CLASS NOTES

1940s

Elaine Mason (1947) a professor emerita of physical education was honored for lifetime tennis achievements by the Fig Garden Swim & Racquet Club in Fresno.

1950s

Elvin C. “Chuck” Bell (1959) received the Florida Panhandle’s Significant Sig Award, Sigma Chi fraternity’s highest award for professional service and civic leadership.

Hon. Armando Rodriguez (1959) LIFE, retired Fresno County Superior Court judge, received the Fresno County Bar Association’s Bernie Witkin Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jerry Tarkanian (1955) former Bulldogs men’s basketball coach, was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

1960s

Dr. Edward Diener (1968) a University of Illinois professor, received an American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientist Award for scholarship and research.

Larry Duncan (1969) became chairman of the board of Duncan Enterprises, a Fresno-based creative crafts company.

Augie Garrido (1961) the Texas coach, was inducted into the College Baseball Hall of Fame in Omaha.

Morris Proctor (1967) a trucking company operator and farmer, was grand marshal of the Kings County Homecoming celebration.

Doug Yavanian (1967) LIFE was selected to serve on the 2013-14 Riverside County Grand Jury.

1970s

Lynne Ashbeck (1977) became Clovis mayor for a second time.

Diane Chambers (1974) a veteran actor, appeared in the SyFy monster/disaster movie sendup "Sharknado."

Edmund D’Arcy-Clarke (1973, ’77) posthumously received a Purple Heart and Prisoner of War Medal for World War II Army service.

Rohan Fernando (1978) an Iowa State University professor, received the American Society of Animal Science’s Rockefeller Prentice Memorial Award in Animal Breeding and Genetics.

Maree (Mundellius) Hawkins (1971) was named one of Stanislaus County’s Outstanding Women of 2013.

John Ledbetter (1975) a grape grower, was recognized by Notably San Joaquin for major contributions to Valley agriculture and the community.

Linda Penner (1978) Fresno County chief probation officer, was appointed executive officer of the Board of State and Community Corrections.

Jim Ringelman (1975) conservation director for Ducks Unlimited’s Great Plains region, received the North American Waterfowl Management Plan’s International Canvasback Award.

1980s

Mark Astone (1988, ’00) LIFE owner of Catalyst Marketing, received the Agency of the Year Award from the Fresno Advertising Federation.

Geri Derbyshtie (1989) was named chief development officer for the American Red Cross’ Connecticut and Rhode Island region.

Brad Fischer (1981) LIFE a past-president of the Fresno State Alumni Association, was named vice president and operations support manager of Premier Valley Bank.

Carol Hartman (1984) a landscape painter in Butte, Mont., was named 2013 Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women.

Stan Louie (1988) LIFE received the Selma District Chamber of Commerce Community Spirit Award.


Christine Maul (1982, ’97) a Fresno State professor of communicative disorders and deaf studies, was appointed to the Future of the State Developmental Centers Task Force.

William McDonald (1984) was named chief of the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Department.

Monica Nino (1985) was appointed San Joaquin County administrator.

Don Rhodes (1985) was appointed Canyon City chief financial officer and director of administrative services.

Luke Serpa (1985) a civil engineer, was named Clovis public utilities director.

Amy Shuklian (1987) the mayor of Visalia, was grand marshal of Fresno’s annual Rainbow Pride Parade.

Kevin M. Smith (1988, ’92, ’01) was appointed Fresno State Winery’s business and marketing manager.

Thomas Watson (1986) was appointed South Lake Tahoe city attorney.

Kathy Westeyn (1981) was the Ceres Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Woman of the Year.

Aleta Wolfe (1980, ’88) a Fresno State career counselor, received the H. Sanford Gum Award from the California Internship and Work Experience Association.

Rob Yraceburu (1984, ’90) was appointed to head Wells Fargo bank’s National Food and Agriculture Division.

1990s

Frank Barajas (1991) a history professor at California State University, Channel Islands, was the honorary marshal at that university’s 2013 commencement.

Darryl Booth (1998, ’00) was appointed president of Fresno-based Decade Software Co.


Tim Foster (1992) was appointed College of the Sequoias Foundation director.

Tara Gomez (1998) is general manager of the new Kitá Wines in Santa Ynez.

Betsy Hays (1991, ’99) a Fresno State professor of mass communication and journalism, was elected to the Public Relations Society of America’s College of Fellows.

