There is a powerful economic engine driving prosperity in the Central Valley that starts when community and University work as one.

We begin by focusing on student success — providing affordable opportunities and support so the young people in our region can achieve and, in some cases, even change the trajectory of their families. So it should be no surprise that Fresno State is getting its due in national rankings (see Page 4) as a world-class provider of higher education right alongside the most prestigious universities in the world.

In this issue of Fresno State Magazine, you’ll see multiple stories about the powerful impacts of University partnerships within the community — from our Institute for Family Business supporting family firms, to our Top Dog alumni making a global impact, to our millions of hours of volunteer service at organizations like Stone Soup. You’ll even see an exclusive Q&A with our latest alumnus to win an Olympic gold medal, basketball star Paul George.

The power of community and university joining together to fuel our region is the theme of the new TV ad campaign featuring student-athletes. Every ticket you buy to a Bulldogs game contributes to a legacy of student success that begins on the playing field and leaves a lasting impression long after graduation.

Did you know our student-athletes are setting record marks for their cumulative GPA, and that 80 percent of Fresno State graduates stay and work in the Valley?

When you support the University, you’re supporting the entire community, and there are lots of different ways you can show support. Whether you’re mentoring students, endowing a scholarship or attending an athletic event, you’re contributing to all the days ahead when these students will create bold wins for our region.

COMMUNITY + UNIVERSITY = A PROSPEROUS REGION

Dr. Joseph I. Castro
President, Fresno State
Children who participate in programs at Stone Soup Fresno gain early education in areas that prepare them to excel in school. Stone Soup is a community-benefit organization established in 1992 to support health, solace, education, culture and citizenship among Southeast Asian families.

Fresno State student Ia Thao (pictured), who is pursuing her master’s degree in deaf education, interned with Stone Soup last spring and now works full time for its PlayGroup program, a First 5 Fresno County-funded program designed for children ages 0-3 and their parents. The program serves more than 75 children.

Interns at Stone Soup are vital to its programs. Students work at various levels, from volunteering 10 to 20 hours as part of a class assignment to serving as interns for 75 to 150 hours per semester. As many as 300 Fresno State students and several dozen faculty and staff have volunteered or worked at Stone Soup in a single year. Thao’s favorite part of the program is “interacting with the children and providing parents with the educational tools to nurture their children in a multicultural environment.”

For the full story, see Page 18.
A University on the Rise — and a Ranking to Prove it

Fresno State was selected alongside seven Ivy League institutions, five University of California campuses and Stanford University in a national ranking of the top universities in the United States.

Washington Monthly, a D.C.-based magazine known for its annual rankings of American colleges and universities, announced in August that Fresno State ranked No. 25 on its list of the top 30 national universities.

Stanford topped the list followed by Harvard and MIT. Fresno State is the only campus in the California State University system to be included in the top 30 and the only school in the over 400-member American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Washington Monthly has been ranking colleges and universities for 11 years with what it calls “a different kind of college ranking” focusing on three pillars: social mobility, research and service.

The University was cited as an “instructive example” of schools that enroll many low-income students and help them graduate. Given the high number of undergraduates that are first-generation students and the fact that the majority have incomes low enough to qualify for a federal Pell Grant, Fresno State “has a higher graduation rate than is typical, given those demographics, and a highly affordable net price,” the magazine reported.

“This national recognition is more evidence of Fresno State’s positive academic and athletic trajectory. We are living our new Strategic Plan’s mission to boldly educate and empower our students for success,” University President Joseph I. Castro says. “Our faculty and staff use their extraordinary gifts to develop the next generation of leaders for the Central Valley and beyond.”
Lookin’ Classy, Visalia

A new Fresno State campus in Visalia will be directed by Dr. Luz Gonzalez, a Fresno State alumna with 30 years of experience in teaching, student success, community and regional engagement and development. The first offerings this fall will be non-credit professional development courses. Future plans will explore degree and certificate programs targeted at working professionals.

The Fresno State Visalia Campus is a newly remodeled 10,000-square-foot, four-classroom building at College of the Sequoias (COS). Located on the southeast side of the COS campus at Shady and Meadow streets, the Fresno State Visalia Campus will deliver both state-funded and self-supported programs.

Downtown (Where All the Lights are Bright)

The new Fresno State Downtown Center offers non-credit professional development courses to the public on topics such as career development and entrepreneurial skills, grant writing, digital marketing, business writing, water-wise landscaping, horticulture and software design.

The center is located in the Bitwise South Stadium building, which was constructed in 1914 and is now home to several dozen technology and entrepreneurial companies, a UPS store, a gym, a private theater, a café and the Geekwise Academy that offers basic computer coding classes. For more information, visit www.FresnoStateDowntown.com.

Have you tasted it?

One of the Fresno State Winery’s most popular wines, the 2013 Touriga, won several awards this year including a prestigious silver medal from Sunset magazine’s 2016 International Wine Competition.

“Touriga, commonly known as Touriga Nacional, is considered to be Portugal’s finest red wine varietal and is commonly used to make Port,” said Kevin Smith, Fresno State Winery business and marketing manager and enology lecturer.

“The Fresno State Touriga has smooth tannins, great structure and concentrated dark berry flavors.”

The awards were among 17 honors the Fresno State Winery received this year.

Fresno State houses the nation’s first bonded commercial winery to operate on a university campus.

Fresno State wine is available at the Gibson Farm Market and other retailers or online at http://store.fresnostatewinery.com.

From the White House to a Flag Pole Near You

For the 40th anniversary of the U.S. Bicentennial on July 4, Fresno State posted an historic American Revolution Bicentennial (1776-1976) flag during a special ceremony.

The 4-by-6-foot flag, which once flew over the White House among other places of honor, was gifted to the University by alumnus Dr. Elvin C. Bell, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and Army National Guard brigadier general who is a former Fresno city councilman and mayor pro tem.

The event was held outside the Save Mart Center as Fresno State music education major Ryan Vance performed “Reveille” and the “Star Spangled Banner” on the trumpet. The flag was posted daily until July 11 and is now preserved in the Henry Madden Library and will be displayed on special occasions.

Bell was presented the bicentennial flag in 1978 by the late Carl Albert, who was speaker of the House from 1971 to 1977.

“I’m pleased that this national treasure, this one-of-a-kind bicentennial flag, has finally found a welcome home here at Fresno State where students, faculty, parents and the general public will see it wave proudly over the campus,” Bell says.

FRESNO STATE

5
Meet the Medalists

Jessica Miguel of Fresno was named the University Graduate Medalist and Lilliana Toste of Lemoore was named the President's Medalist — the University’s top student honors—at the 105th commencement in May.

Miguel earned a master’s in education (multilingual multicultural education) with a 4.0 GPA. While in college, she worked for Clovis Unified School District with students who have autism.

She is now a graduate research assistant through the Department of Education at UC San Diego, where she will begin her Ph.D. program in September. A graduate of Edison High School in Fresno, she hopes to become a professor at a four-year university.

Toste, whose parents are also Fresno State alumni, earned a bachelor’s in communicative disorders and deaf studies (speech-language pathology) with a 4.0 GPA.

She was a President’s Scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors Program and was named 2016 University Volunteer of the Year by the Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

Toste has volunteered hundreds of hours with Reading and Beyond, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Saint Agnes Medical Center and Lowell Elementary, traveled to Fiji for a service-learning project to develop a community center and irrigation project and studied abroad in Italy. She returned to campus this fall to begin work on a master’s degree.

“At Commencement, we celebrate the bold accomplishments of thousands of Fresno State graduates, and it’s my privilege to recognize Jessica and Lilliana with our University’s most distinguished honors. They are both hard-working, talented students whose academic records are stellar. They make all of us proud to be part of a university like Fresno State.”

PRESIDENT JOSEPH I. CASTRO
Dr. @Cilantroman

Juan Felipe Herrera, who is now serving his second of two terms as the United States poet laureate and can be found on Twitter as @cilantroman, was conferred an honorary doctorate degree by Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro in recognition of his poetic influence in shaping cultural ideals and the human spirit. Herrera, who lives in Fresno, taught at Fresno State from 1990 to 2004 and was chairman of the Chicano and Latin American Studies Department. He also delivered the keynote address at the 40th Chicano/Latino Commencement Celebration.

