13.

Steve Kokal (1985) was appointed vice president of sales and marketing for Cerritos-based Millennium Dental Technologies.

Benjamin W. Lau (1987) was appointed vice chairman of the Hawaii-based AKAMAI Foundation board and chief executive officer of AKAMAI Capital.

Peter Mustaciola (1982) was named finance director for the City of Selma.

Jan Lynn Owen (1987) was appointed commissioner of the California Department of Corporations.

Greg Sando (1987) a former winery owner was appointed director of agricultural sciences at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Ore.


Perry Teevens (1985) was hired as senior vice president for business development by LiveDeal, a Las Vegas-based internet marketing and mobile technology company.

Stephen Wray (1980), president and CEO of Cadient Group, was one of the 100 Most Inspiring People in the Life Sciences industry by PharmaVOICE magazine.

Katy Young (1982) was promoted to operations manager of the International Agri-Center in Tulare.
Her obsession with the written word took her to Fresno State, where she enrolled as an English major with an emphasis on Medieval and Renaissance literature. Askew was guided by her Renaissance lit instructor and mentor, Laurel Hendrix, who had joined the Fresno State faculty in 1990. Askew says Hendrix’s enthusiasm for the written word was captivating.

Fresno State’s English Department was an experience she will never forget. “The instructors were fantastic,” Askew adds. “The classes were, for a school that large, pretty small. I got to know everyone in my classes pretty well.”

Those courses also inspired her to make literature her career. “The instructors really believed in what they were teaching, what they were doing,” she says. “There was a purpose to it. That has definitely affected me in my life and the choices I made.”

Askew graduated in 1993, and her wandering spirit took her to San Francisco, to London and finally to Los Angeles where she now resides. Her fiction and short stories have appeared in literary journals and in magazines. She also contributed to the anthology “The May Queen,” whose stories are about women in their 30s.

Askew and Amy Helmes, who have collaborated since 2004 on their Romancing the Tome blog, dedicated to book-to-film adaptations, are working on young adult fiction based on classically told tales.

Askew’s advice to Fresno State students considering a career in literature:

“Try to be disciplined. Keep writing as much as possible, and don’t just keep it all for yourself. Send it out. Start making a name for yourself.”

This story was excerpted from an article in “The Collegian” by feature editor Cameron Woolsey, a senior mass communication and journalism major from Auberry.
1990s

Donnell Alexander (Alumnus) and Thor Swift (1991) published “Beyond Ellis D” in conjunction with three animated shorts.

Joel Bock (1998) was appointed a partner at the Bakersfield tax and auditing firm of Danials Phillips Vaughan and Bock.

Michael Carr (1998) was promoted to news director of ABC-30 in Fresno.

Dr. Carole Goldsmith (1991, ’05), West Hills Community College District vice chancellor for educational services and workforce development, was appointed by Gov. Brown to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley.

Sheri Hartman (1990), LCSW, MSW, joined Senior Alternatives, a geriatrics services company in Santa Barbara.

Judy Hirigoyen (1997) was appointed the global marketing director for the Western Pistachio Association.


Sheril (Vieria) Imfeld (1990), a CPA in Turlock, was elected president of the San Joaquin chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Heather Johnston (1998) was hired as the Dana Point Chamber of Commerce executive director.

Douglas Marshall (1995) was hired as marketing manager by Fennemore Craig, a Phoenix-law firm.

Craig Morris (1991) LIFE was hired as citrus category manager for Homegrown Organic Farms.

Elizabeth Pasieczny (1994) founded Film Crew 101, a program in Smithfield, Va., where youth learn film production.

Todd Suntrapak (1992) was promoted to president and chief executive officer of Children’s Hospital Central California.

Stephen P. Ortega (1990, ‘05) has been promoted to the FedEx Government Services Department of Defense Worldwide Sales team, based in Sacramento, Calif.

2000s


Emma Camarena (2007) earned the Exemplary Professional Practice Award from Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia.

Nathan Cardella (2003), winemaker at Cardella Winery in Mendota, won nine awards at the San Joaquin Valley Wine Competition.

Josh Coleman (2001) was promoted to captain in the Santa Cruz Fire Department.

