A Strategic Plan to
Educate and Empower

We have all the ingredients at Fresno State to rise to this call, and we developed the University’s Strategic Plan to guide our priorities over the next five years. The plan was formed through listening sessions with diverse groups of individuals from the University and community. As partners, our collective wisdom culminated in this direction: www.FresnoState.edu/strategicplan.

We know a lot of people in the community and beyond love Fresno State, and that gives us confidence our plan will be successful. Through this process, a new mission statement was embraced: Fresno State will boldly educate and empower students for success.

In this issue of Fresno State Magazine, you’ll see how our key priorities for student success are unfolding in the lives of students, on campus and in our community. Learning is taking a bold turn by engaging with the needs of people and in service of our community. Investments are being made in our faculty, staff and physical and technical infrastructure to respect what it takes to make this success possible. And, community partners are becoming more engaged than ever to help propel our University to new heights of success.

I urge you to read this magazine with the same excitement I have. Fresno State students, faculty and staff are writing the next chapter of what higher education and empowerment can do as we move beyond.

Enjoy!

Joseph I. Castro
President

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

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Fresno State serves the richly diverse region of Central California. The U.S. Department of Education designates our University as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

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Stay in touch!
We’d like your comments about Fresno State Magazine. Please email them to magazine@csufresno.edu.
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Dr. Kathleen Rindahl works with the next generation of nursing students to make a difference in Valley health care.

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Fresno State News

Valley Health

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Fresno State News
Students in Fresno State’s Lyles College of Engineering work with Dr. Youngwook Kim, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, in the University’s anechoic chamber to measure human body reflections, radar range, radiation patterns.

The chamber is a room designed to simulate the free space of infinite dimension. Insulated from exterior noise with conductive foam, the room absorbs electromagnetic waves generated inside.

Students in the Lyles College use the anechoic chamber for a variety of purposes, such as studying how electromagnetic waves like cell phone and Wi-Fi signals travel and reflect, and how to measure them through radio frequency devices.
University Theatre Presents Migrant Farmworker Story

The University Theatre season closes with the world premiere of “Blue Willow” May 6-14 in the John Wright Theatre on campus.

Written by Pamela Sterling and directed by J. Daniel Herring, the play weaves the past and present voices of the migrant farmworker community within the Central Valley. Adapted from local librarian Doris Gates’ novel of the same name, the story is described as Fresno’s “Grapes of Wrath.”

For ticket information, call 559.278.7215.

Matching Gift Madness

More than 100 donors came together to gift about $107,000 as part of Fresno State’s March Match Up campaign to fight student hunger.

The campaign was launched by a pledge from Fresno-based accounting firm Morse Wittwer Sampson, LLP to match up to $50,000 in gifts given to Fresno State’s Student Cupboard through March 31. A buzzer-beating gift by Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin helped Fresno State exceed its goal on the final day of the campaign and sent the fund drive into overtime.

A 2012 study found that about 31 percent of Fresno State students surveyed did not know where their next meal was coming from. The Student Cupboard provides students with free food items and hygiene products five days a week to increase access to affordable nutrition.

Fresno State’s first lady Mary Castro, who spearheaded the March Match Up campaign, says the cupboard has benefited more than 70,000 individuals since it opened in late 2014. “We have had students tell us the Student Cupboard has made the difference between them staying in college or leaving,” she says.

March Match Up

with Fresno State Chancellor Timothy P. White (center) touring the Student Cupboard with Fresno State’s Jessica Medina, Student Cupboard coordinator, and Dr. Frank Lamas, vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Proposed Hmong Studies Program Would Be a First in Western U.S.

With one of the largest Hmong populations in the nation located in the Central Valley, Fresno State is developing a new option to minor in Hmong studies that will be the fifth such program in the nation and first in the western United States.

The minor, which would be offered through the Linguistics Department in the College of Arts and Humanities, is in the final stages of the approval process. The target to launch is fall 2016. The proposal calls for 18 units on Hmong culture, history and language.

The announcement came this winter as the Hmongstory 40 exhibit at the Fresno Fairgrounds celebrated 40 years of Hmong migration from Laos and Thailand to the United States. To share your story and photos, visit www.hmongstory40.org.

Students Dress for Success

Fresno State opened its new Clothing Closet in April to provide students in need with free professional clothing for interviews, career fairs and jobs.

The clothing is collected from campus and community donations, and is located in the Frank W. Thomas building (Room 103), east of the Kennel Bookstore.

The concept was created based on evaluation of student need and demonstrated community support.

“Students are thinking about the image they present when they go to interviews, and that image is very important,” says Debbie Young, director for the Career Development Center and creator of the Clothing Closet.

To find out how to donate attire, call 559.278.2381 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Fresno State student Chance Payne, a pre-law and Africana studies major from Omaha, Nebraska, sampled the professional attire at the new Clothing Closet on campus.

Now That’s a Smart Car

Students glimpsed into the future in February during a self-driving electric shuttle demonstration on campus. The event was in recognition of National Engineers Week.

Live mascot Victor E. Bulldog III joined Fresno State’s first lady Mary Castro for the test drive of the four-passenger, autonomous shuttle that is a product of Varden Labs, a startup company in Silicon Valley.

“Now that’s a smart car!” said Mary Castro, Fresno State’s first lady, and Paula Castadio, vice president for University Advancement. “It was really cool to experience the next generation of transportation and get a feel for what’s to come.”

