



STUDENT PROFILE

RICHARD ALONSO-LAZARO

Major: Criminology

Year: Senior

Hometown: Clovis, Calif.

Info: Richard knows firsthand how hard it can be for disadvantaged kids — he grew up in the foster care system and at one point was homeless. But today he balances his criminology classes with hundreds of hours of volunteer service. Along with his Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) brothers, Richard is accomplishing amazing things for children in need.

Helping kids and communities:

“This past spring PIKE hosted a Mud Volleyball tournament raising money that we donated to Fresno State revitalization. We were also able to partner with Old Navy to provide new shoes to children in need who live around the Fresno State campus,” he said. “I didn’t always have a lot of support growing up but there were those special people who helped me along and helped me get where I am today. Now I want to help other kids and be that positive support for them.”

He’s awesome: Richard received the Pearson Prize Award last summer. That honor gave him the opportunity to achieve his goal of having his very own strength and conditioning gym. He will provide personal training classes for no charge to children who are in foster care.

His plans for the year: “I am in the beginning stages of writing a book related to my experience growing up in the foster care system.”

— Juana Mosqueda

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STUDENT PROFILE

MONIQUE MARIE BIENVENUE

Major: Agricultural Communications

Year: Senior

Hometown: Downey, Calif.

Info: She's outstanding! Monique won the 2013 McClure Outstanding Chancellor of the Year Award for her leadership in the Alpha Zeta's Cal Epsilon chapter.

She's pumped about it: "I put a lot of time and effort into creating a more unified and focused chapter that will appeal to future ag majors."

City girl naïf to ag evangelist: "Growing up in L.A., I didn't learn much about agriculture and that seriously affected how I viewed agricultural industries and the policies behind their actions. Moving to Fresno I quickly learned how things were done and why. Now I want to share that with people in urbanized areas."

She's social: Monique manages social media for Central Valley California Women for Agriculture and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and is senior chair of the Press Corps committee for the California FFA.

— Juana Mosqueda



Cary Edmondson