Josh Escovedo (2009) received the 2012 Karen Dorey Award as the top graduating UCLA law student who received a bachelor’s degree from a California State University campus.

Jeff Farthing (2004) debuted Purple Corduroy Winery’s first varietal Red Siren, a Zinfandel from the Lodi Region.


Thomas Greci (2003), a civil engineer in Fresno, was hired as general manager of the Madera Irrigation District.

Erica Henry (2008) was appointed assistant women’s basketball coach by Grambling State University (Mississippi).

Jeff Kandarian (2003), owner and winemaker of Kandarian Wine Cellars in Oregon, was awarded a bronze medal at the 2012 Sunset (magazine) International Wine Competition.


Danny Paniccia (2000), a former Bulldog golf standout, won his fourth Fresno City Amateur Golf Championship.

KP Phagnasay (2000) established KP’s Actors Gym at the Broken Leg Stage in Fresno’s Tower District.

Iliana G. Perez (2009), a doctoral student at Claremont Graduate University, published “Life after College: A Guide for Undocumented Students” out of the frustrations of her own experience.

David Rippe (2004), a Fresno County Sheriff’s deputy, was credited with helping rescue a rock climber in the Sierras.

Cameron Worrell (2003), a defensive back who played in the NFL, was inducted into Fresno City College’s Football Wall of Fame.

MILESTONES

MARRIAGES


Cary Edmondson (2002) and Elaine San Agustin, October 13, in Clovis. (above)

Chelsie Copeland (2001) and Brett Martinazzi, June 16, in Fresno.

RETIREMENTS

Walter Bentley (1969), a University of California Cooperative Extension adviser and regional integrated pest management team member at the UC Kearney Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Parlier.

Dean Johnston (1973) and Lorie Johnston, teachers at Kingsburg’s Lincoln Elementary School and Central Valley Home School, respectively, for a combined 62 years.

Beth Marney (1972), the public affairs manager at KFSN (ABC), has retired after a career of more than 35 years.

Nancy Osborne (1974) after 35 years as a newscaster at ABC-30 in Fresno.

Larry Yeghoian (1972), after 39 years as an educator, 11 as Colusa Unified School District superintendent.

LIFE - FSAA Life member

LEGACY - FSAA Legacy member
Alumni model Fresno State’s founding mission in Education

FRESNO STATE HAS BEEN TRAINING EDUCATORS SINCE ITS START IN 1911. THAT FOUNDING MISSION CONTINUES TO SERVE THE CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Two stellar examples are an alumnus who directs one of the nation’s top-ranked public high schools and a high school teacher spending a year helping the White House on national education policy.

Head of school Dr. James Bushman (1983, ’87, ’88) reports University High School, the charter school on the Fresno State campus, was lauded by several surveys as one of the top-ranked schools.

- U.S. News and World Report ranked University High as the 10th best charter and 46th best school among 21,776 high schools nationwide and 10th overall in California.
- Newsweek ranked University High the 7th best California high school and the 80th best nationally.
- The Washington Post’s list of America’s most challenging high schools ranked University High 10th in California and 84th in the nation.

Marciano Gutierrez (2005), a social studies teacher at the Bay Area’s Mountain View Los Altos High School District was awarded a White House Teaching Ambassador Fellowship. During the 2012-13 school year, his focus is on teacher retention and recruitment, particularly strategies to attract teachers to high-needs schools.

While working in the Department of Education in Washington, D.C., Gutierrez is seeking better ways to evaluate teachers than measuring their performance against students’ test scores.

OTHER FRESNO STATE ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA & BEYOND:

Lisa Butts (1983), the band director at Hanford West High School, received Bandworld magazine’s Legion of Honor.

Dr. Ed Diener (1968), an emeritus professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois, received a American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award for his work on happiness.

Ben Drath (1997) was appointed assistant superintendent for secondary education by the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

Dr. John Fitzer (1998) was appointed dean of instruction at Reedley College.

Dr. Kenneth Foersch (1998) was appointed principal of St. Andrews School in Pasadena.

Ross Garner (2010) was hired as women’s and men’s tennis coach at Reedley College.

Susan Kincade was appointed Modesto Junior College vice president of instruction.

Ladislao “Lalo” Lopez (1996) was appointed principal of Cunha Intermediate School in Half Moon Bay.