Fruit Fly Studies Lead to Alzheimer’s Discovery

Research by Dr. Joy Goto, a Fresno State chemistry professor, played a key role in developing a new approach to understanding the role of environmental toxins in ALS and Alzheimer’s disease.

The study, published in February by the Royal Society of London, indicates that chronic exposure to an environmental toxin called BMAA may increase risk of neurodegenerative illness.

Goto’s research, with the help of seven Fresno State students, determined that the dietary amino acid L-serine helped protect fruit flies from BMAA.

Goto, who uses her training in bioinorganic chemistry and neuroscience to contribute to the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases, is a member of a 50-scientist collaboration operating in 28 institutions across 10 countries.

“Now That’s a Smart Car” students sampled the professional attire at the new Clothing Closet on campus.

“Now That’s a Smart Car” students sampled the professional attire at the new Clothing Closet on campus.
I t was the middle of summer 2015 when Donald Ray Foster first passed out. It was just stress, he thought, or maybe a lack of sleep. So he didn’t visit a doctor to find out what was wrong. Foster had just moved back to Madera from Stockton, and the nearest clinic wouldn’t accept his medical insurance.

So he waited.

A few months passed without Foster seeking care until a November day when he and his wife noticed the Community Health Mobile Unit parked in front of the Hope House, a facility that provides behavioral health services in Madera County. Foster had just eaten lunch and started to feel faint again.

“My wife said, ‘Why don’t you go check it out?’” says the 43-year-old Foster. “That’s when we found out I had diabetes.”

Foster learned of his medical issue while visiting Fresno State’s mobile health unit, a vehicle designed to provide free health care screenings for the underserved. The mobile unit is staffed by Fresno State faculty and students from the School of Nursing.

“Quite honestly, I would have probably ended up in a diabetic coma if they hadn’t brought it to my attention,” Foster says. “I would have let it go, and it would have gotten worse.”

MORE ACCESS TO CARE

Designed to help alleviate a shortage of primary care providers in the area while providing hands-on training for nursing students, the mobile unit departs the Fresno State campus every Tuesday morning and travels around Fresno and surrounding rural communities.

The mobile unit staff provides free education and screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, heart and lung health and more. It’s designed to serve patients who cannot afford care or who don’t have convenient access because of transportation challenges. The unit also can help people who have trouble making timely doctors’ appointments.

“The doctors are so impacted, because there aren’t enough providers, that they can’t get everybody in for three or four months sometimes,” says Dr. Kathleen Rindahl, assistant professor and baccalaureate coordinator in Fresno State’s School of Nursing.

“So if you have high blood pressure and you can’t get in to see your doctor for three or four months, we help connect the dots, and if we find something urgent, we call the doctor and say, ‘Hey you need to see this person sooner.’”

Foster’s condition when he visited the mobile unit was the definition of urgent. His blood sugar level was so high it qualified as an emergency. The mobile unit staff sent Foster straight to the hospital, and he was treated and prescribed medication that alleviated his symptoms.

Other patients who have visited the mobile unit have benefited simply from the education provided. During a February stop in Firebaugh, a patient was having trouble getting her glucose drips because of the cost, so the staff gave her resources on how to find them at a lower cost. The staff helped another patient find affordable eyeglasses. And many others receive education on lifestyle choices that can prevent problems like high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

The mobile unit typically serves 20 to 25 patients during each four-hour stop. Students and faculty send flyers to local businesses, churches and fire departments prior to each visit, and they often walk the streets to encourage people to get check-ups.

Lori Harshman, a nursing graduate student with years of experience as a director of nursing at a long-term care facility in Auberry, says community outreach is the key to health education.

“It’s right here. It’s here in the community,” Harshman says. “I think it’s walking up and down the streets. I think it’s all the outreach. If I can touch you, I can teach you.”

This project, the first of its kind at Fresno State, has touched and taught hundreds.

“The doctors are so impacted, because there aren’t enough providers, that they can’t get everybody in for three or four months sometimes.”

DR. KATHLEEN RINDAHL
Assistant professor and baccalaureate coordinator in Fresno State’s School of Nursing

Continued
PHILANTHROPY DRIVES MOBILE UNIT PROJECT

Rindahl previously worked on the mobile unit when she was part of the migrant health program at the Fresno County Office of Education. When that program dissolved and Rindahl accepted a position at Fresno State, she knew the mobile unit was sitting unused in a parking lot.

Rindahl worked out a deal to use the mobile unit, and along with Dr. Cyndi Guerra, an assistant professor in Fresno State’s School of Nursing, acquired grants to fund the project for the next three years. The funding, Guerra says, allows the mobile unit to be stocked with supplies and pays for the fuel, driver and insurance for travel throughout the Valley.

“This is a nonprofit,” Guerra says. “We’re not here to make any money. We’re just here to provide a free service for those in need who don’t have access to health care.”

Fresno State’s College of Health and Human Services is working on a permanent funding model to keep the service alive and continue to address the shortage of Valley health care.

“Providing access to patients and families who can’t get preventative care could help improve the overall health of the Valley, which is not well known for being the healthiest place in the world,” says Sara Jennings, who has 10 years of nursing experience and is in her first year of the family nurse practitioner master’s program at Fresno State.

Learning by serving is part of the culture at Fresno State, where students, faculty and staff were there, and I was there at the same time. It’s not a coincidence. It was meant to be.”

— Eddie Hughes is the senior editor/writer for Fresno State Magazine.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR MOTHERS, BABIES IN FRESNO COUNTY

by Melissa Tav

Fresno County, where more than 1,500 babies are born prematurely every year, was chosen as one of six sites participating in University of California, San Francisco’s $100-million, 10-year Global Premature Birth Initiative. These rates are among the highest in California and surpass some underdeveloped countries.

