

President's Investiture

History was made at the Save Mart Center May 10 as Dr. Joseph I. Castro was formally invested as Fresno State president.

For youngsters Lukas and David Rosas of Fresno, it was a special treat. They enjoyed new student-produced Bulldog hot dogs and posed for photos with the new president, who grew up in nearby Hanford.

More than 1,300 people attended Castro's investiture after the University reached out to K-12 students in the region. More than half of the attendees were children like Lukas and David.

"If you remember anything I said today, please let it be this: Fresno State is here for you now and in the future to help you achieve your dreams," said Castro in his address. He also is the first Latino to hold Fresno State's presidency.

Mom Aida Rosas said her two sons had a great time at the investiture. When Lukas took a copy of the investiture program signed by Castro to school he was a hit with his classmates.

"Dr. Castro has a new, young fan," Aida said. "Thank you President and Mrs. [Mary] Castro for the time and attention you shared with my boys on that special day."



CSU Chancellor Timothy P. White and President Joseph I. Castro

Cary Edmondson

Thank you for your philanthropic support

Fresno State raised a record \$43,088,793 in 2014 — the highest one-year total raised since the beginning of the recession and a nearly 64 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

During the past fiscal year, Fresno State received 40 individual gifts over \$50,000. Highlights include \$500,000 from Mathias "Matty" Matoian for business and nursing scholarships; two \$200,000 gifts from Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. to support agricultural research and the Fresno Family Counseling Center; and a \$200,000 gift from Olam SVI to enhance laboratory space inside the Jordan Research Center, scheduled to open in fall 2015.

"I am filled with gratitude for the investment that our supporters make in Fresno State and the young minds who will lead us into the future," Castro says.

"I commend our dedicated volunteers and the University Advancement team who year after year work to enhance the University and to create opportunities for students."



Leadership transformation

Castro's second year at the helm of Fresno State features new leadership across the highest levels and in several other areas as well.

Joining the president's cabinet are Dr. Frank Lamas (*second from left*), vice president for student affairs, and Paula Castadio (*left*), vice president for advancement.

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson (*second from right*) remains chief financial officer and vice president for administration and Athletic Corporation board chair. She's also serving as interim co-director of athletics with Stephen Robertello while the University conducts a national search.

Also new to the cabinet is Dr. Lynnette Zelezny (*right*), former psychology professor and associate provost, who was selected as provost and vice president for academic affairs in March.

Commission on Future of Agriculture releases recommendations

The Fresno State President's Commission on the Future of Agriculture issued its report in May with several recommendations to enhance the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. Among them are:

- Creating stronger industry partnerships
- Creating a Food and Agriculture Institute
- Expanding the number of faculty and staff
- Increasing the number of student internships
- Expanding water-related majors/minors
- Building cross-college opportunities in curriculum and research

The commission, comprising agricultural and University leaders, has been meeting since December 2013 to develop its preliminary report.

"Fresno County is the epicenter for agriculture worldwide," Castro says. "This commission will help fulfill my vision for Fresno State to become the front-runner in providing California agriculture with its future employees, industry leaders and innovators in production agriculture and food processing."



Saving water with earthworms

Fresno State partnered with Chile-based wastewater treatment company Biofiltro USA Inc., using earthworms for a new technology — biofiltration — to enhance water efficiency on the University dairy. Biofiltration is an innovative method that uses natural organisms rather than chemical processes to recycle water, says Sanjar Taromi, chief marketing officer for Biofiltro USA.

"Earthworms filter unwanted nutrients out of the dairy's wastewater," he says.

"The recycled water can then be used in a greater variety of irrigation applications."

With an office at the Water and Energy Technology (WET) Center on campus, the company is using Fresno State as a test site for the system that could fundamentally change approaches toward water treatment while saving energy and eliminating chemical usage.



Physics students are out of this world

Fresno State physics students soon will participate in an international research project related to Albert Einstein's theory on the existence of gravitational waves.

The University's station at the Sierra Remote Observatories, 47 miles northeast of Fresno near Shaver Lake, has been accepted into the Gravitational-Wave Electromagnetic follow-up program, joining a network of visible-light observatories throughout the world.

The program is part of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration, which includes more than 800 scientists from dozens of institutions and 13 countries worldwide. Founded in 1997, the collaboration seeks to make the first direct detection of gravitational waves — ripples in space created by extreme cosmic events that are predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity.

When a wave is detected by scientists, they will call on participating observatories to aim their telescope at the target area in space to collect data for analysis.

"This will explore the fundamental physics of gravity and will develop the emerging field of gravitational-wave science as a tool of astronomical discovery," says Dr. Frederick Ringwald, a Fresno State physics professor. "Our students will be participating in a major test of Einstein's theory."

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