

Fresno State

The Magazine for the New California

Faces
of service



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We'd like to hear your comments about FresnoState Magazine. Please e-mail them to magazine@csufresno.edu. If you receive more than one copy of FresnoState Magazine, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State. If you would like to support Fresno State, please visit www.SupportFresnoState.com to make your contribution.



We celebrate nearly a century of service

Since Fresno State's founding in 1911, we've prepared tens of thousands of people by instilling habits of critical thinking, innovation, leadership, intellectual inquiry, appreciation of diversity and community service.

In 2006, a generous gift from community and university benefactors Jan and Bud Richter (cover photo upper left) helped us underscore our commitment to helping our community by establishing the Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

That same year, I challenged our campus community to achieve 1 million volunteer hours annually by our centennial in 2011. I'm happy to report we're on track to exceed that goal early.

We're proud that Fresno State reaches deep into our community to make a difference in people's lives. The community relies on us when needs suddenly arise, and our eagerness to help is an example to our families and friends that will pay dividends in the future.

It's difficult to describe the personal satisfaction of helping others, whether it's indirectly by selling newspapers for Kids Day to benefit Children's Hospital or handing an unemployed mother from our campus neighborhood a sack of groceries so her family will have food that week.

We are privileged to be in a position to give back to our community, which has so loyally supported Fresno State for nearly a century.

John D. Welty,
President

FresnoState

The Magazine for the New California

8 A tradition of service

Community service, a Fresno State founding principle, now involves nearly 1 million hours of volunteering each year. In this issue, we focus on some of the thousands of faculty, staff and students who staff neighborhood fairs, fight illiteracy, feed the hungry, promote children's health, build houses, raise money and much more, carrying the service tradition into our second century.

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Dr. Ethelynda Harding's favorite redbud is Doug Hansen's subject

Front and back cover photos:
Michael Karibian

From our readers

Online publication yes/no

I really enjoy sitting down with a good book, newspaper or magazine, taking in all the pictures and script at my leisure, with the feel of the publication between my fingers. I am the food editor and columnist for The Cambrian News, and my readers also enjoy my work better in "hard copy" than on-line.
Consuelo Macedo (1963), Cambria

Your new online version of FresnoState Magazine is wonderful. The layout is eye-appealing and the stories offer a lot of variety and interest. Congratulations on a job well done and keep up the good work.
Barbara Mecca (1973), Fresno

The online version of the magazine was well done, but I'd prefer a printed version in my hands. Using the "zoom" control is cumbersome. At times, it's easier to skip a page and move on. I've decided to do my part for the economy and ecology and read the magazine online. It'll be good practice for me!
Gary Fernandez (1973)

I enjoyed the new online format as well as the content of the magazine. It took me a minute to figure out how to navigate, but once I had that figured out I enjoyed the magazine. I have found that different monitors display screens differently, so perhaps not everyone experienced the difficulty with the tool bar that I did.
Arnold Joyal Jr. (1957)

Thoroughly enjoyed "thumbing through" the online version of the magazine. Image quality was fine, and the news fascinating.
Alan M. Mikuni, Menlo Park



I want to thank the staff for the wonderful issue of the magazine. It keeps me well informed and, I'm proud as an alumnus to be associated with Fresno State. It's a wonderful program, and it afforded me a great career with the Fresno Police Department after I received my degree.
Danny Loza (1975)

Editor's note:

A reader took issue with spring 2009 FresnoState Magazine comparisons of the new Henry Madden Library to other California State University libraries.

The largest library in the 23-campus system is at San Diego State (more than 500,000 square feet and 2 million volumes), followed by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library at San Jose State. When the expanded J.P. Leonard Library opens in 2010 at San Francisco State, the Madden Library will stand fourth in the CSU with 340,000 square feet and about 1.3 million volumes.

Comments welcome at magazine@csufresno.edu

Alumnus Venosdel wins feedback drawing cash

Alumnus Paul Venosdel (1992) is the winner of a drawing among readers who e-mailed feedback about the expanded and enhanced online presence of FresnoState Magazine.

More than 80 readers offered their opinions – mostly favorable – about the online magazine and a chance to win an iPhone or \$250. Venosdel's number was selected and he chose the cash.

At Fresno State, Venosdel earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business and pledged Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He worked for fellow alumnus and SAE member Jim Costa (1974) with the California Assembly Committee on Agriculture, then for the California Farm Bureau and as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program in California.

He owns a government relations company – DPV Solutions – and lives in Boise, Idaho, with his wife Cindy and sons J.D. and Brett. A brave Bulldog fan in Bronco country, Venosdel says, "I root for one football win every year – just beat Boise State."



Campaign enters public phase with **\$200m goal**

By Jill C. Wagner

The public launch of the Campaign for Fresno State was held May 30, 2009 with an on-campus celebration of success to date and a declaration by President John D. Welty of a fundraising goal of \$200 million by June 30, 2012.

Welty noted that the “quiet phase” of the campaign exceeded expectations by raising \$134.2 million.

The campaign “comes at a critical time for our university, our region and the world,” said Welty. “We are determined to provide our students with an outstanding, world-class education that enables them to go on and lead lives of consequence.”

The remodeled and expanded Henry Madden Library, reopened only three months earlier, was the site of the event. Guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and listened to music performed by students inside the library before heading outdoors to the Peace Garden for the formal program under the stars on a warm evening.

Welty thanked volunteers for their outstanding work on the campaign during its quiet phase and expressed his gratitude to all those who had made a gift to Fresno State since the Campaign for Fresno State began in 2005.

“Regardless of size, the important element of a gift is the result that is achieved because of it,” Welty said. “Gifts large or small provide scholarships, equipment, tools, research programs, building enhancements and experiences for students and faculty that wouldn’t happen without your support.”

Jan and Bud Richter were honored for their service in leading the initial phase of the campaign to success. A multimedia presentation highlighted the Richters’ decades of involvement in leadership activities at Fresno State, culminating with them co-chairing the campaign’s quiet phase.

Alumni Dennis Woods (1969) and Omel Nieves (1983) were introduced to the audience as co-chairs of the public phase.

Woods is a longtime supporter and volunteer at Fresno State, who is president and CEO of United Security Bank in Fresno. His philanthropy includes support for refurbishing a theater at Fresno State, which was renamed the Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre.

Nieves is an attorney and shareholder in a Pasadena law firm, who as a student was a co-captain of the basketball team that won the National Invitation Tournament in 1983. He was a standout in the classroom, too, earning the university’s Scholastic Award for Outstanding Student-Athlete.

Woods and Nieves have been active as board members and in other activities involving the Fresno State Alumni Association.

Welty underscored the importance of the campaign to Fresno State’s future. “There is nothing more important in our mission than to prepare this next generation of leaders to serve and improve a world that needs their talents so much,” he said. “We can march confidently forward knowing that the investments we are making in students, faculty and facilities will have returns that reach far into a future we cannot see.”

To learn about campaign progress or to make a gift, please visit www.SupportFresnoState.com or call 559.278.7392.

— Jill C. Wagner is the campaign communications director at Fresno State.

Campaign co-chairs define paying it forward

By Jill C. Wagner



The new Campaign for Fresno State co-chairs have much in common: both are alumni, both have been avid supporters of the university and both believe Fresno State holds the key to Central California's future success so both stay connected to their alma mater.

It was no surprise Dennis Woods, president and CEO of United Security Bank in Fresno, and Omel Nieves, an attorney and shareholder in a Pasadena law firm, were introduced as co-chairs of the public Campaign for Fresno State.

They've enjoyed a friendship that began when Nieves was a student and playing on the Bulldog basketball team. In 1981, Woods co-owned Hestbeck's Markets and hired Nieves for a summer job at his wholesale meat plant, just before Nieves started classes at Fresno State.

Woods knew about hard work and college. You won't find a yearbook picture of him because he was too busy: working three jobs, married, starting a family and earning his degree in English with a business minor in 1969 before getting a teaching credential.

The young man from Puerto Rico, who transferred to Fresno State from Santa Barbara City College, quickly impressed Woods. "Omel was a great worker and a great student," says Woods, but Nieves also had no family in Fresno.

The Woods family changed that.

Dennis and his wife Cheryl invited Nieves and a group of his college friends home for dinner.

Friendship grew. The Woodses visited Nieves' mother in Santa Barbara and hosted his family in their home when they visited Fresno. The friendship has endured.

"Omel and his sister Brenda were like a big brother and sister to our kids," Woods says.

Dennis Woods' brother, Michael Woods, an attorney and Fresno State alumnus, also got to know the Nieves family and suggested that Omel attend law school. He even had a school in mind: the University of California, Davis, where Woods received his law degree.