Jointly funded by the Mac and Lynn Benioff Foundation in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the initiative will study the epidemic of premature birth, which is the leading cause of death for newborns and the second leading cause of death for children under five years of age.

To address the epidemic locally, the Fresno County Premature Birth Collective Impact Initiative was initiated to focus on improving outcomes for healthy babies and mothers in Fresno County. The Central California Center for Health and Human Services at Fresno State was selected to lead the effort.

As the backbone organization, Fresno State will help drive all major aspects of this initiative to connect organizations across Fresno County and amplify existing partnerships to gather data on the biological, behavioral and social factors that contribute to premature births.

Alameda County and San Francisco were the two other U.S. locations selected. International sites in the effort are Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

“We firmly believe that by working together effectively, we can address social and health system disparities across the country,” says Dr. Larry Rand, director of perinatal services at the UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco Fetal Treatment Center and the initiative’s principal investigator and co-director.

“By doing so, we can demonstrate to the rest of the state and nation how to turn the curve on this stubborn and tragic epidemic.”

— Melissa Tav is a communication specialist for the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State.
How Fresno State programs and research are tackling the region’s most pressing health care issues

**CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE**
Improving equity in health care by developing the region’s capacity for policy analysis and program development, implementation and evaluation through integrating and leveraging resources

- **San Joaquin Valley Public Health Consortium**
  Eight county agencies in the Valley study how environmental quality, economic opportunities and health are linked and how they relate to racial and ethnic health inequalities in the region

- **Building Healthy Communities**
  Evaluating The California Endowment’s Building Healthy Communities programs in Fresno and Merced to understand local policies, environments and programs

- **Oral Health 2020**
  One of 15 grantees nationwide exploring oral health care issues from the perspectives of neighborhood organizations

- **Improving Latino Health Access**
  Bilingual and bicultural students are trained to become Hispanic community health workers to improve access to health care for low-income Latino families

**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE**
Promoting research, policies and practices that support the well-being of children and families

- **Infant Mental Health Trainings**
  200 Valley clinicians participated in training on how to promote infant-family and early childhood mental health

**SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING CLINIC**
Evaluations and treatment are available for persons of all ages with speech, language and hearing impairment

**FRESNO FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER**
A low-cost provider of marriage, family and child counseling services

**FRESNO COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP**
Working with Fresno Public Health Department and 250 leaders and practitioners to examine how urban form and community development are linked to health outcomes

**MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE**
Facilitating statewide task force to address causes of high levels of post-partum depression

**SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING CLINIC**
Evaluations and treatment are available for persons of all ages with speech, language and hearing impairment

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN INFANT MORTALITY**
Working with First 5 Fresno County to address causes of elevated infant mortality among African-Americans

**CONSEJO: A LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRACTICE PROJECT**
Department of Social Work Education is increasing the number of bilingual/bicultural behavioral health professionals in the Central Valley to address prevention, intervention and treatment in mental health and substance abuse cases

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**
Addressing the standard for physical therapists to practice autonomously and prevent, identify, assess and correct movement dysfunction

**DOWNTOWN SHELTER AND OUTREACH PROGRAM**
Evaluation of outreach and shelter programs and the integration of mental health services

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE**
Joint doctorate program designed to prepare nurse leaders and advanced practice nurses for evidence-based patient care, leadership and educational roles

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE**
Joint doctorate program designed to prepare nurse leaders and advanced practice nurses for evidence-based patient care, leadership and educational roles
A portrait of the late Ana Tapia hangs prominently with other leading alumni at Fowler High School. Her bright smile serves as inspiration for students in the rural town, 20 minutes south of Fresno.

Tapia was 22 years old and in her first semester of the Master of Public Health program at Fresno State when she died in a car accident in November 2014. Her memory lives on through two Fresno State scholarships in her name — one for undergraduate students from Fowler High, where she was a tutor and Academic Decathlon coach during college, and the other for graduate students pursuing a master’s degree in public health.

Yessenia Lopez, a 2015 graduate of Fowler High, was the first recipient of the Ana G. Tapia Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. Lopez is grateful for the full, four-year scholarship she received. She recalls a few of the brief times that she was tutored by Tapia and says the legacy Tapia left behind is something she won’t take for granted.

“I’m here because someone else believed in me,” Lopez says. “I don’t want just one degree. I want to be good at multiple things. I feel that ambition in me. With this scholarship, I want to step up and follow in Ana’s footsteps.”

Without the scholarship, which was established in memory of Tapia by donors who wish to remain anonymous, Lopez would not have been able to afford college. Lopez, who has a 4.0 GPA, plans to major in social work and make a career out of helping others, just like those who helped her.

In Los Angeles, Fresno State alumnus Brian Panish is known as a hard-hitting trial attorney, but his soft spot lies with the Central Valley. It’s where he earned his bachelor’s degree in political science (1980) and played defense for the Bulldogs on a football scholarship.

His deep-rooted connection to the Valley inspired him to represent Tapia’s family in a wrongful death case arising from the accident and led his firm, Panish Shea & Boyle LLP, to donate $100,000 toward an endowment that will be used to fund the Ana G. Tapia Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Public Health. This scholarship is intended for public health students with a demonstrated interest in Latina health issues — a cause Tapia was passionate about — and will be awarded in fall 2016.

“Ana did so many great things in her short time here on earth,” Panish says. “As a first-generation college student, we want others to be inspired by what she was able to do and to give them the opportunity to carry on the legacy that she started.”

