Education’s Dynamic Vision
Creating solutions for 21st century classrooms
Fresno State: Education’s Dynamic Vision

Teaching

From time-tested and cutting-edge classroom strategies to helping educators face today’s politically charged educational climate, Fresno State’s teacher training mission has adapted over nearly a century to meet changing regional needs.

Leading

The Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute helps repair and strengthen leadership in area schools.

Preparing

At a Fresno elementary school, student-teacher Cristina Hernandez is honing skills she’ll soon use in a classroom of her own.

Challenging

Education Dean Dr. Paul Beare says government mandated student testing and teaching standards discourage some potential teachers, adding to the university’s challenges in preparing educators.

Innovating

The Huggins Early Education Center provides students, teachers and other professionals with the model of best practices in early children education.

Staying in touch

We’d like to hear your comments about Fresno State Magazine. Please e-mail them to magazine@csufresno.edu.

If you receive more than one copy of Fresno State Magazine, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State!

If you would like to support Fresno State, visit www.csufresno.edu/giving to make a contribution.

Expanding for the future

The Madden Library’s makeover will add space and update technology to better serve students and off-campus scholars.

Gifts for a lifetime

The generosity of past and future donors to Fresno State is recognized in new ways.

The Magazine of California State University, Fresno

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**Campus Notes**

By Doria K. Lazo

**Karabian, Coelho Donate Political Papers**

The Central Valley Political Archive at Fresno State is filling shelves with more donations from two long-time politicians.

Former California Assembymember Walter Karabian, a Fresno native, donated his papers to the archive, which is part of the Henry Madden Library. The collection includes correspondence, press files, photographs, campaign material, articles, speeches, memorabilia and other records documenting Karabian’s legislative and civic activities.

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His papers join those of Coelho’s mentor, Rep. B.F. “Bernie” Sisk. His papers include student-athlete, advising and tutoring to graduation.

**Researcher Wins Award**

Dr. Kathleen Curtis, director of research and external affairs for the College of Health and Human Services, is the 2005 recipient of the prestigious President’s Award of Excellence.

The University Advisory Board selected Curtis for the honor, which includes a $10,000 award. The board cited her work on a quartet of influential research projects whose results were released recently by the Central California Children’s Institute (www.csufresno.edu/coehls/C), which Curtis directs.

The research focused on key children’s health issues in the region: asthma, obesity, teen pregnancy and poverty. The Central California Children’s Institute is dedicated to improving the well-being and quality of life for all children and their families in the Central California region.

Curtis joined the faculty in 1995 and previously chaired the Department of Physical Therapy.

**Fresno State Jumps to Top**

Fresno State’s Jumpstart program has a jump on the rest of the nation’s programs, ranked No. 1 of 57 programs.

Jumpstart matches college students with preschoolers from low-income backgrounds to help the youngsters one-on-one for a year with language, literacy and social skills.

Fifty-five Fresno State students participating in the Jumpstart program work with more than 250 preschoolers at sites that include Head Start, the Huggins Early Education Center and Campus Children’s Center at Fresno State.

Fresno’s program, coordinated by Amy Cukusho, is special because of its management, curriculum development, quality of work, classroom routine and relationship building.

A grant from AmeriCorps funds Jumpstart. Fresno State students receive $1,000 education awards through the point and federal work-study allowance for the time they spend as tutors.

For more information: www.csufresno.edu/jumpstart/.

**Veritas Forum Ponders Belief Questions**

Does God exist? What do you believe and why? Are all religions just different ways to the same truth?

These are a few of the burning questions discussed at the Veritas Forum on campus in February by scholars and spokespersons from the diverse world of spiritual thought. A multi-faith panel included Buddhists, Christians, Muslims, Jews and humanists.

Fresno State joins more than 50 universities across the United States that have engaged in such forums.

The Veritas Forum was founded in 1992 by a group of grad students at Harvard University who wanted to bring their hardest questions about truth and life to the campus community. Today, the Veritas Forum is a national organization.

For more information: www.fresnoveritas.com.

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Fresno State is leading the way in teacher education

By Jacalyn Thornton

Fresno State’s founding commitment to preparing teachers to educate future generations has not changed. It has broadened to meet the challenges unforeseen in 1911 of a diverse, growing region and a constantly changing educational and political environment.

Today’s university has nearly 94 years of experience training teachers and now trains educators for the state’s fourth-largest school district and hundreds of other schools throughout Central California. The Kremen School of Education and Human Development also has become a conduit of creative energy connecting the university with the region’s thousands of educators.

The Kremen School offers more than 70 partnerships with the community, while providing undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programs and continuing education for educators who work with children from early childhood education through high school.

The university’s role is especially important in a politically charged educational climate that mandates standardized testing to measure student performance and demands teacher accountability for the progress of students. One result has been a decline in people interested in teaching as a career at a time when enrollment in the region has been increasing.

Dr. Pete Mehas, Fresno County schools superintendent, praises the Kremen School’s program and achievements.

“Today’s teachers must ‘have it all.’ High-stakes testing and rigorous state and federal standards require curricular knowledge, skills, technology and passion. The Kremen School has established outstanding programs that address the multitude of challenges facing both new and veteran teachers,” Mehas says.

Mehas says he is particularly pleased that the Kremen School has also “expanded its boundaries” beyond the classroom through a variety of programs that cultivate Central Valley leadership for aspiring administrators and provide a source of enrichment and improvement for educators.

In addition to the traditional effort to train teachers, Fresno State has on-site facilities to train early childhood education specialists and on-campus opportunities for high school students to take university classes. The school offers reading-intervention programs and projects to energize school leaders and invigorate schools. It also provides research and evaluation for school districts and assistance to enhance the teaching of mathematics, science and writing.