University Secures $42M in Grants, Contracts

Fresno State received a record of more than $42 million in grants and contract awards during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. “This milestone is a testament to the hard work of our campus faculty, staff and administration,” said Dr. James Marshall, dean of research and graduate studies at Fresno State. “Their collective commitment to the greater good is reflected in the outcomes of these grants and contracts and contributes directly to enhancing student success and improving the quality of life in our community and beyond.” Marshall said the awards include federally funded research activities that engage faculty and students in addressing needs in biomedicine, agriculture and the environment. The funding also supports projects helping students adjust to college, research addressing water use and drought, as well as training for social workers, teachers, administrators and other leaders serving the San Joaquin Valley.

Bayer Supports Ag Research

International agricultural leader Bayer established a $200,000 endowment with the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State to support entomology research in the University’s new Jordan Agricultural Research Center. Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro announced the gift during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in May at the 30,000-square-foot interdisciplinary research center.

The contribution will be directed toward the research center’s entomology laboratory, which will be named after the company. This space will allow students, faculty and industry partners to study colonies of insect pests and potentially beneficial insects. The lab will also be used to develop critical control and integrated pest management strategies.

““This effort will focus on talent development in order to provide internship and job opportunities for current students, continued research on key pests facing agriculture in the Central Valley and collaboration with students in the agricultural department to address crucial issues in the ag sector,” says Jim Blome, Bayer CropScience LP president and CEO.

The Crop Science division of Bayer creates seeds, crop protection and non-agricultural pest control products to help ensure an ample supply of high-quality food, feed, fiber and renewable raw materials.
Why Fresno State is #MyTopCollege

For the third year in a row, Forbes asked students and alumni across America to show their school spirit and share on social media what makes their universities special. Over 100 universities were represented in the competition, with Fresno State finishing third nationally among large universities. Here is a snapshot of the Twitter chatter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because of the real world opportunities it provides. Plus we have great alumni!</th>
<th>@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege college because nothing on earth matches up to @FresnoStateFB on a Saturday night</th>
<th>Received Grade A business education @Fresno_State. Job offers prior to graduating b/c of campus activities, and passed CPA exam #MyTopCollege</th>
<th>@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege for the opportunity to work with and empower amazing student athletes on a daily basis @ForbesEDU #GoDogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Dowell @joshdowell111</td>
<td>Chris Arguello @Cnofear14</td>
<td>Tracey Scharmann @TraceyScharmann</td>
<td>Jessica Giglio @CoachGiglio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege for exploring the world around us. #FresnoState

Emily @embosh

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because they encourage us to #BeBold daily and support us every step of the way

anna @_anaavargas

#MyTopCollege is @Fresno_State because our @FSMCJDept students are getting jobs right out of school

Faith Sidlow @FaithSidlow

I love @Fresno_State b/c I got to be a part of the Best band of the West. Fresno State Marching Band #MyTopCollege

C for Somebody @LaCiindyy
@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because of the Greek system that gave me the greatest sisters and memories! #godogs

Ashley Elizabeth
@peachypie_xoxo

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because I’m proud to hug graduates during commencement!

Mary G. Castro
@MG Castro5

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because of @FresnoKremenEdu for giving me the power to educate the next generation!

Mr. Lopez
@jcllopez2135

@Fresno_State will always be #MyTopCollege! Couldn’t be more proud to be a Bulldog for life

tarry
@terrbearrr

First in the family to go to a 4 year straight from high school. 
@Fresno_State
#MyTopCollege
#BeBold

Teresa Acosta
@acosta5

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because its business program allowed me to create a business I’m passionate about.

Jason Whitmire
@Jason Whitmire

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because our #24 ranked nursing school allows us to meet health needs of the Valley!

FS College of Health 
@FresnoStateCHHS

#MyTopCollege is @Fresno_State because of the endless opportunities provided to their students.

Khone Saysamongdy
@Saysamongdyk

@Fresno_State is #MyTopCollege because they’re helping my dreams become a reality.

Reyna 
@_RPZ95
Ian Williams, a 2016 Fresno State graduate, says the most important thing he can tell people about his family’s business, Fresno Ag Hardware, is the story of his grandfather, John Rosetta, and the American dream.
John and James Rosetta’s parents immigrated to the United States from Italy in the 1920s in search of a better life for their family. It was a well executed idea — until tragedy struck. The boys’ mother died shortly after the move, leaving them with nowhere to go but to foster care. John and James overcame their less-than-ideal circumstances, and both ended up joining the military and fighting in World War II — John in the Air Force and James in the Army.

Upon returning home from the war, John got a job as a janitor at Fresno Agricultural Works and worked his way up. He worked hard. He saved money. He took meticulous mental notes on every aspect of running the business. And eight years later, in 1956, he bought it. With his brother as co-owner, it became what’s known today as one of the most iconic mom-and-pop businesses in the Valley — Fresno Ag Hardware.

It’s the American dream — the belief that all people are created equal and have the ability to prosper with upward social mobility. Few things illustrate the American dream as poignantly as a family-run business.

“Probably the most important thing I can tell people about Fresno Ag is my grandfather John Rosetta’s story and the American dream,” says Ian Williams, a 27-year-old, 2016 Fresno State graduate who is being groomed to run the business. That transition period and development of future leaders, from generation to generation or from one family to the next, is critical to keeping business healthy.

John died in 2003 and James died in 2015. Today, Fresno Ag is owned by Rae Rosetta, John’s widow. Their daughter, Michelle Williams, is the office manager. Ian is next in line. And he’s already helping the business adjust and respond to expectations of a new generation of customers.

Family-owned or controlled businesses make up about 90 percent of all United States companies, according to a study by Cornell University.

And while every family business has its own, unique start-up story, there is a movement picking up momentum in the Central Valley and across the country to ensure these businesses remain viable and transition smoothly from generation to generation.

A report by the University of Southern Maine shows family businesses generate about half of the country’s Gross National Product, 60 percent of the country’s employment and 78 percent of all new job creation. Suffice it to say, family businesses are critical to the economy.
A Support Network for Family Business

Since 1989, the Institute for Family Business at Fresno State has served as a resource providing Central Valley businesses an opportunity to gather and discuss issues, share strategies and learn from those who have faced similar challenges. The institute hosts educational gatherings every four to six weeks that are free to members. Its mission is to support, serve and sustain family businesses.

“Family business is at the heart of our country and the backbone of our national economy,” says Jane Olvera Quebe, president of JP Marketing and board chair of the institute. “If you look around the Central Valley, you will find family businesses of all shapes and sizes that keep our economy going, particularly in agriculture but also in manufacturing, light industrial, food production and distribution, retail, dining and more.”

The institute, housed in the Craig School of Business at Fresno State, is one of few remaining in California. Ten years ago, there were eight similar institutes associated with colleges and universities in the state. Today there are only three — at Fresno State, the University of the Pacific and California State University, Fullerton.

Much of the reason for the decline is related to the recession, Quebe says. “Unfortunately, not only did it become difficult for colleges and universities to support these organizations, but also many family businesses were unable to support or even sustain through 2009 and 2010, which dramatically impacted the financial support and memberships across the state.”

Fresno State’s institute has about 50 member businesses, including family firms and those that support family firms, and is in the midst of a $1 million endowment campaign to ensure the future of this community resource.

In January, Fred and Mitzie Ruiz of Ruiz Foods pledged $125,000 to launch the campaign. Fred Ruiz was a founding member of the institute and has an American dream story of his own.
Transitioning to the Next Generation

Ruiz Foods was co-founded in Tulare by Fred Ruiz and his father, Louis, in 1964. They began making enchiladas and burritos using recipes from Fred’s mother. Fred was in charge of production and Louis was in charge of sales and delivery.

Today, with manufacturing facilities in Central California, Texas and South Carolina and more than 3,000 employees, Ruiz Foods’ El Monterey brand is the No. 1 selling frozen Mexican food product and is sold in 94 percent of all grocery stores in the United States.

Maybe most important for its future success, the business successfully transitioned to its third generation with Kim Ruiz Beck (Fred’s daughter and a 1987 Fresno State graduate) serving as chairman and helping the company adjust to food trends and evolving technology.

The company opened a new customer base with its creation of the Tornados brand, a popular roller grill snack sold in United States convenience stores.

“Much has changed over 52 years for Ruiz Foods,” says Ruiz Beck. “With a focus on the past 10 years, the popularity of Mexican food continues to grow, and we’ve opened two large, additional manufacturing facilities using the latest automation technology. We’re competing for share of stomach while keeping a close eye on evolving tastes and preferences.”