Tiny changes really add up.

It’s just $25 to open a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Account for your favorite little one. That’s only five lattes to take advantage of tax-deferred saving opportunity and compound interest potential, O’mon, you can do this.

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ONLINE EXTRA
Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine to learn why staying and working in the South Valley is important to Porterville teacher Danny Velasquez.

Danny Velasquez, a fifth-grade teacher at Olive Street Elementary School in Porterville, is part of a Fresno State initiative that trains students from the South Valley to stay and work in the area.

If you think about how a teacher impacts students, the multiplying effect is incredible because that one teacher has the opportunity to touch multiple lives year round.

— Kathleen R. Schock is director of strategic communications at Fresno State.
Fifteen universities, eight countries and a five-hour international news broadcast — and Fresno State students were the center of it all.

Fresno State students in the Mass Communication and Journalism Department anchored the Global News Relay in March, which included 20-minute segments produced by each of the participating universities on “The Impact of Sports in Our Community,” an in-depth look at cultural influences that affect participation in sports.

It was a chance for students to connect with those making an impact in the local community and share those stories with the world. The stories ranged from a Jedi exercise class and unicycle football to minority representation in sports and childhood obesity.

Other U.S. universities participating included Alabama, Baylor, Boston, Texas State and West Texas A&M, plus universities from Australia, Bulgaria, Egypt, England, Indonesia, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

The project was founded in 2014 by the University of Salford in Manchester, England. This was Fresno State’s second year as a participant but first year as host.

A STUDENT BROADCAST

Multimedia and women’s studies major Natalie Nigg served as technical director for the relay and operated the new Tricaster, a professional, multi-camera production system.

“It improves our green screen capabilities so now we can do a multi-cam green screen,” Nigg says. “We can change the background and make it look like we are actually on a set, and then on top of that, we have live-set capability so we have the ability to put our talent in virtual sets.”

Professional, hands-on experience like this is attractive to many students, Zaragoza says.

“It gave me the chills to know that I was going to produce a five-hour show and get that experience here at Fresno State,” Zaragoza says. “It’s something that I am going to be able to tell future employers that I have done with my partner.”

Sidlow says she hopes the students who are involved in the project will gain a more global perspective in covering and consuming news.

“We have a tendency to pay attention to our own little world, but there’s much more out there than just Fresno and the Sunday night football game,” she says. “Once our students graduate, they will know how to function on a global level, and the Global News Relay is the first step in being able to do that.”

— Erika Castañon is a student news assistant for University Communications at Fresno State.

Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine to watch the Global News Relay.
The water supply in parts of California is threatened by high levels of salt — affecting Central Valley agriculture and drinking water. And Fresno State researchers are working to find a solution.

Faculty and students in the University’s Lyles College of Engineering are experimenting with ways to treat the Valley’s agricultural drainage water for reuse through water desalination. The process removes salt and minerals and results in clean water that can then be reapplied to crops and potentially used for drinking water.

The research could have far reaching implications for the Central Valley. “If successful, this process will be part of an overall saline water treatment system,” says Dr. Karl Longley, civil engineering professor and dean emeritus of the Lyles College. “If the Central Valley is to remain a viable economic unit, a solution must be found for its increasingly severe salt problem.”

The research team used a vapor compression distillation unit acquired in 2013 to complete a pilot project that determined the unit to be effective at producing quality water through desalination. The extracted salts are also valuable, in that they can be sold to chemical processors.

According to a Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability report, 2 million to 7 million tons of salt are imported into the Valley each year and used for agricultural, industrial, urban and domestic purposes. These uses range from soil amendments and plant fertilizers to water softeners and swimming pool chlorine.

Longley says salt from the San Joaquin River and Sacramento River basins finds its way to the rivers and sea, but because the Tulare Lake Basin has no means of exporting salt, it accumulates in Valley groundwater and soil.

The potential effects are “a land where the water is not fit to drink and a land not capable of growing crops,” according to the report.

In certain areas of the Valley, almond production was reduced by about 30 percent due to the salty water,” Longley says.

Walter Mizuno, a mechanical engineering lecturer for the Lyles College, is working with Longley and student intern Ridge Bertuccio, a researcher on the project.

“Water desalination piqued my interest because of the agricultural aspect, considering I grew up on a farm,” Bertuccio says.

A second generation of the vapor compression desalination unit is being engineered to improve the energy efficiency of the process thanks to a $286,000 grant.

“Our research team hopes to develop a sustainable process to reuse this water,” Mizuno says, “which means we would not have to depend as heavily on our limited supply of clean water from other sources — ultimately benefiting all Californians.”

— Rebecca Wass is a communications specialist for the Lyles College of Engineering at Fresno State.
Fresno State Magazine
What is the biggest mistake the average person makes regarding hydration while exercising?

Dr. J. Luke Pryor: If I could sum it up in a few words it would be that they underestimate either the conditions or themselves. They might underestimate their hydration status, their preparation, the availability of fluids or even their own fitness.

FSM
How do you know if you’re dehydrated?

Dr. Riana Pryor: The easiest way is to look at the color of your urine. If it’s dark like apple juice, you’re dehydrated, but if it’s light like lemonade, you’re drinking enough water. That’s the first step. If you’re thirsty that means you’re already dehydrated. So you want to drink to your thirst where you replenish everything you’ve lost and are not thirsty anymore. There are certain people out there who think that if it’s hot you have to drink and drink and drink, at which point you can have the opposite problem where you’re hyper-hydrated and can have a very traumatic, dangerous experience that could land you in the hospital.