"He was going to be a physical therapist," says Dennis Woods of Nieves' pre-legal career plan, but Nieves easily passed the entrance exam and was admitted to Davis.

The relationship between the families went deeper. Cheryl Woods and Michael Woods introduced Stephen Kane, his law partner, to Omel's sister Brenda, eventually leading to their marriage. And Michael Woods indirectly had a hand in Nieves' family future by steering him to Davis, where he met his future wife Tina, who also was attending law school.

While

Dennis Woods lives and works in Fresno and Nieves calls Southern California home, both are true Bulldog red when it comes to their involvement with Fresno State.

"When presented with the opportunity to be the campaign's co-chair, it was an easy 'yes,'" Nieves says. "Great things are happening at this university and I wanted to remain connected. It's humbling to be in this role."

Woods sees the importance of Fresno State to the region. "Fresno State is both the anchor and the engine for what we call the New California," says Woods. "This community would not be what it is without this university. Fresno State lifts us all."

Woods has been a longtime volunteer at Fresno State. He has been a member of the President's Circle, Heritage Society, Bulldog Foundation Board, Green V Foundation and the Campaign Leadership Committee. He was named a Top Dog Alumnus for the College of Arts and Humanities in 2007 by the Fresno State Alumni Association.

He spearheaded construction and financing of the bronze Bulldog statue in the Save Mart Center lobby. The Woodses' generous donation triggered a matching gift that enabled the renovation of the Arena Theatre in the Speech Arts Building, now named the Dennis and Cheryl Woods Theatre.

It seems natural that Woods would continue his leadership at Fresno State through the campaign. "Our graduates stay in the region," says Woods, "so all of the new skills, the knowledge and the training that they get contribute to an educated workforce that benefits all of the citizens in our entire region. It's the best investment for us to make."

Nieves was a co-captain of the 1982-83 Bulldog men's basketball team that captured the National Invitation Tournament championship in New York, defeating DePaul 69-60. His academic success was rewarded with the Scholastic Award for Outstanding Student-Athlete and his athletic ability allowed him to play professional basketball in Puerto Rico for five years.

He earned a law degree from UC Davis, was admitted to the State Bar and now is a shareholder at Hunt, Ortmann, Palffy, Nieves, Lubka, Darling & Mah, specializing in construction, real estate and business litigation.

"A lot of people think my experience at Fresno State started and finished on the basketball court at Madison Square Garden when we won the NIT," Nieves says. "I cherish those moments. But the experience I received at Fresno State was not playing basketball. It was enjoying being a student, being challenged by professors academically. The other part was getting to know the community."

Nieves has been an active volunteer and philanthropist in his community, serving numerous charitable organizations. He also hasn't let distance diminish his volunteering at Fresno State, serving as a director of the Fresno State Alumni Association and as a President's Circle member.

Not only will Nieves continue to cultivate the alumni and friends who form the Southern California base of support for Fresno State, but he also will be a more frequent visitor to Fresno.

"Fresno State has done a great job with a limited amount of funding to get into cutting-edge areas," says Nieves. "There isn't a better time to give. Contributions large and small are welcome and needed. There are very few things you could contribute to that would have a better benefit than a college educated person."

Also critical to the campaign's success is the Campaign Leadership Committee, comprising of volunteers, each connected to a college, athletics or the library, who have worked to create a climate of community philanthropic support for Fresno State.

Woods and Nieves took the campaign reins from Bud and Jan Richter, who presided over the "quiet phase" of the campaign as it reached and then exceeded its midterm goal.

"The Richters have set a very high bar and achieved great success," says Nieves, now joining his friend Woods following in their footsteps to achieve the \$200 million goal by June 30, 2012.

The Campaign for Fresno State is guided by energetic and experienced leaders who have volunteered to serve on the Campaign Leadership Committee.



Co-Chairs

Omel A. Nieves
Dennis R. Woods

Members

Diane Anderson
President and CEO, APPL Inc.
Liaison with College of Science and Mathematics

Dr. John F. Boogaert
Liaison with Student Affairs, University Advisory Board

Douglas Davidian
Liaison with Kremen School of Education and Human Development

Harry Gaykian
Senior Vice President, Smith Barney Inc.
Liaison with Intercollegiate Athletics

John Gomes
Vice President and Division Manager, Fiserv Inc.
Liaison with Alumni Association

Mark S. Grewal
President, Sandy Valley Farms, LLC / Sunset Farms
Liaison with Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Coke Wanda Hollowell
Liaison with College of Arts and Humanities

Eric C. Hanson, MD
Sierra Pacific Orthopaedic Center Medical Group
Liaison with College of Health and Human Services

R. Stephen Heinrichs
Liaison with National Board of Visitors, Craig School of Business

Maurine Jones
Liaison with Kremen School of Education and Human Development

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Lyles Diversified, Inc.
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Executive Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank
Liaison with Craig School of Business

Mike Patton
President, Patton Air Conditioning
Liaison with National Board of Visitors, Lyles College of Engineering

Vinci Ricchiuti
Liaison with Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

Bud and Jan Richter
Honorary Co-Chairs

Yrma Rico
Liaison with Foundation Board of Governors, Development Committee

Ambassador Phillip V. Sanchez
Liaison with College of Social Sciences

William M. Schiff, MD
Urology Association of Central California
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Richard F. Spencer
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Kristine C. Walter
Liaison with Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Dr. John D. Welty
President, California State University, Fresno

O. James Woodward III
Attorney, Baker, Manock and Jensen
Liaison with Madden Library

In memoriam

Larry Shehadey: longtime university benefactor

Fresno State friend and benefactor Larry A. Shehadey died Oct. 10, 2009, leaving a philanthropic mark on the campus and the entire community. He was 102.

Mr. Shehadey built Producers Dairy into one of Fresno's most successful businesses, and he was a generous supporter of Fresno State's Craig School of Business, the Institute for Family Business and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. He was a member of the President's Circle.

Producers Dairy often donated food products for students and events, most recently providing chocolate milk for student-athletes to drink after their workouts.

In 2002, Mr. Shehadey was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the California State University in recognition of his contributions. The eight-story tower at the Save Mart Center was named in his honor after his gift, which he said he hoped would "encourage others to come forward and support Fresno State in both its athletic needs and academic needs."

University President John D. Welty said, Mr. Shehadey's life was one of hard work and accomplishment, and he leaves a legacy for us to emulate."



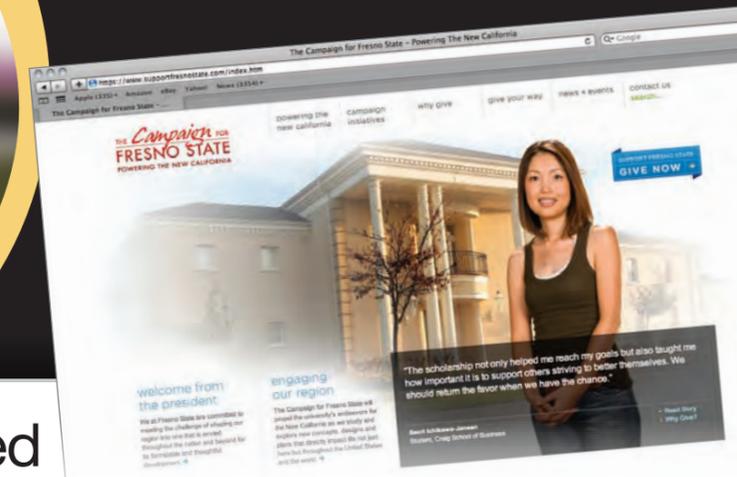
Kelly Peterson

ENGAGING THE REGION

ADVANCING LEARNING

STUDENT SUPPORT

FACILITY UPGRADES



New features for redesigned **SupportFresnoState.com**

By Valerie Hosch

A redesign of the Campaign for Fresno State Web site provides an updated site that is clean, easy to navigate and user-friendly. The address is www.supportfresnostate.com.

The Web site provides visitors with a campaign overview along with pictures and stories about the donors behind the gifts, as well as the faculty and students who benefit from gifts to the university. Stories on the main page change each time the page is refreshed.

An expanded component of the site is a secure online giving option that allows donors to use credit cards to make new gifts or make pledge payments. One new feature makes it possible for donors to divide their gift among a number of recipients at Fresno State.

And if you don't see your favorite Fresno State college, school or program on the drop-down screen, you can simply type in where you would like your gift directed, said Jill Wagner, the campaign communications director.

The four priority areas established for the campaign are explained in detail. They are: **Engaging the Region, Advancing Learning, Student Support and Facility Upgrades.**

Visitors to the site can view the campaign video or review our Donor Honor Roll, a 63-page document that lists our generous donors for the previous year.

The redesigned Web site made its first appearance on the day of the public launch of the Campaign for Fresno State – May 30, 2009.