The transition to the third generation of family went smoothly for Ruiz Foods, and it helped to have a network of experienced business owners with whom to share ideas. “We’ve been lucky enough to have very prominent Central Valley families share their generational succession stories with us,” Quebe says, “and you realize that beating the odds and successfully passing your family business from one generation to the next is doable.”

The Institute for Family Business provides a forum for exchanging ideas, research findings, academic courses and information that is unique to family firms, like succession planning and grooming the next generation of business leaders. “What members tell us is of most value is the opportunity to network with other like-minded family businesses who are experiencing similar challenges,” Quebe says.

In 2017, the institute will launch a Next Generation Retreat for those who recently took charge of their company or are in the succession planning stages. Dr. Robert Harper, dean of the Craig School of Business, says it’s critical that family businesses continue to thrive because they’re the biggest economic driver in the region.

“I have learned something useful at every meeting I have attended,” says Roy Oken, president of Wonder Valley Ranch Resort in Sanger. “We were able to avoid making mistakes by listening to others who have gone through our same obstacles. It is much easier and less expensive to learn from others than to make the mistakes yourself.”

continued
Family businesses are responsible for:

- **90%** of all U.S. companies
- **78%** of new job creation
- **60%** of the nation’s employment

- **50%** of the nation’s Gross National Product

Fresno State’s Institute for Family Business is **1 of only 3** in California.
Keeping the American Dream Alive

With the next generation of business leaders, comes the next generation of technology. And technology, no matter who is asked, seems to be at the forefront of the evolution of family business. There are full-time jobs and job duties today that didn’t exist a decade or two ago.

At 90 years old, Dr. Richard A. Johanson has seen his family’s freight brokerage firm transform from a staff of three in a rented space at a local truck stop in 1971 to about 90 employees headquartered in Fresno and spread over five other offices in Sacramento, Oregon, Wisconsin and New Jersey. Six of those employees are devoted solely to ensuring that Johanson Transportation Service is using leading-edge information technology systems.

“In 1971, most transactions took place via telephone with the required paperwork following,” Richard Johanson says. “Today, modern technology has made the use of paper and pencil obsolete.”

Johanson Transportation Service, which won the 2011 California Family Business Award presented by the institute, provides freight solutions by truck, ocean, air or rail. The truckload division alone fulfills up to 35,000 orders a year.

“The whole platform we’ve built our business around is structured around IT,” says Larry Johanson, president and CEO and son of Richard. “We’ve custom written every piece of it ourselves. We have a Transportation Management System that allows customers to make a selection based on price and manage their freight with visibility to see where their shipment is at any given time.”

Larry Johanson, a 1976 Fresno State graduate, says the family recognized years ago they could no longer do business in the 21st century the way they did it in the 1980s and 1990s. “With the volume of freight we move now, there would be no way we could do it without that technology.”

Fresno Ag Hardware, a 2011 finalist for the California Family Business Award, also has adjusted to a vastly different way of doing business with new technology. Just over a decade ago, the store was using hand-written receipts. Now Fresno Ag is scanning QR codes, sending out email blasts and maintaining an active social media presence. The one constant has been the store’s focus on providing personalized customer service and responding to community feedback. It’s what Fresno Ag calls the “amazing experience.”

That personal touch seems to go hand-in-hand with many successful family businesses. “My dad had a vision for starting a company,” Larry Johanson says, “and he wrote out the cornerstones of what we were going to stand for — experience, integrity, gratitude and respect. How we do business changes, but how we’re going to operate fundamentally has never changed.”

For the next generation — and the one after that — new challenges and issues will steadily arise. But as long as the entrepreneurial spirit is alive in young people across the Central Valley and beyond, and there are resources and tools in place, family businesses can continue to thrive and drive a healthy economy.

“I grew up in the store, and I’ve been coming here my whole life. It hasn’t always been my dream,” says Ian Williams, who started working in the Fresno Ag Hardware warehouse at age 16 but briefly moved out of town to pursue other interests. “When I was living in Tahoe, I realized I was giving up an opportunity, and I’d hate to squander what my grandfather had built.

“Hard work pays off in America. As long as you’re able to work you can achieve your dreams. It’s not a myth. I’ve seen it first-hand.”

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.

A $1 million fundraising campaign is underway to endow the Institute for Family Business and ensure it as a resource that’s here to stay. The fund will allow for:

• Dedicated director of the Institute for Family Business
• Online learning hub
• National Family Business Conference hosted at Fresno State
• Academic and industry research
• Next Generation Retreat, networking and professional development
• Scholarships for students involved in family businesses

“Fresno State works hard to raise monies to grow classrooms and equipment to be able to assist more students and to help those students learn and grow. This is a win-win for everyone — the community, the students and the family-owned businesses.”

FRED RUIZ
CO-FOUNDER OF RUIZ FOODS

For information on how to get involved, visit www.FresnoState.edu/craig/ifb
How Fresno State programs and resources are fostering bold business ideas

The Craig School of Business at Fresno State offers a master’s in business administration and bachelor’s degrees in economics and business administration (accountancy, finance and business law, information systems and decision sciences, management and marketing). One of the top business schools in the state, it was established in 1928 and was named the Craig School in 1992 after a $10 million endowment from alumnus Sid and Jenny Craig.

Promotes the preservation of family businesses by providing a forum for exchanging ideas, research findings, academic courses and information about issues unique to family firms.
LYLES CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Assists innovators of all ages in development and execution of their ideas into businesses. Fosters innovative thinking and entrepreneurial behavior in the Central Valley through education, networking, training, collaboration and ethics.

Central Valley Venture Forum
Brings together venture capitalists, investment bankers, angel investors and leading startups

CEO Fresno
Promotes entrepreneurship and the development of student-run enterprises

Entrepreneur in Residence - Nelson Sebra
Acts as a link between Lyles Center and entrepreneurial leaders in the Valley

Ethicist in Residence - Andrew Fiala
Engages students and community in business, professional ethics, stewardship and citizenship

Innovate Fresno State
Connects innovators to investors and assists with feasibility studies and business plan development

Intrapreneur in Residence - Mendy Laval
Guides students in developing and implementing entrepreneurial skills in a corporate setting

Kids Invent!
Stimulates creativity of children through hands-on science challenges of design, performance and functionality

Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship
Helps high school students learn skills to start businesses

Pay it Forward Luncheon Series
Brings together students and business leaders to network and explore topics

Skills for Success
Promotes development and improvement of 21st century skills (creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration)

Student Hatchery
Supports students by providing access to mentoring and office space to work on their businesses while in college

GAZARIAN REAL ESTATE CENTER
Provides information on real estate markets to the community, students and faculty, facilitating curriculum development, outreach, industry research and the study of professional ethics

UNIVERSITY BUSINESS CENTER
Provides businesses and professionals with services and resources to foster growth, create jobs and develop a prosperous economy

The Craig School of Business offers a master’s in business administration and bachelor’s degrees in economics and business administration.
STONE SOUP FOR THOUGHT

How one organization is inspiring positive change in a local neighborhood

by Esra Hashem

Children like Faith participate in Stone Soup Fresno programs that support health, solace, education, culture and citizenship among Southeast Asian families.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Central Valley has the 2nd largest Hmong-American population in the nation.

More than 1,700 students of Southeast Asian descent attend Fresno State.

In the past five years, Hmong-American students represented nearly 10 percent of incoming freshmen at Fresno State.
An 8-year-old boy carrying a loaded gun approached Kathy Garabed, looking for help after receiving instructions from a local gang to carry out its next hit.

It was not the first time Garabed, a refugee resettlement worker, was faced with the violence cultivated within Fresno’s El Dorado Park neighborhood in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s — but it was a moment that inspired a new path for the community.

“Kathy formed Stone Soup Fresno with the idea of utilizing resources of the for-profit, the nonprofit and the educational community to work with Southeast Asian refugees in the El Dorado area,” says Chris Fiorentino, director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning at Fresno State.

“The thought was they could address large issues faced by people in the area — crime, education, maintaining refugees’ Southeast Asian cultural heritage.”

Fiorentino says Garabed recognized the need to help refugees transition to life in the United States. While the government provided housing for Hmong, Vietnamese, Thai and Cambodian refugees, programs that eased their psychological transition were lacking.