The Kremen School also is creating a Center for Literacy Practices to take a leading role in reading and literacy practices throughout this culturally diverse region where more than 100 different languages are spoken.
Dr. Judith Neal, chairperson of the Literacy and Early Education Department in the Kremen School, says the new center will define literacy for the Central Valley, work aggressively to revolutionize the issue of literacy and help educators develop expertise in teaching reading and writing.

The Center will build on successes in the 12-year-old Reading Recovery program, which Neal describes as “a collaborative relationship with the public schools.” The program has trained nearly 2,000 teachers and helped more than 25,000 children who struggle with reading.

The university infuses energy into the community through the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute’s workshops, research and coaching for the region’s superintendents, principals and other school leaders. They, in turn, pass along strategies for teachers to improve schools and eliminate achievement disparity between different groups of students. The result is a better-educated work force to serve the needs of the regional economy.

Institute director Dr. Walt Buster, a former Clovis schools superintendent, saw an example of the need during a visit to a Fresno school last year.

“The building was poorly maintained, the children live in abject poverty and the neighborhood is unsafe,” he explains. “I was welcomed with open arms. The children spoke Hmong, abject poverty and the neighborhood is unsafe,” he explains. Fresno school last year.

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The program placed 30 teacher candidates in regional school districts to work alongside professionals and attend university classes on-site. This fall, 90 teacher candidates will work at partner schools in the region.

“Those visits and others reinforced my commitment to making the university a resource that will support this principal and this district,” says Buster. “Valley schools need the support of the university to learn from other successful schools how to best help their children.”

Another project designed to support schools by helping them improve student achievement is the Central Valley Partnership for Exemplary Teachers. The program placed 30 teacher candidates in regional school districts to work alongside professionals and attend university classes on-site. This fall, 90 teacher candidates will work at partner schools in the region.

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Another project designed to support schools by helping them improve student achievement is the Central Valley Partnership for Exemplary Teachers. The program placed 30 teacher candidates in regional school districts to work alongside professionals and attend university classes on-site. This fall, 90 teacher candidates will work at partner schools in the region. Partnership director Dr. Robin Chiño says the benefits are threefold: student teachers learn in a school environment with working professionals; on-site staff participate in ongoing professional development; and university professors can do research in teacher preparation and actual classroom practices at all grade levels.

Chiño says the program’s primary goal is to improve student achievement, but it also helps regional schools by recruiting and retaining quality teachers.

There has been an increasing call for teaching core values to students and for teachers to live up to high ethical standards. The Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship at Fresno State has been answering those calls in the region for more than 20 years. The Bonner Center holds a yearly conference on character and civic education to offer future educators tools for teaching children character development and thinking skills to make their own ethical decisions. The center sponsors an award program recognizing regional schools that intentionally promote moral thinking and behavior and it conducts grant-funded research projects to study the correlation between student behavior, school environment and achievement.

Madera Schools Superintendent Julie O’Kane and 60 of her administrators attended the Best Practices Institute and immediately formed their own districtwide leadership team.

“We also followed-up on a number of strategies — using data to develop intervention for students, being more collaborative, and improving communication throughout the system,” O’Kane explains. “We definitely will continue to participate in institute programs. It was so worthwhile.”

The Institute seeks more connections with the wider community, such as its service to Fresno schools.

“It was a great opportunity to work as a leader in the district that is the largest client of the Kremen School of Education,” says Buster. “My role as director of the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute enabled me to connect the university’s research to my superintendent’s role in Fresno Unified.”

It doesn’t stop there. The institute’s role in the future of Valley schools uniquely connects Fresno State with the region’s social and economic future.

— Jacalyn Thornton

Dr. Karen T. Carey, chair of the Department of Psychology and former director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, serves as an advisor to many students in the joint doctoral program. She is among specially selected faculty members who provide students with a wealth of expertise in leadership, including educational administration, education, anthropology, sociology, business, psychology, linguistics and economics.

Education professor Dr. Pan Lane-Ganes, rear, developed the Mediator Mentors program to train young peer mediators to become skillful problem-solvers on their campuses. Fresno State teacher credential student Monica Thara-Mota, near right, works with students at Yokepoo Middle School in Fresno. They wanted to know how to teach more effectively, and they wanted the superintendent and the district to provide clear goals and support.

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Dr. Pamela Lane-Garon, an assistant education professor and associate director of the Bonner Center, also heads The Ethics Project—a pilot program to infuse character education into teacher preparation curriculum and establish the first formal class in character education.

Dr. Jacques Benninga, the Bonner Center director, says the program also helps ensure teachers live up to ethical standards.

Benninga says the center lives up to Aristotle’s admonition: “We become just by the practice of just actions, self-controlled by exercising self-control and courageous by performing acts of courage.”

“His message was moral virtue can be taught and learned, and that’s the message we’re teaching at Fresno State,” says Benninga, a professor of education.

The importance of our youngest students is addressed through the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center, the D. Paul Fansler Institute for Leadership in Early Childhood Education and the Marlene M. Fansler Infant and Toddler Program.

“They’re no doubt universal preschool is coming,” explains Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center and coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program. “The center’s role is to provide direction and leadership. Research shows preschool programs must be quality programs to provide long-term benefits. Poor quality programs can actually harm children. So it’s essential we improve programs for young children and provide quality training for teachers.”

Another program improving the quality of Valley schools is the Joint Doctoral Program, which produces three studies in three years on successful methods to improve schools and student achievement. The consortium now is studying effective teaching practices in high schools.

“This program was specifically designed to attract educators from the Central Valley who will stay in the Central Valley,” explains program co-director Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, an associate professor of education.

In 2001, Joint Doctoral Program graduates formed the Central Valley Education Research Consortium. This consortium established the first formal class in character education into teacher preparation curriculum and associate director Dr. Jacques Benninga.

Since 1991, Fresno State has awarded 88 doctorates in the Ethics Project— a pilot program to infuse character education into teacher preparation curriculum and establish the first formal class in character education.