– Valerie Hosch is a senior mass communication and journalism major and a communications intern with the Campaign for Fresno State.



Paramount Citrus gift teaches future citrus growers latest in irrigation efficiency

One of the most advanced and efficient irrigation systems in California is watering citrus trees whose planting was made possible by a \$200,000 donation from Paramount Citrus of Delano. The ceremonial planting of the grove's last tree was Oct. 22, 2009.

Through a contribution in late 2007, Paramount Citrus established the Advanced Teaching and Research Field Laboratory for Citriculture – the cultivation of citrus fruits – on the Fresno State agricultural laboratory (a 1,000-acre farm). The gift included trees and supplies, as well as funds to develop the orchard.

The gift also supports a Paramount Citrus Fellow, allowing a student to learn by tending the campus citrus groves and working at Paramount's S & J Ranches in Madera, gaining exposure to Paramount's entire operation.

The first Paramount Citrus fellow was Matt Smith (photo foreground), whose experiences ranged from preparing orchards for planting to walking them with a GPS device to determine soil types and tending the planted trees.

Cutting-edge irrigation monitors soil and weather conditions remotely through Web-based technology. But the main water savings comes through an irrigation system tailored to account for varied soil structures.

The citrus block made possible by Paramount's gift features fruit that will be sold through the on-campus Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market and on the commercial market. Eight acres of the 20 is dedicated to research purposes.



ERIC JOHNSON/JOHNSON



Nurturing a culture of service

By Amanda J. Fine

All universities pride themselves on their academic quality, the positive energy of their campus activities and their ability to prepare students for careers of achievement.

Since opening its doors in 1911, Fresno State students, staff, faculty and alumni have come together with the surrounding community to help and support local nonprofit groups and volunteer whenever there's an urgent need, creating a culture of service.

"Serving and involvement are not only central to what we are about at Fresno State, but also central to the ideal of higher education. They are essential ingredients for students in the process of transitioning into the real world," says Chris Fiorentino, director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

University President John D. Welty adds, "Our students gain personally, professionally and academically from these service experiences, which means that we are helping create a better community through serving and learning."

Kathy Garabed, executive director of Stone Soup Fresno, says there are multiple benefits from Fresno State volunteer service to her organization, which works with Southeast Asian immigrants just west of campus, and to students.

Senior liberal studies major Rita Sotelo, who volunteers with Stone Soup's after-school program, agrees. "I get experience for my future, and I get to help improve the education and future of kids in the community. It's a great opportunity for everyone involved," Sotelo says.

Fiorentino works every day to uphold the campus commitment to serving. The Richter Center's list of options includes classes dedicated to volunteering, service-learning and working with those on campus to get more students, faculty and staff involved.

In 2006, Welty announced a goal of 1 million volunteer hours from the campus by the university's centennial in 2011. Less than three years after Welty's challenge, the Richter Center reported 13,619 individuals volunteered 923,565 hours. Based on a national standard, the value to the local economy is calculated at more than \$21 million.

"The million-hour goal is an easy benchmark for people to recognize and visualize what is happening on our campus," says Fiorentino. "However, what's behind those numbers – the students, the community and the hard work – is what's important."

Besides organizing and supporting programs, the Richter Center provides the campus with ambassadors – student-leaders who act as liaisons between the university and the community at large.

"The program began as a way to get the students who were volunteering on and off campus to take on leadership roles," says Mellissa Jessen, the center's assistant director.

In its first year, the Richter Center Ambassadors Program worked hard to provide a steady stream of information and build awareness of serving's importance to students, faculty and staff. The ambassadors' "Picture the Change" campaign helped to make students accountable for a certain service or number of volunteer hours.

"We wanted to use the campaign as an opportunity to promote the Richter Center and what's being done there and to let students know what opportunities are out there for them," says Cassidy Smith, an ambassador and junior mass communication and journalism major.

Students signed pledges of community service on a white board, which they held while a picture was taken to be posted on the ambassador Web site.

"Our goal was to put service at the forefront of their minds," says Melissa Watkins, a senior psychology major and ambassador.

"We provide the peer-to-peer link. We're students, just like them, and we're involved, so community service is something they should consider," says ambassador Maricela Vargas, a junior kinesiology major.

"Our purpose is not only to recruit students but also to reflect the passion we have for serving people," says Celeste Pilegard, a junior psychology major. "It has truly made my college experience, and will continue to help make a difference by encouraging others to do their part."

Through the Richter Center, Fresno State has partnered with numerous organizations in building its culture of service, including Lutheran Campus Ministry.

In November 2007, the ministry and university opened the Bulldog Pantry. Run entirely by campus and neighbor volunteers, the Bulldog Pantry operates roughly 2,300 hours a year to collect, prepare and distribute food to needy families.

"When we opened our doors, approximately 20 to 25 families showed up. Today we're seeing around 150 families each Saturday who line up to pick up food," says the Rev. Don Romsa, who is the Lutheran Campus Ministry pastor.

"The Bulldog Pantry is meeting a community need while giving students a chance to see the face of hunger in our community," Romsa says.

Romsa also works with Fresno State students and staff on University HOPE (above, right), which he says not only builds homes to help low-income families "but also provides students with the opportunity to have a hands-on, I-can-make-a-difference experience."

Originally a partner with Habitat for Humanity, University HOPE began 17 years ago as a joint local and university project.

"The students that come from Fresno State to volunteer, make what we do for our community possible," says Romsa.

With University HOPE, adds Romsa, "students sit down with families and interview them, review their situations and make selections based on the information gathered. Their role is bigger than just manual labor." →

A few blocks west of Bulldog Stadium sits Stone Soup, a nonprofit (top right) helping bridge cultures through education, health care and housing. Stone Soup relies on volunteers, many of them Fresno State students.

“We would not have the ability to do what we do if not for our volunteers. Students enable us to provide to the people in need,” says Stone Soup’s director Kathy Garabed. “Students show up to work with us and open the eyes of the children we’re helping; they allow these kids to see that there are opportunities, specifically educational, out there that they never dreamed of.”



Kathy Garabed

And it’s a two-way street, says Garabed: “Working with this community is a rewarding experience; it gives students a chance to expand on what they know and learn from other cultures.”

Stone Soup is an example of the campus’ deep involvement in volunteer service. The board president is Dr. Dan Griffin, associate director of Fresno State’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Griffin also is involved in University HOPE building projects under the direction of Romsa, who serves on the Stone Soup board with Dr. Paul Oliaro, vice president for Student Affairs at Fresno State.

Service is such an integral component of Bulldog spirit that it happens every day on campus and inside classrooms. The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, for example, includes volunteering and service-learning in most every class.

In assistant professor Betsy Hays’ MCJ 152 Public Relations class, each student must complete 25 hours of service during the semester.

“Service-learning is a beautiful marriage of meeting community needs and creating meaningful educational experiences. Our partners benefit by having smart, thoughtful and compassionate people helping them reach their goals, and the students benefit by being a part of something important – all the while solidifying their craft or learning that life is much bigger and complex than they think it is,” Hays says.

Students can choose from a variety of organizations. Senior Malissa Rose chose Children’s Hospital Central California, where she says, “I got the chance to learn from others and see how things operate. Most importantly, I was able to lend a helping hand and provide a service to an organization that has our region’s children in mind.”

Time for students, faculty and staff on university campuses is precious. There are notes to be studied for tests, classes to be taught and deadlines to be met. When it comes to volunteering, though, Fresno State makes time to serve.

“There’s no doubt we are making an impact,” says Fiorentino. “When I get the chance to visit the sites we’re serving, I can see the impact students are having on the community. When I speak with our students and ask them about what they’re doing, I can see the impact on their lives of the service they have provided and the people they have worked with. It is a great thing.”

— Amanda J. Fine is a senior mass communication and journalism major and student writer in the Office of University Communications.



Michael Karblian

Service-learning is a two-way investment

By Chris Fiorentino

Any savvy investor strives to make decisions that maximize return on initial investment. It’s the same for Fresno State students who are investing in their future by paying the cost of a higher education and by expending time and effort to obtain a university degree.

As educators, we want to ensure that our students get the best return on their investment. One way we do that is by engaging our students in service-learning that puts academics into action.

Service-learning is defined as “community service linked to academic study through structured reflection.” It helps students better understand and retain what they learn in lectures and from texts by providing the opportunity to apply that information to significant problems confronted by the larger community.

In 2008-09, Fresno State offered more than 190 service-learning classes, through which 5,125 students contributed 161,000 hours of service to the community, helping teach children to read, providing food for the hungry, building a home for a low-income family and supporting local nonprofits in various ways. Our students made a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout our region and beyond.