FSM
While you are exercising, how can you tell if you’re not getting enough water?

Luke: Finding out how much each person needs to drink is very complex. It depends on your stress, environment, type of exercise, how long you’ve been awake, how thirsty you are, how hungry you are. Everyone is different. A lot of our research has shown that we can’t make a general recommendation. Like the recommended eight glasses of water a day. As it turns out, there was no scientific support for that.

Riana: Also, some people are extremely salty sweaters. If when you’re done exercising you see white on your skin or clothes, that’s salt that your body lost while sweating. So if you see that after you exercise, you’ll want to replenish with some sort of salty snack or an electrolyte beverage.

FSM
As the weather cools down, what advice do you have for people in regard to hydration?

Luke: When people exercise they often don’t feel thirsty, but you are still dehydrating, and you still need to replace the fluids that you’re losing. Also, start hydrated!

Riana: Personally I don’t enjoy the taste of water. So for me it’s always a struggle to drink enough water. So even just having a water bottle close to me, I’m more likely to drink. Fruit is also an excellent source of hydration. A lot of fruits are 90 percent or more water. But while fruit isn’t a solid replacement, it can aid in hydration for people who don’t like to drink water.

How can you tell if you and your kids are safely hydrated?

Kinesiology faculty members Drs. J. Luke and Riana Pryor are working to educate the community about how to stay safe while exercising. Fresno State Magazine caught up with the husband and wife to dispel some myths about exercise and water consumption.

Kinesiology faculty members Drs. J. Luke and Riana Pryor are working to educate the community about how to stay safe while exercising. Fresno State Magazine caught up with the husband and wife to dispel some myths about exercise and water consumption.
Hours before Kristin Saleri passed away, she asked her son two questions. “What will happen to my paintings after I die? Will I be forgotten?”

“I will make sure that you will be as well known as Van Gogh,” her son, Dr. Nansen G. Saleri, president of the Kristin Saleri Art Foundation, says he told her.

Despite the challenges presented by Saleri’s gender and ethnicity, she secured her place as a member of the founding generation of modern art in Turkey.

Saleri, who trained in Paris, was influenced by Impressionism and used art to convey a message of modern feminism. Her work is filled with images evoking her love of the vast Anatolian landscape and its people—from women in traditional village dances to Bosporus fishermen to laborers in booming post-World War II factories.

Stylistically, Saleri’s work presents a blend of Eastern mysticism and Western Impressionism. Her folkloric themes range from Christian images to whispering dervishes, and from Mother Earth to the Tree of Life. Her message was one of inclusivity, expressing her deep appreciation for the range of diversity in nature and humanity.

“The heavily worked surfaces of her pictures . . . speak of a faith in the poetically expressive power of paint,” says art historian and critic Morgan Falconer, a faculty member at Sotheby’s Institute of Art in New York.

Saleri worked in oil paint as well as charcoal, ceramics and glass. She produced more than 3,000 works—72 of which are displayed in the Madden Library exhibition. In 1965, she became co-founder of the International Turkish Female Artists Association and was a leading figure in the Armenian artistic cultural community.

The paintings on display in the Madden Library are on loan from the Kristin Saleri Foundation, which was formed by her Houston-based family to honor her memory and to help support future artists.

The exhibition is curated by Fresno natives Joyce Kierejczyk and Carol Tikijian, who also curated a spring exhibition at the Fresno Art Museum of works by artists of Armenian descent in commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian genocide.

— Cindy Wathen Kennedy is a public affairs communications specialist for the Madden Library at Fresno State.
Senior point guard Cezar Guerrero played in 89 games at Fresno State and helped lead the Bulldogs to a Mountain West Conference tournament championship and their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2001. But it’s the 17 games he missed that taught him the most.

Guerrero was forced to sit out the first 17 games of his junior season in 2014 while working toward meeting the NCAA’s continuing eligibility standards on progress toward a degree. He returned for the second half of that season, and this year started all 35 of the Bulldogs’ games.

But, more important, he’s on track to graduate in May with a philosophy degree. And he’s not shy about sharing his philosophy on how he turned things around in the classroom.

“When I first came here, all I cared about was basketball, basketball, basketball,” says Guerrero, a Huntington Park native who attended Oklahoma State for a year before transferring. “I thought basketball was going to last forever and it doesn’t. What lasts forever is that education and having that degree in your hand and using it to your advantage.”

The Bulldogs had high expectations in 2014-15 but struggled early in the season and lost several winnable games. The absence of Guerrero in their starting lineup was certainly a factor. But there was nothing he could do about it until he improved his academic standing after the fall semester.

“Ponte las pilas,” she told him. The Spanish-to-English translation: put on your batteries.

“The day before his final game in the Save Mart Center, Guerrero met with his adviser and learned he had all the necessary classes and was on track to graduate. He called his mom to share the news that he was on track to be the first in the family to earn a four-year degree. “She was crying,” Guerrero says.

About 72 percent of Fresno State students are classified as first generation, meaning they are the first in their immediate families to graduate college.

Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro, himself a first-generation graduate, had some encouraging words for Guerrero when they first met, Guerrero says. “He said that he’s really proud of me for making it out of where I made it out of, and to just keep on striving forward and be bold and be a great student-athlete.

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“He followed me on Twitter, and it was pretty cool,” Guerrero says. “It was after the San Diego State game where I hit that last-second shot to force it into overtime, and President Castro tweeted, "Holy Cezar!"