Sergio J. Mendez (1999) was appointed principal at Rivera Middle School in Merced.

Dr. Eimear O’Farrell (2010) was promoted to principal of Clovis West High School.

Rod Risso (1972, ’73) retired after teaching a range of ag classes over 30 years at Gridley High School.

Ambassador Philip V. Sanchez (1957, ’72) was recognized for his contributions to education when a Learn4Life Charter School in Fresno was named in his honor.

Kathy Smith (1982) was inducted into the Saint Mary’s High School (Stockton) Hall of Fame. She has been dean of students at the school since 1997.

Dawn Vetica (1978) was appointed the assistant superintendent of secondary schools by the Lodi Unified School District.

Sandra Villasenor (1991) was appointed an assistant principal at Las Palmas and Northmead Elementary schools in the Patterson Joint Unified School District.

Warren Weaver (1969), a retired Elk Grove High School teacher, was inducted into the California Agriculture Teachers Association Hall of Fame.

A Hemet elementary school was named for Jacob Wiens, a former school superintendent, who died in 1994.

Brett Wolfe (1984) was hired as principal of Del Campo High School in Carmichael.

Claudine Zuspan was appointed a high school inclusion specialist in the Los Banos Unified School District.
IN MEMORIAM

Barbara (Mouthrop) Adams (1923), an aircraft worker and bookkeeper, July 22, in Huntington Beach.

Vernal Anthony Amaro (1948), an Army veteran turned farmer, May 25, in Fresno.

Mary Elizabeth Anduri (1942), a teacher, April 6, in Danville.

Donald Arakelian (1951) LIFE, a teacher and 1988 Laton Man of the Year, June 17, in Fresno.

Brenton Bradford (1938) LIFE, a CPA, and Fresno State Foundation director, July 19, in Fresno.

Marian (Kezerian) Bagdasarian (1970) LIFE, an elementary teacher in Calwa, June 28, in Fresno.

Frank “Franko” Cardoza (1982), a floral designer, March 22, in Fresno.

Jay W. Goats (1948), Sept. 21, in Fresno.

LIFE, an elementary teacher in Calwa, June 28, in Fresno.


Barbara (Mawhinney) Alford (Fagundes) Snyder (1960), a Navy veteran, April 26, in San Luis Obispo.


Lucille Nikkel (1937), a teacher, July 30, in Fresno.

Douglas Norgard (1957), a World War II Navy veteran and business executive, June 26, in San Francisco.

Roger A. Oliver (1972), a high school coach and athletic director, April 20, in San Diego.

Donna Parker (1984), who worked on the space shuttle program in the early 1980s, July 29, in Lake Bay, Wash.

Eleanor Randol (1941), a teacher and counselor, July 17, in Mammouth Lakes.

William E. Reynolds (1949), a World War II Navy veteran, April 5, in Hanford.


Joan Lee Ridgway (1965), a middle-school teacher in Fresno and Caruthers, June 10, in Fresno.


Sam C. Riley (1951), a World War II Army Air Corps veteran, teacher and Fresno City College psychology instructor, June 20, in Fresno.

Mary Frances Roberts (1958), a teacher and community activist, July 11, in Fowler.

Theodore Owen Woody (1947), a World War II Army veteran who became a school principal, Aug. 3, in Clovis.

Philip “Bub” Wright (1945), an Army veteran who became a cattle rancher, May 2, in Oakhurst.

Russell Yemoto (1968), a civil engineer, March 21, in Fresno.

Janice Young (1974), a high school theater teacher who also pursued insurance and advertising careers, June 22, in Fresno.

Robert E. Coyle (1953) LIFE, a federal judge, May 7, in Fresno.

Susan Marie (Shank) Donohue (1962), a Kings Canyon Unified School District teacher, June 26, in Reedley.

Virginia L. (McEvine Lane) Duggan, a food concessions owner-operator, April 17, in Fresno.

Jim Dunning (1955), a superintendent of Dinosaur and Rocky Mountain National parks, July 27, in Cayucos.

Earl Lloyd Edson (1950), a World War II Army veteran and teacher in Fresno, Selma and Salinas, May 18, in Salinas.

Mariana G. (Emparan) Elenke (1986), a customer service representative, July 13, in Fresno.