Equally important, research shows that when students are involved in service-learning, they outperform their nonserving peers in academic, personal and career development. A recent study by Fresno State’s Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning found that students who take a service-learning class are less likely to drop out of college and more likely to graduate in a timely fashion than peers who never took a service-learning course.

One example of service-learning at Fresno State is the Craig School of Business’ Marketing 100S course. During 2008-09, approximately 770 students took basic marketing theory and techniques from the classroom and applied them by assisting community nonprofit organizations on projects such as recruiting blood donors, conducting book drives and promoting volunteerism to others.

Department of Music students offered music education and enrichment to extremely at-risk students at the Teilman Education Center in Fresno, where there are few co-curricular options. Teens are placed at Teilman because of improper conduct at other schools. They would not receive any exposure to music education were it not for the Fresno State students.

Just one important outcome from this project is that the Teilman students who are involved have far fewer behavioral problems while at school than peers not involved in the program.

With dozens of similar success stories, service-learning at Fresno State is a key component in our students’ educational experience. It’s an important way we help our students maximize their investment in Fresno State and maximize our university’s own investment in the community we serve.

— Chris Fiorentino is director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning at Fresno State. Online at: www.csufresno.edu/cesl



Chris Fiorentino

Michael Karblian

Building careers in service

By Matthew A. Jendian

Fresno State's near-century of commitment to community service focuses most heavily on the here-and-now. But the university's American Humanics Nonprofit Administration Program builds on today's service and extends into the future leadership of the region's nonprofit organizations.

American Humanics (AH) at Fresno State was established in 1998 within the College of Social Sciences' Department of Sociology to provide courses leading to a nationally recognized certificate in management and leadership of community-benefit organizations. Courses are open to students of any major at Fresno State and to community individuals, and some, like the ones pictured, meet at off-campus nonprofit agencies.

American Humanics is a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations. The organization's mission derives from the definition of "humanics" as "education of the whole person – in spirit, mind and body – for leadership in service to humanity."

Kelvin Alfaro (right, with Jendian, below), who earned bachelor's degrees in psychology and sociology in 2008, is among American Humanics alumni putting those words into regional service. He is a foundation support specialist for Fresno Regional Foundation. Before that, as a resource specialist at United Way of Fresno County, he helped increase communication among nonprofits and increased service to those in need.

He volunteers with Fresno Barrios Unidos, Community Food Bank, Survivors of Suicide Loss and American Humanics. Alfaro is grateful for the mentoring he received, saying, "By 'standing on the shoulders of giants,' I found the strength and commitment to strive for the best in my university experience at Fresno State, and it is because of their example that I want to be in the service field."

Kristina Hernandez, an AmeriCorps member who works with the Volunteer Infrastructure Project with Valley Teen Ranch through HandsOn Central California, received degrees in sociology and Chicano and Latin American Studies in May 2009.

She represented Fresno State's American Humanics program as one of five students selected nationwide for the 2009 American Humanics Management Institute planning team.

She originally thought leadership worked through intimidation and speaking, not listening. American Humanics training changed her perspective. Now, she believes "a leader brings people together to accomplish a particular goal and is responsible and consistent with meeting commitments. The AH experience empowered me to see the leader within not only myself, but within us all."

Koua Cha, who earned Fresno State degrees in chemistry and public administration in 2007, is strategic projects manager for Planned Parenthood Golden Gate and a board member of the California School Health Centers Association.

Cha was born in a refugee camp in Thailand, and his family resettled in Fresno in 1983. He has served several health care organizations, including an American Humanics internship with Sequoia Community Health Centers developing a Hmong patients advisory group.

"I was able to learn important management skills through the American Humanics program at Fresno State," Cha says. "The AH Mentor Project paired me with Cathy Caples, who showed me what it takes to run an effective and efficient organization."

Mentoring is just one facet of Fresno State American Humanics.

The Student Philanthropy Project provides hands-on experiences in philanthropy and leadership, helping students develop contacts with community organizations, assess needs and learn how to request and evaluate funding proposals and program effectiveness. More than 90 students have been involved in three grant cycles awarding \$20,000 to seven organizations.

The Sustainable Partnerships Project, a collaborative effort among community organizations that utilizes a multifaceted approach to increase regional economic development and sustainability through the community benefit sector.



American Humanics incorporates guest lectures and discussions led by local nonprofit professionals and consultants about the importance of board-member development, grant writing, advocacy and community organizing. Students participate in internships requiring 300 hours of supervised experience with a nonprofit.

Fresno State American Humanics students contribute more than 5,000 hours of internships and service annually, resulting in multiple awards. In the past two years, 20 students were among the 400 selected for the nationally competitive American Humanics Next Generation Leaders internship program.

The Fresno State program and its projects have been made possible through funding from Campus Compact, Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, California Campus Compact, Fresno Regional Foundation, Save Mart markets, Wells Fargo, Citibank and individual donors.

In 2010-2011, Fresno State celebrates the 10th anniversary of its first American Humanics certificated graduate. Fresno State American Humanics alumni have become the preferred entry-level professionals in the region's nonprofit sector, where more than two-thirds of the 90 program alumni are employed in dozens of organizations.

One is Leslie Gacad, volunteer coordinator for Community Food Bank in Fresno, who graduated in 2004 with a degree in English. As the recession deepened in 2009, Gacad found herself trying to recruit enough volunteers to feed thousands of additional families suffering from the impact of a drought in California's agricultural heartland that dried up jobs along with land formerly green with produce.

"My ability to lead and set a vision for future growth improved tremendously through the American Humanics program," Gacad says. "I am grateful to have learned those skills that help me make the most of my capabilities to contribute to my community."

— Dr. Matthew A. Jendian, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Sociology, established American Humanics at Fresno State and teaches in the program with adjunct professor Dr. Don Simmons (photo below right).

For more information, visit www.csufresno.edu/ah.



Michael Karibian

Student-run Bulldog Pantry helps campus neighbors

By Jackie Mundt



Michael Karibian



SERVICE

Bulldog Pantry by the numbers

- 2,452 – student volunteer hours
- 5,206 – families served
- 23,948 – individuals receiving food
- 101,517 – food items distributed
- 38 – weeks food was distributed (open monthly in summer)



Community service from the Fresno State campus typically begins with an organization approaching the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning and the center matching volunteers with the need. Bulldog Pantry is an outstanding exception.

In fall 2007, space opened in a building owned by Lutheran Campus Ministry near campus. Pastor Don Romsa wanted the space put to good use, so he approached a group of Fresno State students already active in community service. The students knew hunger was a very real issue in neighborhoods surrounding campus, because many Fresno State students live there.

Together they decided to distribute food to the needy, and Bulldog Pantry opened its doors just before Thanksgiving 2007, providing food to about 20 families. Two years later, students still staff Bulldog Pantry in the same space each week, providing groceries for 150-170 families struggling with the lingering economic downturn.

“There are many low-income families living south of the university, with few services available to them,” says Romsa. “One need clearly is having enough food on the table to make it from week to week.”

“Bulldog Pantry is a prime example of Fresno State students responding to a need in the community in a very meaningful and ongoing way,” says Chris Fiorentino, director of the Richter Center. “Students recognized the need and formed a program that, without them, would not exist.”

More than 30 student-volunteers work throughout each school week (and one week a month during summer) ordering, visiting the Community Food Bank, sorting, shelving and packing food into shopping bags. Saturday mornings, 15-20 students distribute bags that help people and their families get through the week.

Maricela Vargas, a junior kinesiology major and pantry volunteer since its inception, enjoys her involvement, saying, “It’s such a good feeling to see the food on the shelves and know that the next day it will be on someone’s shelf.”

“The students want to create an environment that is welcoming, gracious and positive for these families,” says Romsa. “People are always treated with dignity and respect, and it defines this pantry.”

One man who gets food from Bulldog Pantry says, “Without this, I wouldn’t have food for the rest of the month.”

With class fees up, fewer job opportunities and reduced ability of some parents to support their children’s education, some students also find themselves in need of Bulldog Pantry’s groceries. “We have students who come and volunteer” and then leave with a bag, says Jessica Medina, former Fresno State student and now administrative assistant in the Office of Advising Services.

“We love that,” says Medina, because helping needy students was one of the founding goals.

Romsa says working at Bulldog Pantry promotes learning: “It is such an important way of giving students a significant, hands-on experience with hunger in our community.”

Annually it costs \$10,000 to run the pantry. Associated Students Inc. donated \$4,000, and EYE-Q Vision Care hosted a golf tournament to benefit the pantry. Fundraising supplies the rest.

“I’ve learned how to network and get donations,” says Vargas. “It’s been really helpful in meeting new people and learning how to overcome shyness. I’ve learned a lot from a social and professional business aspect.”