Brown-Welty said many Joint Doctoral Program graduates also provide leadership in community colleges by serving as presidents and top administrators.

Leadership in education is why the University recently was selected to house the Renaissance Group, a prestigious national consortium of 36 colleges and universities with a major commitment to the preparation of educators. Nationwide, one in 10 teachers is trained at a Renaissance Group campus.

“The foundation of this university is teaching,” Kremen School associate dean Colleen M. Torgerson said.

The University’s role in preparing educators will assume increased significance with a statewide teacher shortage looming. The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning projects an additional 50,000 teachers will be needed in California by 2012. The Kremen School supplies 75 percent of the region’s teachers, each year graduating 750 new educators and awarding nearly 200 master’s degrees and advanced specialist credentials.

As Kremen Dean Beare explains, “Education is the foundation of a healthy, successful and viable society. It is the key to opportunity.”

Jacalyn Thornton is a freelance writer in Fresno.
Along with her parents, two sisters and four brothers, she recalls sharing a two-bedroom trailer with relatives, 14 of them altogether, sleeping on the floor. They moved from Kerman to San Joaquin, where she spent summers working in the fields chopping weeds and later in packing sheds.

After high school in Tranquility, Hernandez enrolled in Fresno State, where the learning curve soared. “There were so many new things to learn, particularly science,” she says. “It’s where I got my real education.”

For her pupils now, real education begins in groups of five seated in a semicircle, on the edge of their chairs, eyes fixed on her, ready to raise hands at the first question. “They’re very competitive,” Hernandez says. “They correct each other all the time.”

When Sara reads a question from a book but pronounces it as an exclamation, the others immediately and gleefully catch her. “Muy bien,” says the teacher, laughing with them, and with Sara. Abigail gets a “muy bien” for knowing that a cow shown in the book is dancing to music because of the music notes above the radio.

The children are challenged to predict how a story will end, to make up questions, to reason and summarize, as they did to their regret with “The Little Mermaid.” “They predicted she would marry the prince. Instead, she turned into foam. “They didn’t like that book,” Hernandez says.

So much so that Cristina Hernandez, thanks to Fresno State and the help of California Mini-Corps, the state’s migrant education program, eagerly anticipates her teaching credential so she can continue her career. She may even consider going for a master’s degree.

Until then, and between college classes, Hernandez will be on duty in Arsenia Zarate’s Room 6 at Greenberg Elementary, where three times a week she helps keep everything humming along very smoothly.
Adapting to education’s many changes

Test scores, teacher accountability, political posturing, Educators face a variety of challenges each day as they step into their classrooms and administrative offices. Dr. Paul Bear, dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development, often answers questions from many people’s minds about how Fresno State is meeting challenges of today’s educational environment.

Q. Have we heard in just a few years there will be a severe shortage of teachers in California. How did this happen? How is the Kremen School working to boost the number of teachers?
A. Large numbers of teachers are approaching retirement at the same time California has enormous growth due in school-age population, thus the supply of graduates won’t keep up with vacancies. This shortage is exacerbated by the current climate of politically motivated attacks on teachers and schools. These attacks reduce the number of students seeking teaching as a profession.

Along with the usual literature, brochures and our Advising and Recruitment Center, the Kremen School has numerous programs that promote teaching as a career. Teachers of Tomorrow Club offer scholarships, conferences such as the African-American Future Teachers and Southeast Asian conferences, and a summer Leadership Camp. We also have the Teaching Fellows scholarship programs, Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program and Bilingual Career Ladder in Special Education, all of which exceed 75 percent in minority representation. We have the Mini-Corps Program to support migrant students in becoming teachers.

Q. Students who want to become teachers have to pass several “high-stakes” tests to be credentialed. Do these exams ensure that candidates are qualified to teach?
A. There is no research to support the validity of teacher exams used in California and other states, nor do such exams predict who will be effective in raising achievement or able to manage a classroom. If anything, most of these tests make teachers memorize facts that may be used only rarely in the classroom. The tests don’t measure depth of knowledge or show understanding of a topic. Their difficulty is not based on any absolute standard of what a teacher should know to succeed and the tests discourage a diverse field of candidates.

California’s governor has proposed that a merit-pay system replace tenure for teachers. Will that improve student achievement in the state?
A. All research on merit pay for teachers shows it fails to positively affect student achievement. While there are many kinds of motivation, job satisfaction largely is associated with intrinsic reinforcement such as self-actualization, accomplishment and helping others. A proposal for merit pay implies that teachers aren’t trying their hardest and need some additional incentive to put forth maximum effort. To suggest teachers need this is an insult to our profession.

We know from data-based research that differences among schools on their students’ achievement are aligned closely with the degree of poverty present. Merit pay for achievement rewards teachers for teaching in wealthy districts. One way that teaching compensates for the relatively low salaries compared to many professions is with job security. Removing tenure means districts could replace strong, experienced teachers with new, younger and cheaper teachers or replace strong content teachers to get a good coach. Tenure protects quality instruction.

Q. How is the Kremen School involved in school improvement and reform?
A. The Kremen School has over three dozen partnerships that contribute to school improvement and student achievement. Our newest is the Central Valley Partnership for Elementary Teachers. It will place cohorts of teacher candidates into area schools for both coursework and field experience and increase university faculty into these schools to provide professional development for teachers of all grade levels.

The Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute works with superintendents and principals to raise school achievement and student learning. We are the Reading Recovery training center for a seven-state area. The California Reading and Literature Project, Central Valley Science Project, San Joaquin Valley Mathematics Project, Turning Points Academy, Fresno Family Literacy and Learning Center, San Joaquin Writing Project, and the Bonner Center for Character Education, to name a few, are operated through our school.