That off-balance 3-point shot with time expiring was also tweeted by ESPN SportCenter. And just a couple months later, in Las Vegas, it was San Diego State that the Bulldogs beat in a nationally televised game on CBS for the Mountain West tournament championship. Guerrero embraced his teammates in celebration at midcourt, looking up and shouting with joy.

It was perhaps his most memorable moment on the court during the past four years at Fresno State. But ranking right up there with it, he says, will be May 21 when he’s wearing a black cap and gown and a Fresno State student-athlete stole for graduation.

“I have plans,” he says while sitting in the first row of chairs behind the east basket in the Save Mart Center, “of walking right here on this side of the stage and raising my hands and saying, ‘I did it.’”
$2.6 million Warmerdam Field upgrade gives student-athletes a place to train

The Warmerdam Field track was last resurfaced in 1989. Since then, Fresno State has had three track and field coaches, played in three different conferences and witnessed the United States under four different presidents. Translation: the track was due for an update.

And it’s happening. The University broke ground in December on a $2.6 million project that will include a new eight-lane, all-weather track, a high-jump area, long- and triple-jump runways, two pole vault runways, and shot put, discus, hammer cage and javelin improvements.

While the track and field programs will continue to compete at Veterans Memorial Stadium at Buchanan High School — widely considered one of the top 10 track and field venues in the nation — the facility to Warmerdam Field will give Fresno State student-athletes a safe, convenient place to train.

In recent years, the surface of the track became so worn that the teams avoided it because of a risk of injury. Eighth-year Fresno State track and field coach Scott Winsor said an expert visited the track in 2011 to test its hardness using a bounce meter. “He said, ‘You are basically running on concrete,’” recalls Winsor, noting that a hard surface can put more stress on student-athletes’ joints.

Student-athletes currently ride in vans about 30 minutes roundtrip to and from Veterans Memorial Stadium to practice, which Winsor says cuts into the amount of time they can train because of class schedules. The upgraded Warmerdam Field will solve that issue.

“We would stay across the street on the grass fields, training as much as we could on the grass,” Winsor says. “But at some point you’ve got to get the blocks out, you’ve got to get the hurdles out, you’ve got to high jump, you’ve got to pole vault. You don’t have a choice; you’ve got to be on the track.”

The contractor for the project is BMY Construction Group of Fresno. The project is being financed through the University’s general fund reserves. The track also will be used by kinesiology, ROTC and University High School students.

A Historical Perspective

Warmerdam Field is named for Cornelius “Dutch” Warmerdam (pictured), a Fresno State alumnus who held the world pole vault record from 1940 to 1943 before coaching the Bulldogs for 20 years. Warmerdam became the first vaulter to clear 15 feet, and he did it using a bamboo pole.

The first-ever dual meet at Warmerdam Field was April 23, 1977. Warmerdam Field later hosted the 1994, 2001 and 2007 Western Athletic Conference championships. Fresno State won the men’s outdoor team title in 1994 under then-coach Red Estes, who was inducted into the United States Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2000.

Estes led the men’s track and field team for 20 seasons and won 10 consecutive conference championships from 1993 to 1992. He remains active in the Bulldog Foundation, supporting Fresno State athletics to this day, and stresses the importance of academics.

“The number of athletes who go to pro sports and make a living is very minimal. If you have a sport on campus, make sure it contributes in every way it can. Look at the hundreds of hours our student-athletes contribute to the community and volunteering.”

In 2001, Bob Fraley took over for Estes as director of track and field after coaching at Fresno State for 20 seasons. He retired from Fresno State in 2008 but continues to direct the North American Pole Vaulting Association Championship each summer on the streets of Old Town Clovis.
For the third straight year, Fresno State had 50 or more student-athletes named to the fall Academic All-Mountain West team. The Bulldogs volleyball team had 10 members selected, including Zana Bowens (pictured), second among all Mountain West programs in that sport. Women’s soccer had 13 selections and women’s and men’s cross country had four each. The football team had 19 selections, marking four straight years with 15 or more. Fresno State and Boise State are the only two football programs that can make that claim.

To be eligible for selection, student-athletes must have completed at least one academic term while maintaining a 3.0 GPA or better and must be starters or significant contributors on their teams.
By the time Carl Merriam was in his late teens, he had 85,000 Lego parts in his Star Wars collection—not including his many other Lego sets.

Growing up with three older siblings in Chowchilla, Merriam had Lego bricks scattered around his childhood home for as long as he can remember.

He joined an online Lego fan community in 2005 and was inspired to build more and build bigger. Merriam began making a name for himself as a Lego builder and soon was commissioned to build his creations—the biggest of which was a 20,000-part display of Santa’s workshop with elves and toys at Fresno’s River Park shopping center in 2010.

Still, Merriam never thought he’d one day turn his lucrative hobby of Lego building into a career.

“Then one of my friends from the Lego fan community got hired at Lego, and I thought, ‘Wait, that’s possible?’” he says. “Three months later, I was living in Denmark and living my dream.”

Now, as a full-time Lego designer at the company headquarters in Billund, Denmark, Merriam’s job is to create the sets that are packaged and sold in stores worldwide.

Merriam is working on the Lego Mindstorms product line. He has also worked on Lego Minecraft, Lego Mixels and Lego Creator.

“Most of my job is building with Lego bricks, trying things out, showing what we built to kids and trying to make a great experience for everyone,” he says.

His favorite creations so far are the oversized matches he once made while waiting for a bus.