Will Hooker (1997) was appointed coach of the American Basketball Association’s Fresno Griffins.

Pete Nolan (1992) a senior Riverside County deputy district attorney, was the California District Attorney Association’s Outstanding Prosecutor.

Vidal Perez (1993) was hired as winemaker at J. Wilkes in Santa Maria.

Gary Quintana (1999) a wrestler, was inducted into the Selma Athletic Hall of Fame.

Peter Robertson (1992, ’95, 2005) LEGACY, Fresno State director of alumni marketing and engagement, was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society.


Dora Westerlund (1996) was chosen CEO of the Fresno Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

2000s

Rick Chavez (2001) was selected Fresno County’s chief probation officer.

Erica Henry (2008) an assistant at Grambling State University (Louisiana), was selected as women’s basketball coach at Fort Valley State University (Georgia).

Rob Hoyt (2008) was appointed men’s basketball coach at Columbia College in Sonora.


Kent Karsevar (2004, 2012) a senior development director at Fresno State, received the Genezenbach Award for Outstanding Research in Philanthropy for Educational Advancement by the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

Jesse Katz (2007) winemaker at Lancaster and Forth estate wineries in Healdsburg, was named to the 40 under 40 list compiled by Wine Enthusiast magazine.

Jeff Macon (2012) was named manager of the Technology Commercialization Program of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Jess Martinez (2006) a veteran law enforcement officer, was inducted into the Kings County Professional Latin-American Association Hall of Fame.

Geoff Martzen (2001) was hired as Brigham Young University’s coordinator of football player personnel and on-campus recruiting.

Matthew McGee (2010) was presented the James MacArthur Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Resident Play at the Helen Hayes Awards.

Edward Moreno (2005) was appointed the Monterey County public health officer.

Anastasia Petukhova (2001) and Laura Pola (2012) launched GetMeATeam.com, which helps high school athletes get recruited by college coaches.

Andrew Robinson (2002) an assistant women’s basketball coach, was promoted to men’s basketball coach at Imperial Valley College.
Chad Spencer (2005) was named Bulldogs men’s golf coach after coaching Nevada’s women’s team.

Oscar Torres (2003) of Ramos Torres Winery in Kingsburg received a gold medal at the Finger Lakes International Wine Competition for 2010 tempranillo.

James Tyner (2003) was named Fresno’s inaugural poet laureate.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

(Graduation/attendance record dates unknown)

Craig Bronzan, Brentwood parks and recreation director, was a Liberty Union High School District (Brentwood) Graduate of Distinction.

Paul George of the Indiana Pacers was the National Basketball Association’s Most Improved Player and played in his first All-Star Game.

Gabriela Mello was named Wells Fargo community development officer for Kern, Kings, Tulare, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

**CURRENT STUDENTS**

Greg J. Chavez was named general manger of C.O.R.E. Sports Nutrition in Fresno.

Daniel Clark was elected California State Student Association vice president of legislative affairs.

Michael Eberhard received the North American Intrafraternity Conference Undergraduate Award of Distinction.

Anthony Mosely was inducted into the Selma Athletic Hall of Fame for his football exploits.

Stephanie Nash was chosen by the California Milk Advisory Board (Dist. 8) as its dairy princess.

Gurbhupinder Sahota, Estevan Gutierrez, Tamar Karkazian, Ray Caldwell and Genesis Del Bosque founded the Fresno Language Project while trying to break a record for languages spoken in a video.

Ryan Woods received a Williamstown Theatre Festival apprenticeship, National Partners of the American Theatre Classical Acting Award and an invitation to perform at the Shaw Festival in Canada.

**ALUMNI IN EDUCATION**

Fresno State’s founding mission of training teachers continues in the university’s 103rd year. Continuing that mission:

Zachary Boswell (2007) named assistant principal at West High School in Tracy.


Renee DeCanio (1998) of Selma High School received the Bob Burton Spirit Award at the California Association of Directors of Activities area convention.

Alfonso Gamino (1992) appointed the inaugural superintendent of the Santa Paula Unified School District in Ventura County.

Joe Hendrix (2004) hired as principal at Nuestro Elementary School in Live Oak.


Steve Martinez (2012) chosen as Twin Rivers Unified Schools superintendent in North Highlands.

Dorothy McDonald (1971), a retired teacher in Corcoran, choosen Kings County Homecoming queen.