Q. It’s often reported that children in the United States fall behind those in other countries in educational achievement. Is that true? Do educators think the No Child Left Behind initiative is helping our children succeed and how can we help when a need arises. What can we do to transform the education of the region’s children. Consider supporting these efforts in any way possible.
A. For Fresno State to continue to build excellent programs for future teachers, counselors and school administrators through the Kremen School of Education and Human Development, it must rely on support from its community and private individuals. This support is welcome in the form of time, talent and treasure.

Expect the best for your children. Support having well-prepared teachers in classrooms; don’t assume that a person with content knowledge can teach. Teaching is about relationships and graduating productive and informed citizens. It is not about Scantron sheets and tests. Teach children a respect for education. If you respect teachers and value learning, so will your children.

The Kremen School’s mission to prepare educators and work with schools in improving achievement needs the community’s talents and treasure. The Kremen School and the community need volunteers for projects whether it be reading to first graders, helping tutor in math or serving on an advisory committee. As Fresno State enters its Comprehensive Campaign to raise support throughout the university, some incredibly important initiatives will be presented to transform the education of the region’s children. Consider supporting these efforts in any way possible.
Getting an early jump on education

By Lisa Birrell and Shirley Melikian Armbruster

In just 10 years, the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center at Fresno State has grown into a national model of early childhood education and a catalyst for improving the quality of programs throughout the region.

The Huggins Center provides undergraduate and graduate students, teachers and other professionals with training, demonstration and research opportunities in education, child development, marriage, child and family counseling and other related areas.

In addition, the center serves the university community. The children of Fresno State students, especially those with low incomes, have priority in receiving Huggins Center services to assist them in completing their educational goals.

More than 125 children ages birth to 12 years are enrolled in the Marlene M. Fansler Infant Toddler Program, the D. Paul Fansler Preschool and the school-age program at the Huggins Center. Through a collaborative partnership with the Fresno Unified School District, children with special needs benefit from a fully inclusive program that is also a model of best practices.

The work of the Huggins Center is so impressive that Maryann O’Sullivan, founder and CEO of Oakland-based Preschool California, says, “I only wish all California children could have access to such a preschool.”

At Huggins, quality is the priority. “Through a quality early education program, children learn to be learners and master skills to be successful in school and in life,” says director Dr. Shareen Abramson, a literacy and early education professor who is committed to making the public aware of the importance of quality in ensuring children’s success in school.

Each year, more than 1,000 student teachers from Fresno State, community colleges and other educational institutions are trained by the Huggins Center in conjunction with the university’s D. Paul Fansler Institute for Leadership in Early Childhood Education.

The center offers workshops, conferences, training and technical assistance for public and private early childhood teachers and administrators to improve their programs. As a result of these successful initiatives, Huggins-trained teachers hold key positions in early childhood education throughout the region.

Training in early education is vital in a region where, in Fresno County alone, one-third of preschool-aged children can’t find a place in a quality preschool program, according to Preschool California.

The Huggins Center’s work is recognized nationally and internationally. Abramson and teachers from the center have presented at national conferences, published in the program and created videos and other resources about the program and curriculum.

Many teachers at the center are Fresno State graduates and a number are pursuing master’s degrees in early childhood education in the Kremen School.

The center’s fully accessible outdoor environment includes an aquatic study area, forest, garden and other features to encourage early interest in science, agriculture and nature studies.

In one class, Sharon Arias combines her teaching expertise with training in the arts to design a program for 3- to 5-year-olds in the Forest Room. Buckets filled with shells, smooth and rough rocks, and pinecones are available for children to touch and study. A long, curving Chinese dragon puppet rests near glass terrariums that house Madagascar cockroaches, lizards, snakes, tarantulas and frogs. Musical instruments, including a drum set, are classroom favorites. Colorful paintings by the children are displayed everywhere.

Arias says of her curriculum: “If you teach a child to invent, that child has got it made.”

One of those who wholeheartedly supports what the Fresno State center is accomplishing on a daily basis is O’Sullivan, who visited last year.

“I saw a creative, loving and stimulating environment for children – just the kind of program children need at a time when their brains are developing so rapidly,” she says. “I saw children engaged with each other and with their teachers in the kind of educational and social activities that lay a strong foundation for all they will learn in elementary school and beyond.”

Abramson says she and the Huggins Center are committed to maintaining a leadership role in modeling quality early education programs.

“The focus of our efforts is to work toward creating quality programs so that children, families and our region can reap the educational and societal benefits,” she says.

Lisa Birrell is a marketing manager in Fresno and a freelance writer. Shirley Melikian Armbruster is director of News Services at Fresno State.
Madden Library begins a transformation

By Stephanie Rodriguez

Fresno State’s Madden Library is getting an extreme makeover. It’s so extreme that a good portion of the library will be torn down and a modern, gleaming building will replace it.

The two portions of the library built in 1956 and 1963 will be torn down and replaced with a modern five-story building scheduled to open in 2008.

The project, financed from Proposition 55 bonds approved by voters in 2004, will result in a 380,000-square-foot library with state-of-the-art information technology systems, 3,600 reader stations, group study rooms and space for special collections, offices and storage.

Today, the university’s 21,000 students are served by a library designed for a far smaller student body. The renovated library has the capacity to serve students and the community for years to come.

“The older parts of the library are 40 to 50 years old,” says Michael Gorman, dean of the Madden Library.

“The lack of space and the fact that large parts of the library were outdated and could not accommodate current technology is a factor in the renovation.”

Another factor is changes in the way today’s students use the library.

“Students study differently; we are seeing a lot of group studying,” says Susan Mangini, assistant dean for special projects. “The renovated library will offer more space for collaborative studying.

“New additions, such as a café, will address students’ personal needs while using the library’s facilities,” she adds.

Patrons will notice a brighter, more airy library that is user-friendly. It also will accommodate an enlarged Special Collections Library, which includes rare books and materials on state and local history; the Central Valley Political Archives; and the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature.