“I take inspiration from all over the place—movies, TV, Lego products, Lego elements, household objects,” Merriam says. “If a shape or style of something is interesting to me, I usually think about how to build it with Lego elements.”

Merriam received his bachelor’s degree from Fresno State in mass communication and journalism in 2009, with a focus in digital media.

He worked in video production for five years after graduating from Fresno State, and for a time, Lego creations were nothing more than a “nice hobby” from which he could make occasional side money.

That is, until he turned it into a career—a career that allows him to build every day.

“Getting to work on products that bring happiness to kids all over the world, that’s very rewarding to me.”

—Esra Hashem is a student assistant for the Fresno State Alumni Association.
Career Connections is a free, easy way for alumni to advise students from anywhere

Fresno State alumni in all occupations are being asked to share their expertise with current students by signing up — for free — on the new Fresno State Career Connections networking site.

Launched through the Fresno State Alumni Association, Career Connections provides the opportunity for alumni to give back to their alma mater by mentoring students needing career advice.

The web-based platform overcomes obstacles of distance and time, making it possible for students to connect with any alum willing to help.

Senior Jamie Guzman, who is studying commercial recreation and event planning, says she attended a career workshop and was quickly overcome by thoughts of doubt. She knew she needed to seek advice but wasn’t sure how. So she gave Fresno State Career Connections a try.

The same day Guzman joined, she was able to connect with alumna Amanda Leath (class of 1999), a business owner and events coordinator in San Luis Obispo.

“I signed up, and in a week or two I had my first connection request, and that was from Jamie,” Leath says. “The whole process was really easy. I did all the legwork online, and it only took a minute or two, and 20 seconds to respond to the connection request, and then a 30-minute phone call. We had a really great conversation, and I felt like I really helped her.”

During their phone call, Leath reviewed Guzman’s resume, gave her tips on applying for jobs and going to interviews and even led her to a couple of places that she may be interested in working.

“Instead of just talking to my parents, I needed to find someone in my field who could help me” Guzman says. “She told me what she would look for, and I thought that was very helpful, especially because she’s coming from a place that I want to be.”

— Marisa Mata is a student assistant for the Fresno State Alumni Association.
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CLASS NOTES

1950s

Marcella Note (1950), nurse practitioner; now works at Fresno-Goodman Eye.

1970s

Lynne Ayers Ashbeck (1976, ’77) president at California Medical Center, was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

William Brigham (1976) retired after 22 years as administrator of the NEL substance abuse program.

Tom Burnham (1976), chief human resources officer at Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County, is now a board member of American Family Housing, a nonprofit that provides housing and related services to low-income and homeless families.

Steven Gomes (1977), vice president at Community Medical Centers, was appointed ‘77), vice president at Community Medical Centers, was appointed president of Forsythe Land Management Winnemucca.

1980s

Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff (1980) was inducted into the U.S. National Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1990s

Christopher McGlothlin (1990) is now vice president for Natural Alternatives International Inc.

2000s


2010s

Christopher McGlothlin (2010) was named interim president for the Fresno Police Department.

2010s

Sam Babb (2010) was named director of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

2010s

Jenifer Campbell (2010) is now sports producer at Fresno DiBuduo & Associates.

2010s

Derek Franks (2010), general manager for the Fresno Grizzlies, was named Pacific Coast League Executive of the Year.

2010s

Erla Agüero (2010) is now a special education teacher for Oakhurst.

2010s

Jennifer Campbell (2010) is now director of marketing and recruiting at Pratt Community College.

2010s

Abigail Paladino (2010) is now city clerk for the City of Kingsburg.

2010s

Camilla Pena (2001, ’04), Woodlake High School counselor, is now director for Career College and Program Coordinators.

2010s

David Pyrooz (2010), cinematographer, is an assistant professor at the University of Colorado.

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In Memoriam

For thee, our hopes and memories

California Health Sciences University College of Pharmacy. Doctor of Pharmacy program has been granted Provisional status by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, 109 South Le courbe Drive, Suite 4018 Chicago, IL 60612, (312)326-1575; E-Mail: APPE@calhealthsci.edu

For an application of the ACP accreditation process, consult the USOS website, www.usos.org, 666 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10103

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2010s

Julie Bolme (2010) is now band teacher for Oakland Joint Unified School District.

Michael Cook (2010) is now regional visitator with Tozima Vineyards.

Scott Drinnon (2010) is now a deputy for San Joaquin County.

Jeff Fritz (2010), violinist, is now conductor for the King Symphony Orchestra.

Jacquelyn Jackson (2010) was featured in the Salinas Teacher Honor Roll by The Californian newspaper. She teaches English, ag academy and supplementary English at Everett Alvarez High School.


Michael Mota (2010) is now a CHP officer in Barstow.

Seth Rosew (2013) was featured on NBC as an aflao grover saving seep by using a drip system program.

Kevin Sakasegawa (2010) is now an officer with the Cones Police Department.

Lazaro Sandoval (2010) is now the Agricultural Attaché for the USDA’s Department.

Sal Silva (2010) is now owner of Argentina.

Gianna Alvarez High School.

She teaches English, ag academy and supplementary English at Everett Alvarez High School.


Bill H. Gannaway, Nov. 28 in Visalia.

Kathleen Dunna Gill (1972), Nov. 10 in Visalia.

Robert “Bob” G. Greene, Nov. 10 in Visalia.

John Frederick Lage, Oct. 29 in Bakersfield.

Mary Jane Hance, Oct. 21 in Visalia.

Carol M. Hunsgraven, Sept. 21 in Visalia.