Leonard Ramirez (1960) was a Fresno County Office of Education Teacher of the Year for his work with adult students with intellectual disabilities.

His brother, Manuel Ramirez (1978), a 7th-grade science educator in Lamont, was the Kern County Department of Education’s Teacher of the Year.

Jeff B. Schmidt (2003) named boys basketball coach at Bullard High School.

Robb Young (1975), Hanford High School’s longest-serving educator, retired after a 35-year career.

**BULLDOG ‘PUPS’**


Fatih Yenen (2006) and Bilhan Yenen welcomed a daughter on May 23.

**MARRIAGES**


Thomas Gaffery (2004, ’09) and Shane Strickland (2009), July 8, in Fresno.


Myndi Hardgrave (1993) and Arriana Hernandez July 1, in Visalia.

Garynn Hollingshead (2003, ’06) and Gerald Rude (2010, ’12), July 7, California.

Lisa Lopez (2003) and Kurt Jasso June 8, in Visalia.

Eric Maul (1992) and Joseph Belpasso June 28, in San Francisco.

Vincent Ricchiti (2005) and Ashley Gunlund May 25, in Fresno.

Dolly Silveira (2010) and Brook Justin, July 10, in Fresno.


**RETIREMENTS**

Fred Bologna (1972) director of the “New Wrinkles” annual productions at Fresno City College.


Mike Foley (1967) planning director of Maui County, Hawaii, and a geography professor at Maui Community College.

Dan Hemesath (1960) after 31 years as a commercial photographer in Clovis.

Manuel Jimenez (1973) a small-farm adviser in Tulare for the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Lanny Larson LIFE from Fresno State’s University Communications after 50 years in journalism and strategic communications.

Manuel Lopez, San Joaquin County administrator for 11 years.

Larry Powell (1971) Fresno County Office of Education superintendent and a 40-year educator.

Robert Speer (1965) after a journalism career that included 30 years as editor of the Chico News Review.

Angelo Stalis (1970) from ABC 30 in Fresno after 43 years, much of it as a weathercaster.

Mike Watney (1979) after 34 years as the Bulldogs men’s golf coach.

**BULLDOG BOOK CLUB**

Looking for something to read? Here are recent works by Fresno State alumni for your reading list:

Lee P. Brown (1961) “Growing Up to be Mayor” (BGI Press/$17.95)


James A. Herrick (1976) “After the Genome: A Language for Our Local Biotechnical Future” (Baylor University Press/$39.95), cowritten with Michael J. Hyde

Raymond Ibrahim (1999, 2002) “Crucified Again: Exposing Islam’s New War on Christians” (Regnery/$27.95)


Christopher R. Martinez (2009) “Ashes in the Fall” (Amazon Digital/99 cents)

Sylvia Ross (1969) “East of the Great Valley: The Story of Merab McCrea"y” (Bentley Avenue/$17.95)

The following letter from an alumnus after receiving the fall 2012 FresnoState Magazine speaks for itself:

As a very proud Fresno State Bulldog journalism alum (1971), FresnoState Magazine [Fall 2012 issue] is the finest publication I have received from the university. The contents are informative, entertaining and exceptionally composed.

Ironically, I had contacted the Fresno State Alumni Association office in 2010 and 2011 regarding the cost of membership for seniors living outside of the Central Valley [because] our opportunities to attend events is “distance-limited.” I was informed there were no exceptions: I could either pay by the year or buy a lifetime membership. End of conversation.

My greatest joy reading the magazine was the discontinuation of dues and that every student — present or past — “automatically is considered a member of the Alumni Association.” I believe this policy change will only enhance alumni participation in all avenues.

Living in Los Angeles, I regularly wear Fresno State apparel promoting both the university and the Bulldogs. Our reputation in Los Angeles is stellar, and everyone I come in contact with says one message:

“Fresno State should have been selected for the Pac-12!”

I took it upon myself, with the assistance of Peter Robertson, our outstanding director of alumni marketing, to get this approved, with the assistance of Peter Robertson, our outstanding director of alumni marketing, to get this approved, with our enthusiasm and perseverance.

Now that we’re in the Mountain West, I firmly believe our conference will rival the Pac-12 in all sports and fare far better. I also look forward to receiving the next outstanding edition of the FresnoState Magazine!

Bulldog Pride Forever! — David N. Mitzman