“When some refugees started coming from Southeast Asia, you had cultures that had actually been at war for generations — even thousands of years — that were resettled in the same areas,” Fiorentino says. “What that led to was the development of some really violent gangs, especially among young people.”

Stone Soup Fresno, a community-benefit organization established in 1992 by Garabed, supports health, solace, education, culture and citizenship among Southeast Asian refugee families in Fresno.

Since its founding, Stone Soup has partnered with Fresno State to carry out its mission. As many as 300 students and several dozen faculty and staff have volunteered or worked at Stone Soup in a single year.

Tracy Galarza, a Fresno State alumna who grew up in the El Dorado Park neighborhood and attended Stone Soup as a child, says it was that experience that influenced her decision to pursue a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in counseling.

“I think growing up in this neighborhood has given me the opportunity to experience what it is like to live in a high-risk crime, theft and poverty neighborhood,” Galarza says. “I can relate to the difficulties in these neighborhoods and what they can lead to in children’s lives. Being able to overcome these barriers has created a passion for helping others in the same situation.”

Because of the organization’s proximity, Fiorentino says Fresno State students who serve there learn about and support the community where they live and go to school.

“We cannot function without the dedication and commitment of interns, work study students and volunteers who arrive each day through our doors from Fresno State,” says Lowell Ens, executive director of Stone Stoup Fresno. “Through our efforts over the past 20-plus years, our organization has served several thousand Southeast Asian immigrant families.”

The organization’s focus areas include early childhood education, cultural preservation and education advocacy.

“I remember almost everyone within the neighborhood attended Stone Soup or knew someone one who went there,” Galarza says. “There were so many activities for the youth of all ages, and my mother of four loved all that Stone Soup provided for us at no cost.”

EePay Yang, a master teacher at Stone Soup who became involved with the organization over 10 years ago, recognized these needs even within her own family.

“My parents had no educational background,” Yang says. “They understand that education is an important key to success and a better life — but they didn’t know how to go about it.”

Yang, who earned a bachelor’s degree in child development from Fresno State in the spring, says her goal is to educate the community about the importance of education in transforming children’s futures, and therefore their families’ futures.

Since she began working with Stone Soup, Yang says she has seen a different side of the El Dorado community than that of the violence Garabed witnessed. Instead, through education and building rapport, Yang has seen resilience and care within the community.

“I realized that this community is willing to do anything for their children’s future.”

— Esra Hashem is a marketing specialist in the Division of University Advancement at Fresno State.

Fresno State’s Hmong minor option – which launched in fall 2016 – is a first in the western United States. More than 100 students are enrolled in Hmong minor courses.
With family support, Madchen Ly is on course to reach the highest level of pro golf.

Madchen Ly sat at the dinner table in her parents’ Clovis home with a bowl of pho and a plate of pork ribs — just the home cooking she was craving after more than a month on the road. Her mom and dad, brother, aunt and uncle and two young cousins settled around the table for dinner, and the tasty meal quickly became an afterthought as the family visited with Madchen. Her mother got up, walked into the kitchen and brought back a small slice of strawberry-banana pie for Madchen — a splendid dessert, but not quite as desirable as the slice of pie she’s chasing.

Meet Madchen, a 5-foot tall professional golfer with $406 in earnings so far in her rookie year. She graduated from Fresno State in 2015 and now competes on the Symetra Tour, a set of developmental tournaments for Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) hopefuls. Play well enough on the Symetra Tour, and she can go to Qualifying School. Play well in qualifying tournaments, and she can earn her LPGA Tour card. That’s the slice of pie she’s hungriest for.

And make no mistake, while she may not talk much about the LPGA unless prodded, everyone close to her knows that’s her goal.

“I know she’s always nice and doesn’t say a lot, but she’s ultra-competitive,” says Pheng Ly, Madchen’s father, part-time caddy and biggest fan. “She’s got a lot of my personality. We may not say a lot, but internally, we are competitive people.”

She wants to make a living playing golf and to prove to herself that she belongs at the highest level. She’s close — as in she finished seventh out of 340-plus golfers at Stage I of Qualifying School at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage in late August. Last year, when Madchen tied for 113th at Stage III of Qualifying School, the top 49 golfers earned LPGA status.

Story by Eddie Hughes  •  Photos by Cary Edmondson
“I don’t know if the card is as important to her as people saying, ‘Hey, I’m proud of you,’” Pheng says. “It would mean all the effort and all the time away from family and friends was worth it.”

Not to mention, at the LPGA level, there is potential for much higher earnings. Right now, on the Symetra Tour and in Qualifying School, Madchen is charged between $500 and $2,500 just to enter tournaments. Plus she has to fly all over the country, rent cars and stay either in hotels or with host families. Her parents help with what they can, but for now she’s tasked with seeking sponsorships and private support to fund the pursuit of her dream.

That dream began when Madchen was 8 years old. She recalls her father getting off work, picking her up and taking her to the local Hank’s Swank driving range. “I would just start pounding golf balls for hours, and then I just fell in love with the game right there,” she says. “I was always daddy’s little girl. He’s someone I can always go to for help, and he’s definitely been my No. 1 supporter. I couldn’t do this without him.”

She also couldn’t do this without her work habits. Even during her downtime, when she visits home, she’s rarely at her house.

“A typical day, I wake up, have breakfast, go to the gym, clean up and then I’m headed straight out to the golf course,” Madchen says. “I spend six to eight hours a day at the golf course — either playing, practicing or doing both. Basically the golf course is home to me, which is fine.”

Madchen is used to the busy schedule. Even before high school, she spent summer weekends traveling all over California to play in tournaments. By her junior year at Clovis High School, she gave a verbal commitment to attend Fresno State over numerous other universities that were also offering scholarships. Her senior year, she earned first-team all-Mountain West Conference honors and posted the lowest scoring average in Bulldogs history.

While she was setting new records at Fresno State, she was also paving new ground in the community. Her father believes she is the first Hmong-American female golfer to ever play at a Division I college.

“It’s a part of why she worked so hard,” Pheng says. “We want her story and our story to give the Hmong community, all Hmong people throughout the country, a reason to say, ‘Look at the possibilities’ for a Hmong woman who has grown up somewhat traditional in this country.”

One Hmong-American golfer, Megan Khang, has already joined the LPGA Tour. She’s earned more than $255,000 in her first year. Madchen and her father got a chance to meet Khang and her father last year. “I told Megan’s dad, ‘It doesn’t matter if it’s your daughter or my daughter, I just want it to be someone’s daughter,’” Pheng says. “If one of our daughters paves the way for someone else to make it, that’s a great thing.”

Pheng, a Fresno Pacific University alumnus, works as a maintenance and construction supervisor for Pacific Gas and Electric, overseeing about 25 employees. His wife (Madchen’s mother), Pang Vangyi, is a Fresno State alumna who works as a counselor at Fresno Adult School.

“The culture has always been male dominant, push your sons to succeed and want your daughter to marry into a good family, but we didn’t raise Madchen or her brother like that,” Pheng says. “We’ve always given them the opportunity to explore and to reach out, to do things that may not be the most commonly done. She just happened to say, ‘I want to play golf.’”

In the past four months alone, she’s played plenty — grinding through competitions in California, Indiana, Michigan and Florida.

Pheng thinks back to those days he’d pick Madchen up on his way home from work and take her to the driving range, when the prize at the end of play was giving her a high-five and taking her out for ice cream. If there is an emoji for feeling proud, it could be a photo of his face.

“Five years ago, I couldn’t imagine her being in the position she’s in,” Pheng says. “Ultimately, I know what her dreams are. We want to get on the LPGA Tour. But, for us, if she were to tell me in a few months, ‘Hey dad, this is it,’ we would have no regrets. I’m extremely proud as her father and her biggest fan.”

ONLINE EXTRA
FresnoStateMagazine.com
to see video and photos of Madchen Ly’s training regimen.
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While helping the USA team win all eight of its games over two weeks against the best basketball-playing countries in the world, Paul George closed the book on his recovery from a gruesome broken leg suffered while playing with the national team two years earlier.

Team USA’s 96-66 win over Serbia on Aug. 24 in Rio de Janeiro earned George and his teammates Olympic gold medals with an average margin of victory of 32.1 points per game. George finished fourth on the team in scoring with 11.3 points per game and led the team with 12 steals.