Curtis Follansbee (1941) LIFE, a World War II Army Air Corps veteran and commercial airline pilot, May 16, in Fresno.


Charles Furby (1942), a World War II Navy veteran and high school teacher, April 25, in Fresno.


Larry J. Givens (1973), a construction engineer, June 9, in Fresno.

Warren G. Gore (1953), a teacher, coach, pipeline foreman and union officer, Sept. 11, in Bakerfield.

Ira C. “Chuck” Gragson (1953), a retired physicist, Sept. 16, in San Jose.

John J. Gregory (1959), a World War II Army veteran and farmer, April 17, in Laton.


Robert W. Hagemann (1962), an agricultural consultant and real estate investor, May 7, in Ripon.

David Hale (1960), an arts reporter at the Fresno Bee, Oct. 12, in Fresno.

James Haman (1977), a Vietnam War Army veteran and police sergeant, July 3, in Fresno.

Wendell Hammar (1955), an electrician, July 12, in San Jose.

William M. Haskell (1975), who worked in retail, banking, software and real estate, May 29, in Colorado Springs.


Frances (Coffee) Hauenstein (1940), a truck stop operator, June 13, in Kingsburg.

John Hawthorne (1951), a state highway engineer, May 12, in Fresno.

Lavina (Lilley) Holmes (1928), a homemaker, July 28, in San Rafael.

Earl Russell Hudson (1920), a farmer and business executive, Aug. 18, in Sanger.

Ed Hunt (1969), an Air Force veteran, lawyer and Fresno County district attorney for 20 years, April 23, in Fresno.

Paula Jane (Vandevoir) Johnson (1960), a teacher, Aug. 27, in Chico.

Phillip Johnson (2012), a student, on July 15, in Friant.

Vivian (Ashford) Jones (1965), a property owner and manager, March 19, in Fresno.

Doris Jorgensen (1947), an elementary school teacher, Sept. 2, in Selma.

Carole Ann Kazanjian (1970), a teacher in Selma, Fowler, Fresno and Sanger, May 1, in Fresno.

Vincent J. Klieg, a World War II Army veteran and high school teacher, Sept. 11, in Fresno.

Martin J. Krieg (1945), a World War II Navy veteran who was an ironworker and farmer, Sept. 19, in Sanger.

Conway B. Lanford (1940) LIFE, a World War II Army Air Corps veteran and ordained minister, July 2, in Clovis.

Arthur E. Lea (1959), an Army veteran and Fresno County assessor and appraiser, Sept. 4, in Fresno.

Patricia (Parker) Le Moss (1955), a teacher, Sept. 5, in Fresno.

Betsy MacCracken (1935), a World War II Navy veteran who served as Los Angeles County epidemiologist, May 20, in Fresno.

Charles L. Moran (1950) LIFE, a Fresno City College science instructor, Aug. 11, in Fresno.

David W. Murray (1962), a teacher in Grover Beach, June 6, in Sacramento.

Charles S. Nalchajian (1950), a dentist, Aug. 9, in Fresno.


Celina T. (Ferreira) Brazil, a former admissions supervisor, May 3, in Fresno.

Donald J. Burdick, an professor emeritus of biology (1960-91), Sept. 16, in Fresno.

Jane Loomis Felder, who taught home economics (1947-48), April 28, in Fresno.

Ima D. (Brookshier) Heinrichs, a baker (1979-92), Sept. 14, in Fresno.


Joyce M. Huggins, professor emerita of teacher education (1970-85) and namesake of the Huggins Early Education Center at Fresno State, Oct. 5, in Fresno.

Robert Kenney (1946), a World War II Army Air Corps veteran who became a groundsman, Aug. 24, in Selma.

Rudolph M. Najjar, a professor emeritus of mathematics (1960-2005), July 7, in Littleton, Colo.

Cecilio Orozco, a professor emeritus of literacy and early education (1975-2001), Sept. 6, in Clovis.

Naoma Fay “Nikki” Powell, a retired executive assistant, March 30, in Fresno.

John Rivington “Jack” Quinn, a professor emeritus of criminology (1969-93), June 21, in Fresno.

Connie Shermer, who taught English in the 1970s, Sept. 16, in Fresno.