In the future, pantry volunteers hope to provide additional services – health screening, Internet access – to the community. The pantry also has hosted a yard sale-like event at which families could select from a variety of clothing, toys, books and home items at no charge.

Medina says the pantry is a special benefit for volunteers, too.

“With a lot of volunteer opportunities, you don’t get to see what you’ve done,” she says. “At the pantry, students get to see first hand the impact they are making in the lives of these families.”

– Jackie Mundt, is a senior agriculture communications major and a student writer in the Office of University Communications.

For more information, visit the Bulldog Pantry Web site at: www.bulldogpantry.wordpress.com. To donate or inquire about volunteer opportunities, e-mail thebulldogpantry@gmail.com or phone 559.224.9051.

Swanson brothers win on racetracks, in classrooms

By Paul Loeffler



Courtesy www.tomparkerphotos.com



Michael Karblan

Some future pro athletes on the Fresno State campus are easy to spot.

Save Mart Center regulars will tell you Paul George is sure to play in the NBA, and it's not much of a stretch to project an NFL future when Ryan Mathews weaves his way to the end zone at Bulldog Stadium. At least one Fresno State baseball player has been selected in the Major League draft every year since 1977.

With all that obvious pro potential, it might surprise you to know that the two most accomplished student-athletes enrolled at Fresno State never compete on campus. It might alarm you to know they're already getting paid. Don't worry about an investigation, though, because United States Auto Club, not the NCAA, governs these Bulldog brothers' sport.

Since the USAC was established in 1955 as a sanctioning body for open-wheel racing, some of the nation's best-known drivers have passed through its ranks. But from A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti to Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart, no one on that lengthy list of USAC alums can match the milestone established by Fresno State freshman Tanner Swanson.

An agricultural business major from Kingsburg, Swanson became – at age 16 – the youngest driver to win a USAC sprint car feature when he took the checkered flag in Tracy in 2007. That's just one line on a racing résumé too lengthy to list here, and it's not hyperbole to say he is a legitimate prospect for NASCAR or the Indy Racing League.

Those rides are hard to come by, and if Tanner Swanson ever finds himself in the running for that kind of opportunity, he might just have to battle older brother Kody for the job.

“He's got a work ethic like nobody else I've ever known,” Tanner says of Kody. “It's really tough to be his little brother trying to keep up with him.”

That's true on the racetrack. When the brothers' country-crossing schedules intersect, they've staged four 1-2 finishes with Kody prevailing in three of them.

It might be an even taller order to keep up with Kody in the classroom. A senior enrolled in the prestigious Smittcamp Family Honors College, Kody carries a 3.84 GPA and will earn his ag-business degree in the spring 2010.

“Kody's classwork is extremely precise,” says Dr. Dwight Minami, a professor of agricultural economics in the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. “His analysis is neat, well-organized, clear, tidy and logical. I think it's related to his driving.”

In a sprint car, the most minute mistake can be the difference between victory and disaster. And it isn't just race day when precision matters.

The Swansons started following in their father Mike's tire tracks – nine-time Madera Raceway champion and 1983 Fresno State grad in agricultural business – when Kody was 12 and Tanner was 9. Ever since, the brothers have been required to perform all the maintenance on their racecars.

Attention to detail and solid time management have become second nature. They've paid off in points championships, making them top racing prospects, and teaching them how to juggle academics with automotive achievement.

With an average of 15 annual roundtrips to such places as Indianapolis, Salt Lake City and Richmond, Va., the Swansons long ago mastered the art of completing coursework on airplanes. Need proof? Both were class valedictorians at Kingsburg High School.

Both share the dream of driving on racing's premier circuits, but the grounded, modest siblings know their Fresno State education will help with whatever the future holds.

“Being able to race professionally is a dream job,” says Kody. “If I can make a living and support a family, IRL, NASCAR don't matter. I'd race a bicycle if somebody wanted me to. In the end, I know I'll have my degree no matter what happens on the racetrack.”

Anything Kody does, Tanner does, too. Minami took note when Kody brought Tanner, then a high school senior, to one of his classes at Fresno State. Now Tanner is a Bulldog, and it's quite possible that the professor will soon be assigning to the younger brother the same kudos he gives Kody.

Senior Kody Swanson, left, and freshman Tanner Swanson with the cars they race for family-run TK Motorsports. The brothers are considered top racing prospects and are stars in the classroom, too.

“I think Tanner is going to be capable of anything, whether in agriculture or sports,” Minami says, “because he has those qualities of being organized and clear in his thinking and his work. He's very bright and his workmanship sets him apart. He's someone who is really easy to root for, and I know he'll be successful in whatever he does.”

Easy to root for? That explains the multiple charter buses from Kingsburg that fill up anytime the brothers compete nearby.

Now if Coach Pat Hill can get the Swansons to wear Bulldog football helmets when they race, maybe they'll have the Red Wave behind them, too. It's a good fit: Tanner and Kody Swanson already have proven they'll race anyone, anytime, anywhere, even if it means racing each other.

– Paul Loeffler is KMJ580 sports director and the radio “voice” of Bulldog football, men's basketball and baseball.

Bulldog swimmer Heidi Gjoen defines rask far from Norway

By Paul Loeffler



Keith Kountz for Bulldog Athletics

For Fresno State sophomore swimming sensation Heidi Gjoen, the task is to be *rask*.

If that's not in your English vocabulary, there's a good reason: it's Norwegian. But if you need a little help on the translation, just ask one of her Bulldog teammates to describe Gjoen in the pool. *Rask* means fast, and Gjoen is Fresno State's fastest female swimmer in the 200 meter backstroke.

Breaking a record as a freshman in a newly reinstated program is an accomplishment worth celebrating. Even more remarkable is the story of Gjoen's 5,195-mile journey from Oslo to Fresno.

"I didn't know anything about Fresno," says Gjoen (pronounced yuhn), who grew up nine time zones east of California in Norway's capital. She did know that friend and mentor Sara Nordenstam, who in 2008 became the first Norwegian woman to medal in an Olympic swimming event, had gone to Southern Methodist in Dallas, Texas.

"You can do this," Nordenstam told her, daring Gjoen to dream about making the Norwegian national team.

Gjoen's own priorities were topped by pursuing a business degree. In Norway, attending college would likely mean the end of her swimming career because there are no school-affiliated teams. If she could connect with a college team in the United States, though, she might be able to keep both dreams alive.

When Gjoen started putting out feelers in May 2008, the swimming season was just months away and nearly every program had already distributed all available scholarships.

That's the boat Texas Longhorns Coach Kim Brackin was in, but when she heard about Gjoen's last-minute scramble for a school, Brackin immediately alerted her friend, who had just left Ohio State to start a program from scratch in California.

After three phone calls, a disclaimer that Fresno was not on the ocean and a few translated transcripts later, Fresno State Coach Jeanne Fleck had her prized recruit. Gjoen could keep her competitive edge and attend the prestigious Craig School of Business.

She would also, however, experience some differences between Scandinavia and the San Joaquin Valley.

Outside the pool, it's her sweet tooth that suffers most. "Norwegian chocolate is way better," she says. The most challenging aquatic adjustment? Outdoor pools and all that sunshine.

"We have one outdoor pool in Oslo," Gjoen explains, "and we can only use it two months out of the year." In winter, below-zero temperatures are common, and Oslo is so far north it averages roughly one hour of daily sunlight from December to February.

Gjoen's fair complexion is still acclimating, as evidenced by multicolored masks of zinc oxide she applies religiously. Her school record 2:00.65 in the 200m backstroke is powerful proof that she has overcome the more-unexpected quandary that racing outdoors presented.



"She'd run into the lane lines all the time," laughs Fleck. "She'd be swimming really, really fast, then all of a sudden she'd make a left turn and run right into the lane line and almost come to a complete stop."

Competing exclusively indoors, Heidi had developed the habit of looking at a facility's roof to chart a straight backstroke line. Staring now at an expansive blue sky, she had become a ship without a compass. As the season wore on, Gjoen got better and better at using her peripheral vision as a guide.

Now she has her sights set on ambitions a little loftier than just avoiding lane dividers. "One of my goals this year is to make the European Championships," she says, which would mean a spot on the Norwegian national team and perhaps the first step toward wearing Norway's red and blue cap in the 2012 London Olympics.

For now, she races under the Bulldogs' red and blue, and her coach is excited about Gjoen's future.

"Last year, she led in the pool," says Fleck of her All-Western Athletic Conference performer, "because she was by far the best swimmer on the team. This year, what I've appreciated the most is that she has stepped up as a vocal leader, more so than any other international athlete I've coached."

Her prowess in the pool already has taken her a quarter of the way around the world, and Heidi Gjoen hasn't even reached the halfway point in her college career. A knowing smile flashes on Fleck's face as Heidi admits, "I don't think I've reached my potential yet."