Since leaving Fresno State after his sophomore year to become the 10th overall pick in the 2010 NBA Draft, George has developed into the Indiana Pacers’ best player and a three-time NBA all-star. And he’s the first former Bulldogs basketball player to win Olympic gold.

Overall, Fresno State has been represented in the Olympics 37 times by 26 different athletes and one coach, earning 14 gold medals.
George (aka PG13) gave Fresno State Magazine an exclusive interview after a USA exhibition win against China at Oracle Arena in Oakland on July 27.

**Fresno State Magazine:** What does it mean to you to represent your country in the Olympics?

**Paul George:** It means a lot. Coming from a small city and small town [Palmdale], probably being the only Olympian to compete for a gold from my city, it’s remarkable. I’ve always dreamed of this since I was a kid.

**FS Mag:** You overcame the leg injury a couple years back playing with the USA team. What was the toughest part of the rehab?

**PG:** The toughest part is it’s tedious work. You’re doing the same exercise, same workout, day after day, time after time, and you constantly have to find the motivation through it all to want to attack that rehab. You’re going to deal with pain, you’re going to deal with discomfort. That’s part of it and you understand that.

**FS Mag:** The Red Wave remembers you as one of the all-time greats at Fresno State — what one thing did you learn in college that has helped you the most in your NBA career?

**PG:** I think it’s just patience. My time at Fresno State, I had to just be patient. Being thrown out there as a freshman, I got the chance to play right away and learn, but I had to be patient. I had to learn how to get better and learn that work ethic. It’s a lot of stuff thrown at you in college, but I think the work ethic and patience is what stuck with me.

**FS Mag:** Describe what it’s like to know you’re not only representing your country in the Olympics, but you’re representing your family, the Pacers, your hometown Palmdale and your University. What’s it feel like to have so many people pulling for you?

**PG:** It’s great, man, to have people be able to live through this experience with me, whether it’s people I’ve come in contact with physically or they have that connection because of the cities I’m from, that I represent. It’s great to be the face of that and to represent for them.

**FS Mag:** In your two years at Fresno State, the team had some struggles on the court. But last year, Fresno State won the Mountain West and returned to the NCAA tourney. How did it feel for you to see your school in the Big Dance?

**PG:** It’s real good. I think what coach Rodney Terry is doing at Fresno State is unbelievable. And it’s only going to get better the more and more guys he gets in those jerseys. It makes me proud to be an alumnus, and especially now being one of the faces of Fresno State to the extent of where I’ve gotten to. I think kids now look at Fresno State as a real destination and it just makes me feel good. Go ‘Dogs!
Bulldogs Set Records for Academic All Stars

A record 155 Fresno State student-athletes were named to the 2015-16 Academic All-Mountain West team — the highest number since the Bulldogs joined the Mountain West in 2012-13.

Eligible selections must have completed at least one academic term at the member institution and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better, in addition to being a starter or significant contributor on their athletic team.

The swimming and diving team’s 22 selections were the most for any Bulldogs program. Football added 19 members, and six other teams landed double-digit honorees: women’s track and field (17), baseball (16), women’s soccer (13), softball (12), men’s track and field (11) and volleyball (10).

The Bulldogs also set a record with 82 Mountain West Scholar-Athletes — requiring a 3.5 cumulative GPA or better.

‘The Pete at The Bob’

Bob Bennett, the winningest coach in Fresno State baseball history, was honored May 7 as the University’s baseball facility was renamed Pete Beiden Field at Bob Bennett Stadium.


“This is a great honor, and I really appreciate this,” Bennett says. “It is also a great honor for my players. I wish their names could be on the stadium too. Fresno State baseball has been a big part of my life, as a player and a coach, and this University has done so much for me, my family and all my players.”

Bobby Jones, who was the 1991 NCAA Player of the Year before a 10-year career with the New York Mets and San Diego Padres, spoke to Bennett in front of the crowd about the lessons Bennett taught his players.

“You taught us to be community figures, to always remember where [we] came from, and that is something that has always stood with me for the rest of my life.”

BOBBY JONES

Bennett’s young grandson, Wyatt Prieto, threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Bulldogs beat San Diego State 1-0 in 10 innings. The Bulldogs went on to win the Mountain West championship.
NEW COACHES

H2O Polo Coming Soon

Natalie Benson

Fresno State hired former Olympian Natalie Benson on June 16 to lead its new women’s water polo program that will begin competition in spring 2018.

“From her collegiate career to her Olympic experience and now as a college coach, we know we have found the right person with the integrity, the drive and the coaching expertise to put Fresno State on the water polo map,” says Jim Bartko, Fresno State director of athletics.

Regarded as one of the best women’s water polo players of all time, Benson was inducted into the USA Water Polo Hall of Fame in 2015. She helped the USA Olympic team win medals in 2004 (bronze) and 2008 (silver), and she led UCLA to three national championships.

Benson compiled a 56-49 record at Marist over the past three seasons. A two-time MAAC coach of the year, her team won the conference championship in 2015.

The Bulldogs will compete in the nine-team Golden Coast Conference which includes such programs as San Diego State, Fresno Pacific and Santa Clara.

Bulldogs Pin Down Wrestling Coach

Troy Steiner

New coach Troy Steiner will lead Fresno State wrestling on the mat next fall for the first time since the program was cut in 2006. Steiner was an assistant at Oregon State for 10 years before being named Bulldogs coach.

“This is truly a special day nationally for the sport of wrestling and here for the fans in the Valley who deeply love this sport,” said Fresno State director of athletics Jim Bartko on May 10 when he made the announcement.

A four-time All-American at Iowa, Steiner was a member of three national championship teams and won the 1992 individual national championship at 142 pounds.

As a coach, Steiner helped guide Oregon State to top-10 team finishes in 2012 and 2013 and seven Pac 12 Championships, including five-straight from 2012 to 2016.

Wrestling at Fresno State dates to 1962. The program has won 11 team conference championships, had 14 top-25 finishes (including a No. 8 ranking in 1993), 99 individual conference champions, 33 All-Americans and three individuals who combined to win six national championships.

There’s no place like home (plate)

Linda Garza

After a high-profile national search, homegrown candidate Linda Garza was selected as Fresno State’s new softball coach. Garza attended Hoover High School and says she grew up watching the Bulldogs, dreaming to one day be a part of the program.

“I think [Bulldog softball] is so incredible to be able to be a part of,” Garza says. “The amount of Olympians, the amount of All-Americans, every coach that’s ever stepped foot in this arena has been successful and my job is to continue building on that legacy.

“There are 300 places [softball programs] in the country — and I only wanted to be here.”

In 2013, Garza took over an 11-year-old UC Riverside program that had never had a winning season. She led UC Riverside to 39 and 32 wins the past two years.

Garza was a star infielder at UNLV from 1998 to 2001, earning all-Mountain West honors.

She replaces Trisha Ford, who left Fresno State for Arizona State after leading the Bulldogs to a return trip to the NCAA tournament, a second straight Mountain West championship and a No. 18 national ranking.

WATER POLO TIMELINE

- Summer 2016: Recruitment begins
- November 2016: Early signing period
- August 2017: Student-athletes arrive
- Spring 2018: Competition begins

WRESTLING TIMELINE

- Summer 2016: Recruitment begins
- November 2016: Early signing period
- August 2017: Student-athletes arrive
- Winter 2017-18: Competition begins

— For all the latest news on Fresno State athletics, visit GoBulldogs.com.
It's Saturday morning and student Thomas Dailey is perched on the soon-to-be roof of the 190-square-foot tiny home he's helping to build. The sound of hammer on nail is echoing across the quiet Fresno State campus this sun-scorched August morning. Sweat slides down both Dailey's cheeks as the clock strikes noon. He puts the hammer back in his tool belt and climbs down the ladder — only to pack up and start again the next day.

It's hard work and an extra time commitment, but it's also a hands-on learning opportunity that provides Dailey valuable experience for when he enters the job market. By offering sustainable research and learning opportunities such as the Tiny House Project, Fresno State helps students gain an in-depth understanding of social, environmental and economic impacts surrounding human activity.

“We think we need six bedrooms, a den and a 12-car garage, but we really don't,” Dailey says. “It’s nice, but we don’t. Living in a small house saves energy, materials, waste and it also forces people to get out and interact with the community and spend time outdoors — which is very healthy.”