“The space is so limited right now, we haven’t been able to actively solicit or receive large donations of collections,” says Mangini. “There is no place to put them.”

The renovated Madden Library also will have dedicated carrels for graduate students, which can be reserved so students have a place to keep their books, laptops and personal items while conducting research.

Hillier Architects in Washington, D.C., and A.C. Martin Partners in Los Angeles are the design partners on the library project to be constructed by Swenerton Builders in Sacramento.

The Madden Library is the largest academic library between Sacramento and Los Angeles and serves not only students, but also residents throughout the central San Joaquin Valley. With the new building, Gorman expects usage will dramatically increase. And he believes it will become a venue for university programs and presentations.

“By remaining in our current location we have greater ease of access for the students and the community. We feel Madden Library is the heart of Fresno State,” said Gorman.

A Web site, www.maddenlibrary.org will provide updates on the library makeover. ■ Stephanie Rodriguez, a 2002 graduate of Fresno State, works in marketing in Fresno.

Pinnacle of giving

By Mary Anna Dunn

More than 10,000 people and organizations donated to Fresno State last year, providing the university with private support that is vital to programs all across the campus. Donors give for scholarships, library materials, instructional programs, outreach efforts, capital construction and more.

As Fresno State looks ahead to its first comprehensive campaign, the role of private support becomes increasingly important. The difference between good and great depends heavily on private dollars to complement resources provided by the state.

This year, 2004-05, the generosity of alumni, friends, parents, businesses and foundations continues and the university is preparing to celebrate its top donors. The premier donor event in the Pinnacle Society dinner in May. Established in 1997, the Pinnacle Society recognizes donors for their cumulative giving.

Pinnacle Founders – numbering more than 200 – have been recognized for their lifetime giving of $100,000 or more. In a formal ceremony, President John D. Welty will present a medallion to each donor with a reproduction of Ansel Adams’ “Moon and Half Dome,” a striking image representing vision, foresight and investment in Fresno State students and programs.

As of 2005, two Pinnacle levels are recognized. By 2006-07, an additional 10 Pinnacle levels will be acknowledged as Benefactors.

New Paramount donors also will be inducted this spring.

“We have a deep tradition of philanthropy, as demonstrated by Pinnacle Society members,” says Welty. “The university’s comprehensive campaign will build on that tradition.”

Mary Anna Dunn is director of Fresno State’s comprehensive campaign.

Legacies to celebrate

Founding members of the Heritage Society of California State University, Fresno will be acknowledged this year.

The society recognizes those who have included Fresno State in their estate plans. Membership is open to individuals who inform the university of a bequest, trust, real estate gift, insurance gift or charitable gift annuity that is vital to programs all across the university.

Carol Widmer, director of planned giving, says, “We appreciate knowing about people’s arrangements so that we understand their intentions and can make sure their ultimate gift will support the program of their choice.”

For more information about giving methods, contact Widmer at 559.278.8667 or at cwidmer@csufresno.edu.

Annual contributions recognized

In addition to acknowledging lifetime giving, Fresno State celebrates annual giving from alumni and friends. Annual recognition levels established this spring are based on individuals’ total giving to all university programs.

Century Club – $10,000 and up
Cardinal and Blue Patrons – $5,000-$9,999
Benefactors – $2,500-$4,999
Followers – $1,000-$2,499
Builders – $500-$999
Partners – $100-$499

As an example, someone who donates $1,000 to Ag One, $1,200 to the Building Foundation and $500 to the Madden Library will be acknowledged as a Benefactor.

Plans are under way to publish an Honor Roll of Contributions on the Fresno State Web site after the close of the fiscal year. If you would like to contribute, visit www.csufresno.edu/giving.

Mary Anna Dunn is director of Fresno State’s comprehensive campaign.

www.FresnoStateNews.com
I t was the worst natural disaster in modern history: A shift in the earth’s crust off Indonesia generated a tsunami that left hundreds of thousands in South Asia dead, injured, homeless, traumatized, afraid, hurting. When the government of Indonesia called Dr. John Dussich for help, the internationally known expert in victimology, trauma and crisis intervention did not hesitate. Dussich, a Fresno State professor, headed to Jakarta to train people who would help their countrymen deal with the emotional devastation that engulfed survivors long after the giant wave receded.

During an “emotional, intense” week in late January, Dussich conducted training sessions with the Red Crescent of Indonesia (similar to the Red Cross) and also spoke to a children’s foundation and other non-governmental groups working with survivors. The workshop participants ranged from physicians, psychiatrists and sophisticated CEOs to 20-something lay workers.

Dussich was interviewed on Indonesian television about his work and met with the nation’s minister of social affairs to discuss the need for a national disaster organization and victimology coursework at the university level.

“This country does not have a full-time disaster management relief organization. There are few professional crisis intervenors,” he says.

Although media coverage dwindled within a month of the tsunami, Dussich says there is a “continuing disaster” in Indonesia.

"The deaths are continuing and will continue for a year," he says, adding that some will result from suicide, helplessness and disease “because people have an incredible sense of loss” and give up taking care of themselves.

Dussich, who joined the Fresno State Department of Criminology faculty in 2003, offered his expertise in a volunteer capacity in Indonesia. - Sherry Mitkiew Ambruster

John Baxter

CSU meets agriculture’s needs

California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed chose Fresno State to spotlight the CSU’s essential role in agricultural research and education as part of his effort to showcase the economic impact the 23-campus system has throughout the state. At a January forum at the Fresno State wineyard, the nation’s only bonded commercial winery on a university campus, industry and university leaders had an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between agriculture and education by discussing needs, exchanging ideas and expressing concerns, expectations and accolades for agriculture students.

“If the Central Valley were a state it would be ranked number one in agriculture production,” said Reed, underscoring Fresno State’s educational role in a region where agriculture provides one in five jobs.