Not yet, but it won't be long, perhaps even *rask* enough to be on display in the on-campus aquatics center scheduled to open in fall 2010.



Golubovic's intensity doesn't end on hardwoods

By Paul Loeffler



Half of Ned Golubovic's neck was covered in blood, and he didn't even know it.

"The referee said something to me, and the look on his face made me wonder," says the Fresno State junior basketball player, whose focus on a fierce battle with Western Athletic Conference leader Utah State was so intense that a gash above his left ear wasn't slowing him down.

Five minutes, four stitches, a couple of crimson-stained towels and one standing ovation later, Golubovic was back on the floor. His bloody No. 15 jersey had been traded for a spotless No. 50, but his trademark tenacity hadn't changed.

"When he walked off the floor with a bloodied face, then walked back out," says Bulldog Coach Steve Cleveland, "it demonstrated what kind of competitor he is. He's not going to back down from anybody."

His competitive fire and extraordinary commitment are conspicuous on the court and reflected by his exploits in Fresno State classrooms.

Sporting a 3.81 grade point average at Fresno State, the psychology major was the only WAC basketball player chosen for the 2008-2009 Academic All-District 8 squad, covering the Western United States.

"I know my priorities," Golubovic says of his classroom success. "Do what you've got to do at the time you've got to do it. And when you do it that way it's pretty easy."



That simple philosophy reflects a discipline developed by necessity as much as by choice for a young man who has been living on his own since he was 14 years old.

Growing up in Pljevlja, Montenegro, Nedeljko Golubovic, like other European children, was kicking a soccer ball as soon as he could walk. At age 9, though, a more leathery sphere started to steal some of his attention when he watched the occasional NBA game on television and was captivated by the tenacious style of Charles Barkley.

In an era when turmoil typified the Balkan existence, when bombings, destruction and war's horrors scarred the Eastern European landscape, Golubovic found release and relief in a game with solid structure.

In 2001, 14-year-old Ned kissed his mother Nada goodbye and moved eight hours away to Vrsac in northern Serbia, near the Romanian border. A scholarship to the Hemofarm basketball school had set a new course for his life.

He had learned to cope when his father Mrdo, who would retire as a colonel in the Serbian Land Forces, was away for long periods on military assignments. Now his mother and younger brother, Milenko, weren't there either, and Ned would have to grow up in a hurry.

"Most of the lessons I've learned in my life, I learned there," says Golubovic of his time in Vrsac. "We had a lot of freedom, but all freedom comes with the responsibility to manage it. It was a basketball school, but it was really a life school."

After four years at Hemofarm, his life came to another crossroads: stay in Serbia and play professionally or move halfway around the globe to continue his education.

A chance encounter at a nightclub helped make up his mind. "I saw one of my old teammates who had turned pro," Golubovic recalls, "and he was working as a bouncer at the club. [Turning pro] is too much of a gamble. Coach doesn't like you or you get injured and you just disappear. I didn't want to be that, and I didn't want to give up on school."

Ironically, the teenager who didn't want to "gamble" with his future, ended up in Las Vegas, where he played one season for Findlay College Prep. College coaches slowly recognized his potential. Golubovic took official visits to New Hampshire and Idaho before deciding on Fresno State, because he was impressed by Cleveland and associate head coach Jeff Reinert, who recruited him.

"Fresno State is a healthy environment," Golubovic says. "I like the coaches and their philosophy, I love the support from the community, and the weather is great, too."

Already a fan-favorite because of his unrelenting intensity, Golubovic figures prominently in Fresno State's future on the floor. "He's the most cerebral player we have," says Cleveland. "He really is the leader, and he has a great work ethic. He is a great soul, and he's kind, but he is going to compete."

"When he leaves college, he'll have a positive impact on people's lives and be very good at whatever he does professionally," adds Cleveland.

Fresno is the latest stop on a journey few, if any, of Golubovic's teammates can fully grasp. But there's one thing they'll all vouch for: Those memorable moments against Utah State proved it's not just a metaphor, he really does bleed Bulldog red.





Centennial Committee finalizing plans

The celebration of Fresno State's centennial begins during Vintage Days, April 15-18, 2010, beginning a 13-month schedule of on- and off-campus events, a book and the renewal of thousands of memories.



The celebration will be led by Dr. Peter Mehas, appointed to chair the Centennial Leadership Committee, replacing the Hon. Robert Oliver.

Mehas played on Fresno State's undefeated Mercy Bowl football team, was active in Greek and student activities and received his bachelor's degree in 1962.

He earned a master's at UCLA and a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.

Mehas' career has taken him from classroom teacher and school principal to school administration, four terms as Fresno County's elected schools superintendent and several years as Gov. Deukmejian's education adviser.

His expertise brought appointments to numerous state and national committees and organizations involved in shaping policy at all educational levels.

In 2007, Gov. Schwarzenegger appointed Mehas a California State University trustee.

"Dr. Mehas is a Fresno State alum and long-time leader in the community. He will provide passionate leadership for this effort," said President John D. Welty in announcing the committee chair change.

Under Oliver's chairmanship, the committee began drawing up an ambitious plan of celebrations that will shine a spotlight on every school and college across the campus through Fresno State's 100th commencement in 2011.

"We especially want our alumni to come back to campus during the year, but we also are inviting the entire community the university serves to celebrate with us," says Shirley Melikian Armbruster, assistant vice president for University Communications and a member of the committee.

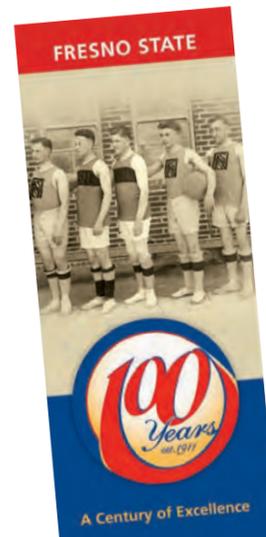
Major events are being organized, including a book-release party, Homecoming 2010 with a parade featuring vintage cars and a special tailgate, and a gala at the centennial's conclusion. Tentative activities off campus include possible events in conjunction with Fresno City College's centennial in 2010.

During the 2010-11 academic year, the campus will host meetings of state, national and international educational and other organizations, symbolizing Fresno State's far-ranging impact across various disciplines. Fresno State's colleges and schools, divisions and departments will plan events throughout the centennial, inviting their alumni to reconnect.

Armbruster said the calendar of events is filling and that a Web site is being developed for launch in spring 2010 to make it easy for everyone to keep track of what's happening so they can make their centennial plans. A key feature of the Web site will be the memories of alumni about their time on campus.

The Centennial Leadership Committee has established an e-mail account to capture Fresno State memories from alums and friends of the university. Memories may be sent online to fresnostate100@csufresno.edu or mailed to Centennial, California State University, Fresno, 5200 N. Barton Ave., ML 48, Fresno, CA 93740. They'll be available for centennial promotion, media projects, research and other scholarly activities.

For more information, contact centennial coordinator Tracy Newel at 559.278.5660 or tnewel@csufresno.edu.



The 13-month celebration of Fresno State's centennial begins during Vintage Days, April 15-18, 2010.

Centennial campus banners look back through the years.



An electric moment

Dr. David H. Provost joined the faculty in 1958 and taught political science classes at Fresno State until 2004, seeing enormous changes in that time, including several university presidential transitions.

In 1964, Dr. Arnold Joyal, for whom the Joyal Administration Building is named, retired as Fresno State's third president. After being in charge since 1948, Joyal was replaced by Dr. Frederic W. Ness.



Dr. Arnold Joyal



Dr. Frederic W. Ness

Provost's recollection of the transition is vivid:

"My wife and I were anxious to see who the new president was and how he might differ from the incumbent. President Joyal was a traditionalist who ran a very tight ship with a semiautocratic style and somewhat limited vision of the role of the university. Pleasant enough, but not inspiring.

"As my wife and I walked up the drive toward University House that evening, we were struck with the feeling that matters were, indeed, going to be quite different, at least in style.

"Standing there on the front porch, illuminated by the porch light, was President Ness in his electric blue tuxedo!

"That image proved a pretty good indication of how things were going to change at Fresno State. Fred Ness was a classicist in English and he helped change the college into a first-class liberal arts institution."

Echoes of Fresno State's past

Peder Berdahl's story is about a French horn, powerful curiosity and a Sierra lake told to him by his father, Dr. Arthur Berdahl, on the music faculty from 1932 to 1970.

Arthur Berdahl was the founder and long-time conductor of the Fresno State College Symphony Orchestra and chaired the Department of Music for 11 years, beginning in 1943. One of his students, Leslie Bassett, won a Pulitzer Prize in 1966, and others went on to distinguished careers in music education, composing and performance worldwide.