Students researched ways to design efficient heating and cooling systems and sought out eco-friendly lighting, insulation and ways to harvest rainwater for garden and toilet usage. They used building information modeling to create 3-D drawings (left) and run energy analyses. The exterior of the tiny house is made of corrugated metal and reclaimed redwood salvaged from a 200-year-old barn.

And while tiny house living might not be suitable for everyone, there are plenty of measures anyone can take to protect the environment and save money. “It’s imperative that every person be focused on sustainability and protecting our natural resources,” says Jake Ward, sustainability and special projects manager at Fresno State. “The University is making great efforts to create a sustainable campus. As of year-to-date, we have saved about 28 percent of normal water usage through our conservation efforts.”

Campus irrigation is now monitored and maintained with new software, low-flow sprinkler heads and drip irrigation systems. The campus has been upgraded with drought-tolerant plants, converted more than 850 exterior lighting fixtures to LED, upgraded its electrical infrastructure, installed electric vehicle charging stations and implemented zero emission vehicles for servicing the grounds.

“By reducing our demand on the power grid, effectively managing our available water supply and diverting campus waste from landfill,” Ward says, “we are leading the way for other universities and businesses in the region and training students in the way of the future.”

— Rebecca Wass is a communications specialist for the Lyles College of Engineering at Fresno State.
Students, faculty, media and community members gathered for a send-off celebration as the completed tiny house was prepared for its haul to a Sacramento competition.

Student Thomas Dailey and others spent long hours and weekends constructing the tiny house while gaining job-ready skills and exposure to sustainable practices.

**TIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING**

- Use a clothes rack or clothes line to dry your clothes
- Wash full loads
- Stop dishwasher in the drying cycle and let air dry
- Turn off water when brushing teeth and take short showers
- Avoid paper plates, plastic utensils and plastic water bottles
- Use reusable bags
- Install low-flow toilets
- Compost veggies, fruits and eggshells (coffee grounds for fertilizer)

**COMMON DAILY RECYCLABLES**

- Water bottles
- Paper coffee cups
- Cardboard
- Toilet paper rolls
- Shampoo bottles
- Aluminum foil
- Glass jars
- Plastic containers

**TAKE THE FOLLOWING TO THE APPROPRIATE RECYCLER**

- Electronics
- Paint
- Batteries
- Motor oil
- Medical waste
- Fluorescent bulbs
Fresno State Magazine sat down with Calliope Correia, a Fresno State instructional support technician with 15 years of experience in water-wise gardening, to learn some of her best tips. Planting a drought-tolerant landscape or garden doesn’t mean people only have to plant cactus.

**Calliope Correia**: Healthy soil grows healthy plants. New plants like a mix of native soil and organic matter like compost or a soil amendment. When planting, make sure you break up the hard pan below to encourage good drainage and healthier roots. Blending in organic matter at least once or twice a year, especially with vegetable gardens, grows strong plants that can resist insects and disease and rely less on synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Also, try to use low-rate, slow-release, naturally-sourced fertilizers. Having a mixture of plants that flower at different times is aesthetically pleasing and provides an environment for beneficial wildlife and insects that encourage pollination. Nature has a design to keep the “bad” bugs in check with good bugs, and a mix of different plants helps keep disease at bay.

**Fresno State Magazine**: How can we be sustainable in our home landscapes?

**Calliope Correia**: Before you plant, come up with an overall design that provides diversity in plant appearance, heights and flowering schedules but with similar water and light requirements. It’s similar to prepping a house for painting. A bulk of the work that you put in before actually starting the project makes it look beautiful in the end. Installing a good irrigation system is crucial for success.

**FS Mag**: What are other good water-wise landscaping principles?

**Calliope Correia**: It’s important to have a mulch like wood chips or gravel on top of exposed soil to prevent water evaporation. Use a drip irrigation system, especially in vegetable gardens, so you’re only watering the plant itself. Always aim for planting drought-tolerant species but know that it will take a year or so before they establish their root systems and can withstand periods of drought.

**FS Mag**: What are tips on conserving water while keeping plants healthy?

**FS Mag**: What types of plants do you suggest for landscaping?

**Calliope Correia**: When visiting nurseries, try to choose plants that have been grown locally. Independent local nurseries usually have staff who are happy to talk about the large variety of plants that will thrive with reduced water and are attractive like Salvia, Cistus, Vitex, Ceanothus, Lantana and certain grasses. You can get ideas from public demonstration gardens and neighbors’ landscapes, especially in different seasons. Take pictures of them with you to the nursery.

— Geoff Thurner is a communications specialist for the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State.
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Their diverse life stories touch nearly every corner of the globe, and all share one thing in common—an education at Fresno State. Whether restoring the gift of sight to people in developing countries, protecting the world’s rainforests, changing the lives of people with disabilities or improving the safety and well-being of agricultural workers, the 2016 Top Dog honorees embody what it means to be a Bulldog. Extraordinary professional success and a passionate commitment to give back are at the core of what it takes to be a Top Dog.

More than 1,000 people gathered Oct. 15 at the Save Mart Center to celebrate 14 of Fresno State’s most accomplished alumni at the Fresno State Alumni Association’s Top Dog Awards Gala, an inspirational night filled with bold stories of achievement and service.

Lawyer, international businessman and philanthropist James E. Brumm (1965) took home the Distinguished Alumnus award, the highest alumni honor of the night. “I didn’t know if I could cut it in college,” Brumm shared with students during Top Dog Talks, a TED-inspired event held two days before the gala. But he went on to excel academically, gaining confidence that propelled him to Columbia University in New York, where he earned his law degree.

A deep curiosity about the world inspired Brumm to achieve at a global level. In 1977 he joined Mitsubishi International Corporation, the U.S. subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation. He served as executive vice president and general counsel in the U.S. through 2012. In 1995 he became the first westerner to serve on Mitsubishi Corporation’s board in Japan, a position he held until 2002.

“One thing that always has given me pleasure is helping people and being of some value to somebody,” he says. “It just seems part of what the meaning of life is.”
Brumm’s commitment to human rights and environmental issues has taken him across the globe, working to protect the culture of indigenous peoples and natural habitats.

Each year one alumnus from each of the University’s eight academic schools and colleges, as well as the Department of Athletics, the Henry Madden Library, the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Graduate Studies, is chosen to be honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award.

Valerie A. Vuicich (1979) was honored with the Arthur Safstrom Service Award, a special distinction to recognize service to the University and community. An administrator of the Career Technical Education/Fresno Regional Occupation Program for the Fresno County Office of Education, Vuicich has held a lifelong devotion to giving back. “The way you choose to serve will define the kind of community you want to live in,” Vuicich says.

Based on her decades of tireless work on behalf of Fresno State and the California State University, it is evident that Vuicich believes the University and community together are improving the quality of life in the Central Valley.

“Our honorees are at the top in ways that matter: in character, in their families, in service to others, in their efforts to drive innovation and promote inclusiveness to solve our toughest problems on every front,” says Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro. “Every year I am amazed by what our alumni have accomplished and inspired by the impact they make on the world.”

— Kathleen R. Schock is director of strategic communications at Fresno State.
Thank you to our generous 2016 Top Dog sponsors

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Thank you to those who have donated to the scholarship endowment!

The Fresno State Alumni Association honored the 2016-17 student scholarship recipients at the Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala. This year, the Alumni Association awarded more than $146,000 in scholarships, a leading figure amongst the 23 alumni associations in the California State University system.
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A Bulldog Courtship

Richard Marshall, a former Bulldogs football player and nine-year NFL veteran, and wife Jasmine (Plummer) Marshall, a former Bulldogs basketball standout, built the perfect spot to compete in the backyard of their new Riverside home. It’s also a fun place to play with their three young sons — Xavier, Isayah and Richard Jr. — who will get plenty of exposure to the shiny new Bulldogs logo on the court.

“If it wasn’t for Fresno State, I wouldn’t have met my wonderful wife. Being a Bulldog means the world to me. I grew as a person and a man there. Bulldog born, Bulldog bred — that’s going to be a part of my family forever.”

RICHARD MARSHALL

Do you have that Bulldog spirit?

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1960s


Daniel Meredith Geeting (1966), a music professor for 32 years, was awarded the President’s Award for Teaching Excellence by Cal Lutheran University President Cal Kimball.