“The CSU produces more than 52 percent of the state’s graduates in agriculture-related majors. That is about 2,100 job-ready graduates every year who invigorate the state’s economy. Were it not for this highly-qualified workforce, California agriculture simply would not enjoy the level of prosperity that it does," Reed said.

In addition to Fresno State, agriculture programs at Cal Poly-Pomona, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Chico State and Humboldt State train students in everything from production and marketing to fire protection and economics. CSU also has trained about 90 percent of the state’s new agriculture teachers in the past five years.

At the forum, Reed also brought attention to the California Agricultural Research Initiative, which forges university and industry bonds through applied research at Fresno State and other campuses.

Reed helped further those ties by announcing formation of an agriculture advisory board that will meet regularly with him to provide another way for agriculture leaders to communicate research and education needs.

"Industry and alumni support allows us to go from being a good program to an outstanding one by providing dollars to do applied research and donations for endowed positions, scholarships, internships, entire orchards and equipment,” says Dr. Daniel Bartell, dean of the Fresno State College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. - Jodie Mocciaro

Professor lends expertise after tsunami

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CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed spotlights agriculture.

Dr. John Dussich, right, discusses disaster management with Indonesian aid workers.
Carlo Prandini is a low-key guy, who laughs easily, a trait that came in handy as principal of Clovis West High School and leader of its 2,270 students.

"Clovis West is diverse both economically and ethnically," says Prandini. "It's challenging to say the least."

Now Prandini has a new challenge as a Clovis Unified assistant superintendent in charge of developing the district's next education complex. Prandini wasn't always interested in education. He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1970 where he "crashed along for a couple of semesters." Athletics changed that. Prandini becomes animated when he talks of his days as a sprinter.

In middle school, Barnes-Mileham was diagnosed with cancer and had a kidney removed. After her operation, sprinting didn't feel as natural as it had before for the recovering student, so her coach handed her a shotput and a discus and said, "Throw these." Barnes-Mileham threw the discus farther.

Barnes-Mileham graduated with good grades in high school and was recruited on an athletic scholarship to Fresno State in 1983. "I'd think with her background she would see her sights on coaching, but Barnes-Mileham majored in psychology instead."

Professor psychology Dr. Robert Levine, now associate dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Fresno State, says, "Lacy is not only one of my all-time favorite students, but among one of the most remarkable women I've ever met. She excels in everything."

In 1989 Barnes-Mileham earned a bachelor's degree and married Matthew Mileham, an Olympic hammer-thrower for Great Britain. In 1992 Barnes-Mileham earned a master's degree in psychology from Fresno State and began teaching at Reedley College, where students soon awarded her the Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching. All the while Barnes-Mileham competed, including in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She and her husband also were raising daughter Cecilia, who is now 24 and a Division II national champion in the discus.

"I love teaching," says Barnes-Mileham, a Fresno State, Fresno County, and soon to be Kern County Athletic Hall-of-Famer. "Education is the fabric from which life is cut."

Barnes-Mileham is finishing her doctorate in psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

Leslie Sheets Cunning is a freelance writer in Fresno.

Bulldogs more than athletic

From preseason practice through postseason competition, Fresno State student-athletes lead full lives that require skillful time management to meet athletic prowess on the field with academic excellence in the classroom.

Those individual efforts are paying off, especially in academic achievement.

The good news:

• Bulldog student-athletes earned a record 2.91 cumulative grade point average (GPA) in 2004, the highest in eight years. It was the seventh straight year that the Bulldogs scored a GPA higher than the rest of the campus student population.

• At last spring’s Kiwanis Torch of Excellence ceremony, 267 student-athletes were recognized as Fresno State scholar-athletes after achieving a 3.0 or better GPA during the 2003 spring and fall semesters: they represented 51 percent of the university’s student-athletes. Of these, 147 made the Dean’s List (3.5 or better GPA).

• In the 2003-04 academic year, 50 student-athletes recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA.

• Ten Bulldogs teams posted a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA.

• The President’s Medal, which honors the top graduating student each year, has been bestowed on two Bulldog student-athletes: Dora Djihanov, women’s tennis (2000), and Derrick Smittcamp, football (2001). The medal is the university’s highest academic honor given to a student-athlete.

• Barnes-Mileham is finishing her doctorate in psychology from Claremont Graduate University.

Stories by Leslie Sheets Cunning

Bulldogs yesterday, educators today

Leslie Sheets Cunning is a freelance writer in Fresno.

Fresno State sports changed

Prandini

Proven Joel Edelbrock, center, celebrates the academic achievements of student-athletes Leticia Pechohe (softball), Cophie Moore (basketball), Brittany Rosol (equitation) and Yoko Mur (volleyball).
By Jan Winslow

**Bulldog chatter**

**Bid for the Bulldogs**

It’s never too early to start thinking about the Bid for the Bulldogs, a fan-favorite annual summertime event to raise money for the Fresno State Athletics Department. Anyone wishing to donate items may call the Marketing Office at 559.244.2800. Bid for the Bulldogs is scheduled for June 4 at the Save Mart Center at Fresno State.

Exposure, recognition follow grid success

Making its 4th national TV appearance of the season, the Fresno State football team closed out 2004 with a thrilling 37-34 overtime defeat of 18th-ranked Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

The win also accomplished many other things for the Bulldogs (9-3), starting with the team’s highest season-ending ranking ever: No. 22 in both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN polls.

Building a better tomorrow

Bringing out in the community as a 24-Bulldog has been something very special for Fresno State student-athletes and coaches over the years.

During the final six months of 2004, Bulldogs were involved in more than 60 community-service events, including the collection of more than 1,200 children’s books for the ReadFresno book drive.

Bulldogs swarmed cold and rain to ring bells for the Salvation Army’s red kettle campaign, stood over hot stoves and served meals at the Powerell House and visited children in the Boise area before the MPC Computers Bowl.