Peder Berdahl says his dad talked many times about one day in the 1930s when Fresno State summer classes (photo) were taught on the shore of Huntington Lake, 7,000 feet up in the Sierra, 60 miles east of Fresno and 20 degrees cooler.

"It was one of the joys at Sierra Summer School for the music faculty and students to go out on the lake in boats and play, because the sound reverberated off the mountains and the echoes were extraordinary," Peder Berdahl writes.

"One evening, my dad and several others went out on the lake in a rowboat. Dad was seated at the stern with a French horn. The idea was to blow horn calls and listen to the echoes.

"Dad thought that he would get the bell of the horn as close to the water as possible. He may have been egged on by others in the boat, but Dad moved a bit too far back and went head over heels out of the boat and into the lake.

"The others in the boat rescued my embarrassed father, but the French horn was never recovered. It probably still resides in the mud at the bottom of the lake."



Living the university's original purpose

For more than half of Fresno State's existence, Ed Galdrikian has put into practice in central San Joaquin Valley classrooms what he learned as a business education student on campus.

And after his second retirement from teaching in spring 2009, Galdrikian isn't really done. He plans to substitute when not traveling and checking off other things on his to-do list that were delayed by teaching commitments. "I can't give it up," says Galdrikian of teaching.

However, as a substitute, he says, "You can still impart knowledge, but you don't have to grade papers."

He received the tools necessary to fuel his passion for education at Fresno State in the 1950s, where he may have been best known as a cartoonist whose drawings were displayed throughout the 1958 "Campus" yearbook (below). Galdrikian was active in Pi Omega Pi, a national business education organization, and in other activities when Fresno State was transitioning to the current Cedar and Shaw campus.

Just a few summer months after receiving his degree, Galdrikian began teaching in 1958 at Hanford High School. He moved to Washington Union High near Fresno three years later and taught there 35 years.

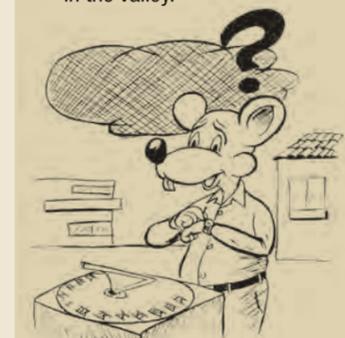
As journalism adviser, he insisted on professional standards to prepare students for careers and helped organize conferences – many at Fresno State – to expose students to accomplished journalists.

In 1967, while still at Washington Union, Galdrikian began teaching at West Hills Community College. Over the next 42 years, he served at West Hills' main campus in Coalinga and at the four Lemoore campus venues.

"I've been through them all," says Galdrikian, who adds that he continued at West Hills after his high school retirement because students "want to learn, and I've had some great students."

Galdrikian received the Spirit of the Eagle Award in 2009 as the West Hills district's longest-serving instructor.

Galdrikian also serves as an example of fully realizing the original intent of Fresno State's founders to prepare teachers who would educate future generations of young people in the Valley.



Courtesy: Frances Squires





Other 2009 Top Dog alumni

Besides Sid Cox, the 2009 Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala recognized 13 other former Fresno State students making a difference after leaving campus.



• **Trent Dilfer** (left), a former Super Bowl-winning NFL quarterback and now an ESPN football analyst who received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the Alumni Association's top honor.

• Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology - **Dr. Gordon C. Rausser** (1965), a university professor and expert on agricultural economics.

• College of Arts and Humanities – **John Loiacono** (1984), an executive with software maker Adobe Systems.

• Department of Athletics – **Cory Hall**, a former Bulldog and NFL player now established in a business career.

• Craig School of Business – **Larry Johanson** (1975), a transportation executive who mentors students and has persuaded other businesses to follow suit.

• Kremen School of Education and Human Development – **Susan Fisher** (1970), CEO of the Fresno-Clovis Center for Advanced Research and Technology.

• Lyles College of Engineering – **Jerry DeYoung** (1976), owner of DeYoung Properties and a community and university benefactor.

• Division of Graduate Studies - **Carmen C. Carey** (1991, '92), CEO of CopperEye, a data management company based in Bath, England.

• College of Health and Human Services – **Judith Case** (1976), a registered nurse and member of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

• Henry Madden Library – **Dr. Michael Adams** (1961) and **Jeanne Falk Adams** (1961), active in preserving the legacy of photographer Ansel Adams, Michael Adams' father.

• College of Science and Mathematics – **Dr. Larry Crowder** (1973), a Duke University professor and marine biologist who is on the President's Task Force for Ocean Policy.

• College of Social Sciences – **Arnold Peter** (1999), a partner in the Los Angeles firm of Raskin Peter Rubin & Simon, specializing in entertainment and labor law.

• Division of Student Affairs – **John Hernandez** (1996), executive director of the Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Future Bulldogs

Julia Fischer Navarro (2005) and John Navarro welcomed a daughter, born July 9, 2009, the granddaughter of **Brad Fischer** (1981) LIFE (near).

Colby Linder (1999) and **Nicole (DiBuduo) Linder** (1998) welcomed a son, born March 18, 2009.

Caty Perez (2005) LIFE and **Alex Perez** (2000) LIFE welcomed a son (right) born, April 12, 2009.



Sid Cox says service helps repay community support for university

By Amanda J. Fine

Michael Karibian

Just as the community rallies around the 'Dogs, the 'Dogs should rally around the community. That's how alumnus Sidney B. Cox sees it. And it's the way he lives his life.

Decades of repaying support received during his campus days earned Cox the Arthur Safstrom Service Award at the 2009 Top Dog Alumni Gala. The award is named for Fresno State's longtime director of educational-related services to honor volunteer work in the community and for the university.

Since he graduated in 1952, Cox has made time for a successful career in journalism and public relations and volunteered countless hours with community causes and organizations in the San Joaquin Valley, where he moved from Oklahoma's Dust Bowl in 1937.

Whether he's selling baked goods for Clovis High band boosters (he's a Cougars alum) or raising millions for Children's Hospital Central California, Sid Cox is all about making a difference.

"I've been fortunate enough to be surrounded by people committed to Fresno and the Valley," Cox says. "They're not in it for the glory, they're there to see what they can do and how they can help."

Cox began giving back as public relations director for Producers Cotton Oil Co. in the 1960s after reporting on agricultural news on radio, TV and in the newspaper. As a self-described "stand-in for the boss," Cox joined organizations in the name of Producers and stayed long after his retirement.

Cox became active in Rotary Club, high school booster clubs, Boy Scouts of America community leadership, Children's Hospital, the Fresno and Clovis Unified school districts, United Way and Break the Barriers, which promotes awareness and acceptance of people with varied abilities.

Cox's example has been cited frequently by other volunteers as the reason they got involved. "They say you only volunteer one time, and if you do a reasonably good job you never have to volunteer again because your friends will volunteer you instead," Cox jokes.

Working with the likes of Leon S. Peters, a Fresno industrialist renowned for his generosity to Fresno State and the community, inspired Cox to find ways to improve his alma matter and the community.

Some of his most cherished memories come from helping youngsters at Children's Hospital and Break the Barriers. "I've served on many boards and fundraised for many causes, but when it comes down to it, I'm serving our children," Cox says. "They are our future and deserve the absolute best."

“The kids of the Valley have so much to offer,” Cox adds, “and it’s our job to make sure that they are able to live up to their full potential. Organizations like Children’s Hospital and Break the Barriers mean so much to so many.”

Cox has created much change in the region since receiving his Fresno State diploma, he says, because he learned the value of community support and that alumni and students are honor-bound to repay that investment.

Cox says, "It's our duty to give back to the people and institutions that gave us so much."

Retirements

Mick Canevari (1971), after 36 years with the University of California Cooperative Extension in San Joaquin County.

Mokey Cowger, after 29 years with Madera County, most recently with the Probation Department.

Steve Feaver (1971), after 38 years teaching physical education and coaching water sports at Turlock High School.

Irvin Isaak (1981) 🐾, following a 37-year career with the Reedley-based Kings Canyon Unified School District Education to establish Isaak Education Consulting Service.

Stell Manfredi (1968), after 38 years in the Madera County Administrative Office, the past 19 as county's top nonelective official.



Kimberly Morrell (1982), after 28 years with the Lemoore Police Department, the past nine as chief of police.

Ray Newton (1972), after 37 years as a history teacher, football coach, athletic director and administrator at Taft High School in Kern County.

Robert A. O'Farrell (1963), a Monterey County Superior Court judge, after a 35-year career that began with appointment to the Castroville-Pajaro District Justice Court.

Sr. Encarnacion Ortega (1972), after more than 30 years as a teacher and administrator at St. Joachim School in Madera.