1970s

Shirley Melikian Armbruster (1973), associate vice president for University Communications at Fresno State, was named Public Relations Society of America (Central California) Professional of the Year.

Kathleen Bayless (1978) was appointed to the board of directors and the audit committee at Veco Instruments Inc. in Plainview, New York.

Barry J. Bedwell (1974) is now leading the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation.

Carol Bennetts (1975) retired from Hanford Joint Union High School District after 40 years in education.

Joanne Cable (1977) retired after 36 years of teaching, most recently at Western Sierra Charter Schools.

Bruce A. Hamlin (1976) is one of five founding members of the recently established Tehachapi Police Foundation.

Judith Lund-Bell (1972), a local family law attorney, served as a Hillary Clinton delegate for the 2nd Congressional District at the Democratic National Convention.

Harold Osborne (1972), a California winemaker, is now running La Fuente Winery in Todos Santos, Baja California. The winery has eight grape varieties and produces about 4,000 cases per year.


David St. John (1972), professor and English Department chair at the University of Southern California, is now a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1980s


Martin Brady (1987) was reappointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Health, Safety and Worker’s Compensation. He has served since 2012.

Michael Der Manouel Jr. (1985) was awarded the Order of Merit, the highest alumni honor given by the board of directors of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity.


Phillip Leonard Ehorn (1988) has been a horologist, bringing broken clocks and watches back to life, for over 20 years at Once Upon a Tyme in Cambria.

Bryon Horn (1988) is now chief information officer for the City of Fresno.

Jennifer Kasparian-Hoekstra (1985), a registered nurse, owns The Bar Method, a spa-like exercise studio known for its low-impact, total-body workout. She oversees locations in Fresno and Clovis.

Christopher Morse (1988) was elected to the board of governors of the California State University, Fresno Foundation. He is the partner in charge of the Fresno office of the accounting firm Moss Adams.


Randy Reed (1986) is now director of production for ValleyPBS.

Russell Jack Richardson (1984) is now athletic director at University of Montana-Western, where he previously served as head athletic trainer.

Sandra Witte (1980) was appointed dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State.

1990s

Kara Backman (1997) is now Denair High School principal.

Mark Beringer (1991), chief winemaker at Beringer Vineyards, was featured in the Huffington Post Taste section as his family celebrates 140 years in America, after emigrating from Germany.

Marcelle Marie Burke (1994) is owner and CEO for S.E.A.T.S (Safety Education and Training Services), a nonprofit organization that educates, trains and encourages caregivers on the use of car seats and safety in and around motor vehicles.

Do you have news to share?

Submit an alumni class note and high-resolution photo to:
magazine@listserv.csufresno.edu
1990s

CONTINUED

Maj. Jeffrey Michael Burnett (1999) was promoted to lieutenant colonel and will transfer from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo to Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Brendan Feder (1991) joined Bank of the Sierra as senior agricultural loan officer.

Humberto Garcia (1992) is now vice president and chief financial officer at Enphase Energy, Inc., a global energy technology company in Petaluma.

Rebecca Angelina (Charest) Garcia (1999, 2001) is now a civilian public information officer in Okinawa, Japan, for the U.S. Marine Corps.

Marwan bin Ghalaite (1994) was elected as the United Arab Emirates Football Association president. He previously served as chairman of Al Nasr Football Club’s board of directors.

Carole S. Goldsmith (1991, ’98, 2005) is now president of Fresno City College. She was previously president at West Hills College.

Austin Hastings (1997) earned the Distribution Achievement Award at the American Gas Association annual operations conference. The award is for individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the distribution of natural gas within the past five years.

Anastasia Hendrix (1991) is now deputy editor for features at the Review Journal in Las Vegas.

Christopher B. Lake (1996) is now manager of Albacela Winery’s Fault Line Vineyards. He previously oversaw the Southern Oregon Wine Institute for eight years at Umpqua Community College.

Kerri Marie Lopez (1994) is now assistant district attorney for Tulare County. She started as a certified clerk at the district attorney’s office and then became a prosecutor.


Kim Maher (1996), a 1996 Olympic gold medalist, is now head softball coach at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Samuel “Alex” Michon (1992) is now executive vice president at the Lockton insurance brokerage in Sacramento. He will lead client services and business development.

Michelle Minetti-Smith (1996), first-grade teacher, was named Teacher of the Year for Guadalupe Union School District in Santa Barbara County.

Rosemary Ndoh (1993) was appointed as warden at Avenal State Prison by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Soma Norodom (1993) authored the autobiography “Royal Rebel.” She is a newspaper columnist, philanthropist and princess of the Cambodian Royal House of Norodom.

Liliana Guadalupe Perez (1997) is working with Claremont University to help provide graduate degree opportunities for undocumented students.

Jane Olvera Quebe (1990, ’92), president of JP Marketing, earned the AAF Silver Medal Award from the Fresno Advertising Federation.

Joe Rosato Jr. (1994) won a Northern California Emmy Award for television news writing. He is a video and news journalist at NBC Bay Area in San Francisco.

Harvey Fred Walker (1990, ’92), dean of the Rochester Institute of Technology’s College of Applied Science and Technology, was named Pennsylvania’s Edinboro University’s 18th president.

Chad Brian Wegley (1997) is now assistant general manager at Alta Irrigation District.

2000s

Damien Capalare (2003) is now principal at Pat Butler Elementary School in Paso Robles. He previously taught fourth grade, was a guidance instructional adviser and served as assistant vice principal at Flamson Middle School.


Tyler Cluts (2007), a five-year NFL veteran most recently with the Dallas Cowboys, now hosts “Inside the Huddle,” a weekly Cowboys television show in Texas. His wife, Tiffany, hosts “Inside the Huddle the Wives Edition.”

Maria Sofia Corona (2005) is an immigration attorney in Los Angeles representing children in removal proceedings. Her family was featured in The Fresno Bee for having all five sisters become doctors and lawyers after a childhood of farm labor.

Tish (Ganne) Davis (2000) and Eddie Davis (2000) founded Auspice In Home Care and Transportation to help seniors remain safe at home and educate the community on available resources.


Kimberly De Jong (2011), family nurse practitioner, joined Visalia Medical Clinic.

Carrie Pestorich De Young (2005), is now director of operations at Facility Designs.

Dustin Dodd (2001), former Clovis police officer and K9 handler, authored “Savage Justice,” a fiction book inspired by true events. The book was chosen to be featured in the International Thriller Writers Association publication.

Janie Corona (2009) and Raymond Robison, along with their daughter Pemberly, welcomed their twin girls, Emmeline and Catalina, on Aug. 1.


Liliana Garcia (2006) and Steven LuAllen married on May 7 in Fresno.

Sadie Hemsath (2012) and Josh Hemsath welcomed baby boy J.D. Hemsath on July 2.
Chris Estep (2008) is now social media manager at JP Marketing.

Dan Flores (2007) is now controller for the Betts Co., a leader in spring manufacturing and heavy-duty transportation products.

Taryn T. Francis (2006) and husband Yuriy Yermilov were featured on the TLC show “My First Home!” that aired in May.

Thomas Gaffery (2004, ’09) is now director of parking and transportation at Cal State San Bernardino.

Jason Glick (2001) is the new community services director for the City of Lemoore.

Tim Goetz (2003) is co-founder and CEO of Aplos Software, an online accounting and donor management program for nonprofits.

David Hickok, founder of The Little Shop of Boars, has been hosting pop-up dinners, which are multi-course dinners held in man-made tunnels, rooftops or historic vacant hotels, which is a new trend in Fresno.

Briana Jessen (2004) is now media buyer for JP Marketing.


John C. Kane (2002) is now director of winemaking and winery operations for Fetzer Vineyard in Mendocino County.


Kaci Lutz (2003) is now a California Highway Patrol officer in Oakhurst.

Yohanes Makmur (2003) and Radinal Latuconsina (2003) have established Molucca Craft Chocolate, a bean-to-bar enterprise. The business partners, both born in Indonesia, were highlighted in Central Valley Magazine.

Logan Mankins, a seven-time NFL Pro Bowl offensive lineman with the New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, retired after 11 seasons.

Art Mota (2006) is now head men’s and women’s soccer coach at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton, Oregon. He is also student success coach for the college’s satellite campus in Hermiston, Oregon.