Kama-Dolores Harrington, Oct. 20 in Visalia.

Norma Jean Hickamputz Harry Nemo, Jan. 20 in Bakersfield.

Andres Hernandez, Oct. 17 in San Jose.

Carolyn Michelle Hudson, Nov. 23 in San Diego.

Wendie Balb James, Jan. 26 in Santa Barbara.

Kyle Matthew Johnson, Dec. 10 in Fresno.

Robert Knox, Sept. 29 in Visalia.

Donald Ransom, May 30 in Visalia.

Restaurante Karakor, Aug. 20 in Fresno.

Vera J. Karom, Jan. 13 in Arroyo Grande.

Mathias K. Khaghajan, May 6 in Salinas.

Russell Dunn Kake, Oct. 15 in Visalia.

Barry Kondo, Feb. 12 in Visalia.

Robert “Bob” Joe Lashley (1961), Nov. 7 in Bakersfield.

Ben Lewis Lane (1950), Feb. 20 in Fresno.

Elga Lee, June 17 in San Francisco.


Josephine “J” Orlando Maraviglia, May 13 in Fresno.


Marvin A. Martina (1968), Aug. 16 in Sacramento.

Ronald Henry Metzler (1973), Sept. 28 in Fresno.

Kathryn “Katie” Nichols, Oct. 2 in Fresno.

Somali Nemethia (2004), Jan. 18 in Fresno.

Cecil Morgan Davis, Feb. 15 in Montgomery.

Ralph E. Gudde (1950), Dec. 8 in Tulare.

Edgar Palomino, Dec. 10 in McFarland.


Mary Jane Hance, Oct. 21 in Visalia.

Lorraine L. Maughelli, Oct. 25 in Fresno.

Bill B. Giannopoulos, Nov. 16 in Fresno.


Gary David Brown (1971), Nov. 14 in Fresno.

Eunice Chamichian, Dec. 31 in San Francisco.


Roberta Lee Carter, Jan. 23 in Fresno.

Lynn Edward Coash (1972), Aug. 28 in Wilmington.


Bonnie Mae Cobb, Aug. 26 in Tulare.

James Chavez, Aug. 13 in Fresno.

Eunice Chamichian, Dec. 31 in San Francisco.

Richard C. Castile, Jan. 22 in Fresno.

Lynn Edward Coash (1972), Aug. 28 in Wilmington.


Bonnie Mae Cobb, Aug. 26 in Tulare.

James Chavez, Aug. 13 in Fresno.

Eunice Chamichian, Dec. 31 in San Francisco.

Richard C. Castile, Jan. 22 in Fresno.

Lynn Edward Coash (1972), Aug. 28 in Wilmington.


Bonnie Mae Cobb, Aug. 26 in Tulare.

Lawrence E. Carlson, Oct. 3 in Sonoma County.

Ronald Henry Metzler (1973), Sept. 28 in Fresno.

Kathleen Omata Gin, Dec. 14 in Oakland.

Jorge Ricardo Rodriguez, Sept. 1 in Fresno.

Judy Ann Norman, Jan. 18 in Fresno.

Roberta Lee Carter, Jan. 23 in Fresno.

Lynn Edward Coash (1972), Aug. 28 in Wilmington.


Bonnie Mae Cobb, Aug. 26 in Tulare.

Lawrence E. Carlson, Oct. 3 in Sonoma County.

Ronald Henry Metzler (1973), Sept. 28 in Fresno.

Kathleen Omata Gin, Dec. 14 in Oakland.

Jorge Ricardo Rodriguez, Sept. 1 in Fresno.

Judy Ann Norman, Jan. 18 in Fresno.

Charles Elise Farr, July 27 in San Jose.

William “Bill” Harvey Frame, May 11 in Salinas.

Walter Funk, Nov. 5 in Fresno.
1 Stephen McVay (2007) and Jessica Choy (2003, ’10) married on Oct. 16 in Fish Camp.
2 Kevin Scott Cooper (2006, ’07) married Rosemary Nader Abdoshahidi on Aug. 22.
3 Derek Carr (2013) and Heather Carr (2011) had a baby boy, Deker.
4 Gary Edmondson (2002) and Karin Edmondson welcomed their first baby boy, Caleb, on March 15.
5 Patrick Maridon (2008) and Megan Cavan married on Sept. 12 in Carmel Valley.
6 Joel Beery (2008) and Aubriane Beery welcomed their first baby boy, Zacariah, on Feb. 7.
Andrew Bilo (2013) and Kristen McClure married on Nov. 14 at Tenaya Lodge.
Angelica “Rita” Capuchino (2010) and Juan Martinez Jr. announced their engagement.
Ilich Lopez (2008) and Jessica Lyon announced their engagement.
Nick Yovino (1971) and Laura Whitehouse announced their engagement.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Not the Typical
A group of 35 Fresno State students spent their spring break collectively volunteering 800 hours to community service projects at Stone Soup Fresno, Scout Island and Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Central Valley.
Through Fresno State’s Alternative Spring Break program, 11 students, including Haruka Naoi (pictured), worked on river clean-up, reforestation and invasive plant removal.
Participants develop leadership and communication skills through team building, enhance their personal and professional development and network with other students and community benefit organizations.

SPRING BREAK

ONLINE EXTRA
Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine to see how some Fresno State students are learning by serving.
Clarkson Creative
Mountain West Conference

Fresno State coach Rodney Terry celebrates with the Red Wave after the Bulldogs win the Mountain West basketball tournament in Las Vegas.