Fresno State student-athletes and coaches held clinics, promote education and keeping away from drugs, serve as guest speakers at service clubs and, most important, continue to be constant and visible role models for young children and teenagers.

Bulldog Foundation chooses officers

Angel Diakos is the new president of the Bulldog Foundation. Also serving in 2005 are Mark Smith, first vice president; John Neale, fund-drive vice president; and Rob Saroyan, secretary-treasurer.

For more information see www.bulldogfoundation.org.

Toyota sponsors Athletes of the Week

Toyota is now the official sponsor of the Student-Athlete of the Week, one of the most popular attractions on Fresno State’s official athletic Web site, www.gobulldogs.com, since it was established two years ago. Displayed prominently on the front page, the Student-Athlete of the Week presented by Toyota also features an archive of past selections.

**Class notes**

**1940s**

Virginia Rasmussen (1940), a long-time supporter of the university, was chosen by the Ag One Foundation that supports the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology as the 2005 Community Salute Dinner honoree.

**1950s**

Kathleen (McCory) Crookham (1956) was re-elected to a third term on the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

Rutherford “Bud” Gaston (1953) was honored at the Noted Alumni Dinner sponsored by Alumni and Friends of the Kernem School of Education.

Kendall L. Mancon (1951) was honored in “Northern California Super Lawyers” published by San Francisco magazine.

Jerry Tarkanian (1955), spokesperson for San Diego-based Entrace: Racial Harmony & Equality, was honored by the San Diego Gulls hockey team for volunteer efforts.

**1960s**

Dennis DeLiddo (1968), who is retiring as the Bulldogs’ head wrestling coach after 24 seasons, will be inducted into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in May.

Clifford Eischen (1969) is the co-author of “Relatives, Cover Letters & Interviewing” (South-Western College Press; $23.95).

Jack Globenfelt (1964) was appointed executive director of the Sunset Cultural Arts Center in Carmel.

Mathias Malamut (1965), president of OK Produce in Fresno, was honored by Fresno State with the renaming of a campus street to Malamut Way.

Peter G. Muhos (1962) was honored at the Noted Alumni Dinner sponsored by Alumni and Friends of the Kernem School of Education.

**1970s**

Jane (Janie) Abel (1976) was appointed treasurer, stewardship chair and co-chair of the Networks and Population Team at the California Division of the American Cancer Society.

Frank Gabriel Campos (1977), a professor at Ithaca College’s Whalen Center for Music, wrote “Puppet Technique” (Oxford; $63).

Carol (Robertson) Chandler (1971) was selected as the 2004 Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

Jim Costa (1974) was elected to the House of Representatives from the San Joaquin Valley.

Stephen Goodall (1973) has been promoted to regional vice president for North Operations for the Burlington and Santa Fe Railway Corporation.

Frederick W. Hatfield (1975) has been named the 2004 Kings County director and agronomy honors from the Madden Library.

Denise (Black) Scialdru (1975) is the founding president of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates at Fresno State and received Fundraiser of the Year honors from the Middlen Library.

Dr. Maii Soma (1975) was named acting dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Washington.

**1980s**

Rhonda (Day) Herb (1977, 1981) completed her Ph.D. in communication research from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Stanley Jantz (1974) has co-written “Creation and Evolution 201” (Heston House; $12.95) with Bruce Bigel.


Jim Santos (1962) was inducted into the United States Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Richard Sheehady (1963), a professional painter of Dairy’s is overseeing a 36,000-square-foot expansion project.

**1990s**

Jean (Mount) Ahern (1997) was appointed executive director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Jonna (Muse) Depauw (1997) was appointed executive director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Carol Kozak (1997), a CPA, was appointed manager of OK Produce in Fresno.

**2000s**

Jason (Hollak) Joseph (2003) was appointed executive director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Hank Smith, first vice fund drive vice president; (standing) Art Parhan, Mike Patton.

Toni (Pallaya) Armendariz (1977, 1981) was named the 2004 Kings County director and agronomy honors from the Madden Library.

Denise (Blacks) Seclandra (1975) is the founding president of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates at Fresno State and received Fundraiser of the Year honors from the Middlen Library.

**2010s**

Happy fifth birthday

The Smittcamp Alumni House will celebrate its fifth birthday with a wine tasting on April 27, 2005. Dedicated on March 21, 2000, the Smittcamp Alumni House at Fresno State is named for the Smittcamp family. The two-story, 10,000-square-foot building stands near the main entrance to campus and welcomes alumni, students and friends to Fresno State.

Take an online virtual tour of the Smittcamp Alumni House at www.fresnostatealumni.com. For event rental information, call 559.278.2761.

Submit CLASS NOTES online to www.fresnostatealumni.com.
80s

90s

2000s

2000s

2004-05 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Executive Committee: President: John Goines (BS 1979, MA 1983), Past President: Ken Campbell (BA 1969, MA 1974); Vice President, Finance: President-Elect: Valerie Woicik (BS 1979); Vice President, Membership and Marketing: Warren Fortier (BS 1996, MBA 1999); Vice President, Alumni House: Scott Bell (BS 1992); Vice President, Alumni: Frances Pena-Dolz (BS 1987, MMS 2009); Vice President, Board and Volunteer Development: Judith Ch. Sharp.


Ex-officio members: University President Dr. John D. Welty (BS 1980, MA 1982, Doctoral Assistant, University Advancement), Dr. Peter N. Sririvasan, Executive Director Accounting, (BA 2002, Associated Students President Molly Fagionat).


CONTACT INFORMATION
Fresno State Alumni Association California State University Fresno, Smitley Alumni House, 5300 E. Shields Avenue, Fresno, CA 93740-8706
Telephone: 559.278.2788, Fax: 559.278.6780
Online: www.fresnostatealumni.com
Blasts from the past

The Alumni Association salutes the Class of 1955, which graduated 50 years ago. The 1955 “Campus” yearbook includes these photos. Do you know who they are? Check your memory against the answers on Page 29.