Preston L. Osbourn II (2006) is now president of the San Joaquin Chapter, California Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Gerardo and Fabio Serrato (2006), identical twins, are now sergeants for the California Highway Patrol in Modesto. They graduated college together, joined the academy on the same date and were promoted the same day.

Greg Willems is owner and president of berry grower-shopper G&M Farms. He began to handle his own sales in December and now has a new brand, Farm to Table Berries.

2010s

Lauren Billys (2013) represented Puerto Rico at the 2016 Rio Olympics and placed 35th in the individual equestrian competition.

Anna Gonzalez (2012), public relations and content director at JP Marketing, earned a Public Relations Society of America (Central California) Award of Excellence.

Oliver Greenbarg (2016) is now graphic designer at JP Marketing.


Alene Istanboulian (2012), of JP Marketing, was named Public Relations Society of America (Central California) Rookie of the Year.

Eric Martinez (2012) is principal at Paso Robles High School.

Nicole Maul (2012), social media manager at JP Marketing, earned a Public Relations Society of America (Central California) Award of Excellence.

Johnny Mendez (2012) is now a member services consultant for the Los Angeles Rams. He oversees season ticket holder accounts.

Marvin Mijangos (2014) is now a Monterey California Highway Patrol officer.

Crystal Morales (2012), a former education reporter, is now ELA/ELD seventh-grade teacher at Altimira Middle School in Sonoma.

Melaina Moustakis (2012) is now head distiller for Glass Distillery, an artisan vodka distillery in Seattle. He will lead new product development and oversee production of all Glass vodkas.

Tyler Newberry (2015) is now a California Highway Patrol officer in the Oakland area.

Pedro Ramirez (2012) is now director of organizing for the Community Water Center, based in Visalia. The former student body president has been an advocate for immigrant rights and voting in underrepresented communities.

Susan Renfro (2011) is now development officer for the Fresno County Public Library.

Andrew Rich (2015) is now assistant softball coach at Sonoma State. He was previously a student assistant at Fresno State.

Jared Silva (2015) is now an officer at the Modesto Police Department.

Katie Stevens (2011), who leads state and local government relations for eBay’s western region, was a panelist at the International Women’s Day Celebration — Exporting Idea Abroad in Salt Lake City.

Mia Villareal (2015), media buyer/account assistant at JP Marketing, was named Rising Star by the Fresno Advertising Federation.


Kasandra Martinson (2011, ‘13) and Adam Brooks will be married on May 27, 2017.


Lisa Fazio-Satterberg (2004) and Domenick Satterberg welcomed their second baby girl, Madelyn Rose, on July 2.

Phillip Thomas (2013) and Alison Mattox (2013) welcomed their first baby boy, Aeroh, on June 4.
IN MEMORIAM

‘For thee, our hopes and memories’

Sondra Lee Applegate, March 15 in Visalia.
Betty M. Bainter (1969), June 24 in Fresno.
Henry Barigian (1955), Aug. 5 in Florence, Oregon.
Peggy Jean Barker (1981), May 2 in Tulare.
Wayne C. Bergman (1960), Feb. 21 in Fresno.
Carl Bocchini (1964), June 9 in Santa Cruz.
Arnold Brunetti (1957), July 20 in Watsonville.
Dori Beth Bustamante (1990), April 14 in Clovis.
David Charles Cosyns (1971), March 5 in Bakersfield.
Ruth Hudson Crabtree (1964), April 30 in Fresno.
Barry K. Crow (1965), May 8 in Madera.
William Darby (1949), Aug. 2 in Fresno.
Anne Louise (Geoghegan) Davenport (1947), June 16 in Pomon;.
Robert J. Elliott (1962), March 2.
Pamela Elmlund (1993), April 7 in Visalia.
Donald Eugene Emanuel (1972), April 16 in San Francisco.
Ruth Jean Fisher (1947), Aug. 12 in Fresno.
Karl Franklin Guhm (1974), April 19 in Fresno.
Robert Eugene Homen (1950), April 17 in Fresno.
Floyd H. Hyde, July 26 in Silver Springs, Maryland.
Sam Iacobellis (1952, Honorary Doctorate ’06) Sept. 3.
Tekla Maines Jackson (1976), March 19 in Visalia.
Gary Jorgensen (1976), July 10 in Fresno.
Ricardo Lechuga-Rodriguez (1973), May 30 in Fresno.
Richard Patrick Low (1976), Feb. 3 in Lodi.
Lucie K. Mangini (1966), March 10 in Fresno.
Edward Marouk (1951), July 9 in Folsom.
Lorrie Marie Dismuke Mays (1994), March 7.
Dick McLeod (1961), March 24 in Coarsegold.
Bruce S. Meyers, April 30 in Monterey.
Ronald Gee Montgomery (1966, ’73), March 18 in Apts.
George Netto (1960), May 20 in Fresno.
Carolyn Nishi (1972, ’74), June 3 in Clovis.
Don T. Norby (1961), May 12 in Kingsburg.
General Owens Jr. (1968), April 10 in Fresno.
Jack M. Putnam (1943), April 7 in Visalia.
Harry B. Rauch (1951), July 27.
Bryan Robinson, June 11 in Milwaukee.
George N. Scharding (1950), Feb. 16.
Robert “Bob” Schlotthauer (1949), Feb. 27 in Fresno.
Evelyn Joyce Schmid (1952), May 7 in Stockton.
DorisCarolyn Schwindt (1983), May 23 in Clovis.
JoAnn Skadden (1988), June 8 in Fresno.
William G. Smith (1974), March 16 in Fresno.
Glen Roy Stevens (1954), Feb. 21 in Fresno.
Jeffrey Takeda (1971), June 3 in Fresno.
Kenneth “Ken” Tigson, July 17 in Fresno.
Charles LaVaughn Vanderford (1961), Aug. 6 in Crescent City.
Susan Vigil (1972), June 20 in Fresno.
Donald A. Week (1978), April 4 in Santa Maria.
Melvyn Wingett (1954), July 31 in Stockton.

CURRENT/FORMER FACULTY/STAFF

Robert Burks. May 28 in Fresno.
Priscilla Osgood Collings. March 11 in Fresno.
Yolanda DeLeon. April 8 in Fresno.
Trevor Glenn. March 10.
Paula Sarco Guzman. July 20 in Fresno.
Robert Merrill. May 1 in Fresno.
Charlene Yvonne Wallert. May 23.
Daniel Ybanez. June 4 in Fresno.

FRIEND

Kevin Patrick McNeil. July 14 in Fresno.

SAM IACOBELLIS

‘FATHER OF B1-B BOMBER’

Dr. Sam Iacobellis, a Fresno State alumnus who led the team that developed the B1-B bomber, died Sept. 3. He was 87.

The former Bulldogs football student-athlete earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Fresno State in 1952 and a master’s in engineering at UCLA in 1963. In 1982 he was named Top Dog Outstanding Alumnus, the highest honor awarded by the Fresno State Alumni Association.

“Sam Iacobellis was a proud alumnus of Fresno State who personified what it means to be a Bulldog for life,” said University President Joseph I. Castro. “He had a big heart for students – especially those like him who come from humble backgrounds – and he repeatedly returned to Fresno State to offer his time and expertise to help engineering students succeed. His long and very successful engineering career is inspirational to all of us.”

While a Bulldog, he signed on with North American Aviation when it was on the Fresno State campus recruiting employees. He reported to work in Los Angeles the day after graduation to the company that was later bought by Rockwell International Corp., and eventually The Boeing Company. Dr. Iacobellis retired as deputy chair of Rockwell after a 43-year career.

For his lifelong support of Fresno State, he was conferred an honorary Doctor of Science Degree in 2006. In 2007, Dr. Iacobellis stood on the Bulldog Stadium field during a B1-B flyover at a Fresno State game. The Lyles College of Engineering’s top student each year is honored with the Dr. Sam Iacobellis Award.

Dr. Iacobellis is survived by his wife, Helene; his son, Sam Iacobellis Jr.; daughter, Lee Ann Schantz; and sister, Anna Saladino.
Frank Abude and a group of other Fresno State students marched across campus to celebrate Cross Cultural Celebration Week in September. Participants in the parade dressed in cultural attire and carried flags from the Joyal Administration Building to the Free Speech Area. The celebration helped showcase opportunities provided at the University.
DRIVEN
TO IMPACT OUR VALLEY

Paul Watson
Senior - Guard/Forward
Major: Africana Studies

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