Eleanor Maryann Stittich, a professor emerita of nursing (1964-92), May 17, in Fresno.
His alma mater is an affair of the heart for

MARVIN MEYERS

Marvin Meyers’ journey to becoming Fresno State Alumni Associations’ 2012 Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus began in Los Angeles, whose residents may have more water to drink because of his pioneering water banking project in Fresno County.

Meyers attended Pierce School of Agriculture in the San Fernando Valley at a time when the farms and orchards there hadn’t given way to residential development. He transferred to Fresno State and earned his degree in agriculture in 1956.

Drafted into the Army, Meyers participated in atomic bomb testing in Nevada and in preparations for the flight that made Alan Shepard the first American in space.

After fulfilling his military obligation, Meyers operated Meyers Agricultural Chemicals for 16 years, selling the company in 1977 to begin farming in western Fresno County and eventually expanding to work 6,000 acres of almonds, cherries, pistachios and olives.

During the mid-1990s drought, Meyers bought the defunct Spreckles sugar beet processing plant property near Mendota with a plan to “bank” surplus surface water underground in years of abundance to irrigate his crops during drought years.

Because the property is on the Pacific Flyway, used by countless migratory waterfowl each year, and the region is home to numerous mammals and reptiles (some on endangered species lists), Meyers envisioned his bank land as a wildlife haven.

It took seven years to get all the government permissions he needed before the Meyers Water Bank and Wildlife Project pumped its first water from the Mendota Pool in 2002. The project was completed without government financial assistance, but Meyers says it wouldn’t have happened without the assistance of John Keyes, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation commissioner at the time.

Up to 35,000 acre-feet of water (more than 114 million gallons) can be stored for irrigation during water-short years when there are traditional conflicts between agricultural and drinking-water needs in California. Meyers’ bank can save up enough water to run his farming operation for three years without additional sources of irrigation.

The wildlife preserve is visited by more than 1,000 schoolchildren each year, who get to view the animals in their natural environment, conduct scientific experiments and practice outdoor skills impossible in a classroom.

“There’s an incredible amount of wildlife that has taken over the project area,” Meyers told a Fresno Bee reporter in 2012. “I want the public to get a chance to see this. I enjoy it so much, I want to give back to society through having young people come here and learn about what we do.”

In 2007, the Meyers Water Bank and Wildlife Project won the state’s top environmental leadership award for its agricultural, wildlife preservation and educational outreach aspects. The Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce chose Meyers as its 2010 Agriculturalist of the Year.

He has served on boards of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture and Fresno County Office of Education, and as a past-president of the San Luis Water District.

Meyers also has been generous with his alma mater, most recently investing in the Meyers Family Sports Medicine Center under construction in the Athletics complex near Bulldog Stadium.

When completed in fall 2013, Fresno State student-athletes will have access to a state-of-the-art center dedicated to healing and maintaining good health. The Meyers Family Center also will provide an extension of classroom learning as students training for sports medicine careers can observe, learn and apply best practices so they’re career-ready upon graduation.

“Fresno State is dear to my heart,” says Meyers. “My vision is to see Fresno State well known in athletics and academia throughout the country.”

– Leslie Cunning (Alumna), a freelance writer in Fresno, contributed to this article.
Chinese pistache are being planted around campus to replace some other species that are less drought-tolerant, don’t live as long and create more mess. In fall, during the Bulldog football season, the Chinese pistache foliage bursts into its own brilliant red wave. This is one of dozens located just north of the Smittcamp Alumni House. Painted with opaque watercolor on colored mat board.

With about 4,000 trees, the campus was designated an arboretum in 1978.

Love! Love! Love! The Chinese pistache trees behind Joyal Administration, a stone’s throw from the Smittcamp Alumni House where I’ve worked for the past decade. Each fall, green foliage turns from vibrant yellow to sunburnt orange and then to fiery red. For a week or two you can see all three autumn colors on any one tree – a radiant work of natural art I first noticed nearly 25 years ago as a student. Every year I watch as they welcome students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to campus.

**Peter Robertson** (1992, ’94, 2005), director of alumni marketing and engagement

**Illustrator Doug Hansen** (1974, 2001), a professor of Art and Design, is the author and illustrator of “Mother Goose in California” (Heyday/$16.95).