Marriages

Kenneth Bliss (1956) and Linda Roberts on Nov. 8, 2003.
Adrian Pierro (1989) and Gabrielle Galentino in December 2004, in Coral Gables.
Lindsay Sanchez (2000) and Joshua Raffin on July 12, 2003, in Madera.
Shelly Sylverson (1999) and Timothy Bane on Nov. 27, 2004, in Fresno.
Jerome Lane (1997) and Runwen Mostof on June 6, 2004.

Engagements

Emmeline “Emmi” Martin and Jake Jennings.
Cathy Massay and Alex Perez (2005).

Bulldog Alumni of Tomorrow

Ruth (Alman) Falcon (1995) and Juan Falcon gave birth to a girl, Lauren Michelle, on Jan. 5, 2005.
Tony and Frances Gardapo are grandparents of Paulina Frances Panco, born Nov. 14, 2003, in Clovis.
Joshua Radcliff on July 12, 2003, in Fresno.

In Memoriam

Carol Ann (Kraft) Larson (1912).
Marion Forrest (1952) on Nov. 25, 2004.

Alma Mater

Let us in song, our voices raise In Clustered Courts, to sound thy praise. Each voice and heart that sings is true To thee, our hearts and loyalties. To thee, oh, Cardinal and Blue. Each voice and heart that sings is true Let us in song, our voices raise

Alumni Chapters

The Fresno State Alumni Association has 12 alumni chapters. Each sponsors programs, workshops, tailgate parties and networking events focused on academic, geographic or special interest.
One of these chapters, Alumni and Friends of the Keeneman School of Education, is establishing a $100,000 endowment for student scholarships. The chapter hosts several events throughout the year, including a wine and cheese reception, a Noted Alumni Dinner and an entertainment event. The Engineering Alumni Chapter and the Alumni and Friends of the Craig School of Business sponsor golf tournaments and Noche Hanabana is presented each spring by the Chiscoan Alumni Chapter. To learn more about these events and to join any alumni chapter, visit www.fresnostatealumni.com.

Membership benefits

Fresno State Alumni Association members enjoy 87 special benefits.
On-campus these include discounts at the Bulldog Shop and the Kennel Bookstore, as well as reduced rates for admission to Music Department, the USI Recreation Center and University Theatre events. For a complete listing of membership benefits, go to www.fresnostatealumni.com.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST answers:
Majorities: Mary Leah and Maureen Wight.
High Priests of Haw: Tom Stearn, Pat Reid, Jim Jurgenson and Gustav Park.

www.fresnostatealumni.com
Exaining prehistoric life

H e might like spiders and snakes, but that’s not what it takes to thrill Fresno State alumnus Conrad Labandeira (1980). In 1988, this bug expert discovered the world’s then-oldest insect, a 388-million-year-old bristletail from Quebec, Canada. In 1988, this bug expert discovered the world’s then-oldest insect, a 388-million-year-old bristletail from Quebec, Canada. It was a long crawl for the grandson of Portuguese immigrants. He triple majored at Fresno State, earning a bachelor’s degree in biology, geology and anthropology in 1980, followed by master’s and doctoral degrees from Wisconsin and Chicago, respectively. His future was written in soil years earlier, he says, “I picked cotton at my parents’ farm in Riverdale and because of my predilection for examining soil for insects, I wasn’t averse to picking less-than-pristine cotton.” Not only was the flayed cotton unfit for ginning, Labandeira’s mother worried about the amount of time he spent with creepy-crawlers. Still, Labandeira inclined his way to success, “I spent 25 years doing drywall,” he says, “but the thrill of discovering new suites of plant-insect associations that are hundreds of millions of years old is more exciting.”

Maleke boosts Botswana

O f all the colleges and universities in the United States, Fresno State was the one Jackson Maleke (1990) of Botswana chose to attend. It is a decision he never regrets. “I credit Fresno State for my professional development,” says the former international student who was awarded a bachelor’s degree in journalism. Maleke’s parents were farmers, but he wanted to be a journalist, accepted to several colleges, he selected Fresno State because “the curriculum for the journalism program was very comprehensive and attractive.” One month after graduating and returning to his home village of Kanye in 1991, Maleke’s former employer, Rural Industries Innovation Centre, promoted him to senior information officer. After earning a master’s degree in South Africa, Maleke advanced to his current chief information officer position, managing and coordinating public relations. The center helps develop technologies geared toward improving living standards for Botswana’s people. Maleke has contributed to Botswana’s growth from one of the world’s 20 poorest countries into Africa’s richest non-oil-producing nation, and he has broadened Fresno State’s international connections and influence.

Alumni Ambassadors

F resno State is targeting Visalia, Yuba City, Merced and Reedley to find five, the proud, the leaders to connect Fresno State with prospective students and vice-versa. The Alumni Ambassador Program, scheduled to launch this spring, will develop collaborative partnerships with individuals in various communities to serve as the university’s emissaries. “These ambassador volunteers will assist the university by serving as liaisons in promoting Fresno State programs and identifying community needs and resources,” says Frances Peña-Olgin (1977, 1979), the Alumni Association’s vice president for alliances. The program strives to remove large-campus barriers and provide a friendly way to assist and recruit potential students. “It’s about getting connected – about bringing a bit of Fresno State to these communities,” says Leticia Reyna (1998, 2002), assistant director of alumni programs. “The ambassadors will act as point people, accessing information quickly by contacting us.” For information or to volunteer, call Reyna at 559.278.ALUU.
At a Fresno elementary school, a dedicated student-teacher captivates her small charges and inspires them to achieve. Page 12

The generosity of alumni, friends, parents, businesses and foundations is vital to programs all across the campus. Page 19

Student-athletes surround Provost Jeri Echeverria, the university’s chief academic officer, as they celebrate excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. Page 23