Woody Wilk, following 25 years as sports information director at Fresno City College.

William Zumwalt (1969), after 16 years as director of the Kings County Community Development Department.

🐾 - Annual FSAA member
LIFE - FSAA life member

Class notes

1940s

Robert P. Molander has published "Extra! Extra! The Life and Legacy of The Fresno Bee" (Trafford/\$28.95).

Graydon Nichols, a Tulare County farmer, was inducted into the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association Northern California Hall of Fame. He has won 12 national singles titles – two each in the 70-and-over and 75-and-over divisions and eight in the 80-and-over division.



Lee Brown adds Alumni Association LIFE member to accomplishments

By Jennifer Vang

Lee Patrick Brown (1961) **LIFE** hasn't really slowed down since he was a 5-year-old Dust Bowl refugee child growing up in Fowler.

"We worked a lot," Brown remembers. "We helped harvest crops, and a lot of my time was spent working when I wasn't going to school." He also was active in the YMCA and in sports – football, basketball, track and swimming.

All that dedication paid off when Brown received a football scholarship to attend Fresno State, following in the footsteps of his brother, Nick. Another brother, Earl, also attended Fresno State.

Lee Brown played offensive guard and defensive tackle for the Bulldogs, majored in criminology, minored in sociology, was married and had a child. He also worked about 60 hours a week at Fred Boyd's Hi-Life, one of Fresno's best-known restaurants. "I got paid \$1 an hour, so I had to make enough money to pay my rent, car loans and take care of my family," Brown says.

On top of all those obligations, Brown was active in the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which emphasizes the importance of studying and getting good grades. "It was a very good support group to help me deal with being a college student," Brown says.

In 1960, Brown left campus with a semester remaining to become a police officer in San Jose. He completed his course work at San Jose State University, graduating from Fresno State in 1961 with his bachelor's in criminology.

"I went to Fresno State to play football and ended up getting a good education," Brown says. He added a master's in sociology from San Jose State and master's and doctoral degrees in criminology from the University of California.

In 1968, he became a professor and chairman of the Department of Administration of Justice at Portland State University, and then moved to Washington, D.C., to teach public administration at Howard University and be associate director of the Institute for Urban Affairs and Research. Brown returned to Portland as Multnomah County sheriff and, later, the county's director of Justice Services, launching a law-enforcement administration career.

He was Atlanta director of public safety, Houston police chief and New York police commissioner. When his wife was diagnosed with terminal cancer, Brown says, "I came back to Houston to spend time with her so she could be with her children, and I taught at Texas Southern University."

In 1992, death took Yvonne Carolyn Streets, whom Brown married in 1959 while attending Fresno State. (He married Frances Young, a teacher, in 1996 and has four adult children.)

Brown joined the Clinton administration in 1994 as director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, a cabinet-level position. He says, "I did that for about three years and made a decision to return to Houston to run for the office of mayor."

Brown taught criminology at Rice University and was the first senior scholar in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, before resigning in 1997 when he became the first African-American elected Houston mayor. He was re-elected twice.

In 2004, he returned to Rice as a visiting scholar in the School of Social Sciences, then formed Brown Group International in 2005, which he describes as "a full-service consulting company offering solutions to both government and industry, specializing in public safety issues."

When he isn't working, Brown enjoys reading, writing and traveling to Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and throughout North America and the Caribbean. Of all the places he's been, Brown hopes to return to South Africa someday, remembering it as a "beautiful place."

He credits his alma mater for his success, saying, "Fresno State provided the foundation for me to go do things that I'd never dreamed of before."

Brown became a **LIFE** member of the Fresno State Alumni Association. He believes the university has earned support from all alumni and people in the community it serves. "I want to contribute so I can help other people accomplish the same things I did," he says. "I support the university like the university supported me."

— Jennifer Vang (2009) was a student intern with the Fresno State Alumni Association



Former Mayor Lee P. Brown is presented Houston in Harmony mural at the Lee P. Brown Metro Administration Building in 2005.

Courtesy: asiahouston.org

Class notes

1960s

Phil Bartholomew (1963) 🐾 and his wife, **Adele Bissett Bartholomew** (1996), were grand marshals for the 2009 Heritage Days in Oakhurst, honored for service to the area over many years.

Louis Burnett (1968) was appointed a managing director at RSR Partners in Greenwich, Conn., in charge of financial services recruiting, after 14 years as co-founder and managing partner of Washington, D.C.-based Secura Burnett Co.



Marlene Duncan (1969) (left) has received the prestigious Marion P. Hammer award as the National Rifle Association 2009 Woman of Distinction.

Gary L. Washburn (1966) was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to the San Fernando Valley Fair board of directors.

1970s

Luann Alemao (1979) was named National Business Entrepreneur of the Year for the Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Superior Court Judge Janet Gaard (1979) was appointed the judicial adviser for the Yolo County Grand Jury.

Roger George (1975), a former Fresno State decathlon standout, is the Fresno Bee's weekly fishing report columnist.



Von Johnson (1976) was appointed to the advisory board of USA Video to help market the company's digital watermarking technology that protects movies and other original content from theft.



Connie Moser (1974) was appointed director of marketing for Los Angeles-based American LegalNet, which provides online services for law offices. She had been senior director of marketing communications at Elite, a legal services software provider.

Charles Poochigian (1972) **LIFE** was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger as an associate justice of the 5th District Court of Appeal in Fresno.

Mark Scott (1972) has been named city manager of Culver City, after five years as city manager of Spartanburg, S.C.



Kenneth Shearin (1970) is mayor of St. Joseph, Mo., after developing creative marketing support solutions for Fortune 500 clients out of offices in New York, San Francisco, Houston and St. Joseph.

Dan Waterhouse (1978) **LIFE** was appointed to the Fresno County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board by Supervisor Susan Anderson.

Jan Yanehiro (1970) 🐾 is now the director of the School of Multi Media Communications at the San Francisco Academy of Art University.

Helping others learn

Candace Espinola was appointed principal at Stella Brockman School in the Manteca Unified School District.

Susan M. Hamada (1981, '86), a special education teacher for Alum Rock Union Elementary School District in San Jose, has developed a curriculum for teaching preschool autistic children.

Sascha Heckmann (1998) was appointed principal at Salinas Union High School after serving as vice principal at Elk Grove High School.

Kevin Jolly (1998) was appointed superintendent of the Burbank Unified School District after six years leading the Center Joint Unified School District in Antelope.

Dr. Richard Lentz was appointed assistant superintendent of educational services for the Eureka City Schools after serving as Gilroy Unified School District's administrator of specialized programs and accountability.

Mike Moore (1993, '97) was appointed principal at Oakdale High School after five years as vice principal and the past two also as athletic director.

1980s

Andrea Cooper (1981), a Fresno-based artist and designer, won the San Joaquin Valley Winegrowers Association's Fall Wine Cornucopia Poster Art Contest.

Danny Evans (1980, '95), an advertising writer and proprietor of the DadGoneMad.com blog, has published "Rage Against the Meshugenah: Why it Takes Balls To Go Nuts" (NAL Trade/\$15).

Todd Hansen (1984) has been appointed managing editor of Tri-County Newspapers in Northern California after working as the Marysville Appeal-Democrat's copy desk chief.



Randell Iwasaki (1989) was appointed director of the California Department of Transportation by Gov. Schwarzenegger. Iwasaki, a 26-year veteran of Caltrans, had been chief deputy director of the agency since 2005.

Arlene Laurison (1987) represents California for the 2009-10 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Sherri Mell (1980) 🐾, a former Bulldog rodeo team captain who teaches adapted physical education in San Antonio, Texas, has competed in 29 Women's National Finals Rodeos. She is in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame (Fort Worth) and the National Appaloosa Hall of Fame (Moscow, Idaho).

Mohamad Nematbakhsh (1988) opened a 40,000 square-foot building for equipment to manufacture and assemble parts for medical, solar and agricultural equipment.

Timothy W. O'Hara (1988), a lawyer, was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger to the state Board of Parole Hearings.

Denise Ost (1984), chief operating officer of Goodwill Industries of San Joaquin Valley in Stockton, was recognized for 25 years of service to the nonprofit organization.

Christine Bachmeyer Phillips (1980) was appointed a district judge for Colorado's Jefferson County by Gov. Bill Ritter after serving as chief deputy district attorney.

Anthony Pokorny (1981) was named director of business development to assist with Berkley Net Underwriters' plans to expand in the Midwest.

Dr. David Skinner (1987) brought his Choir of Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, England, to Fresno as part of an American tour. He received a master's from Scotland's University of Edinburgh and doctorate at Oxford and is a recognized early-music scholar.

RoseMary Parga-Duran (1977), who has worked 25 years for the Merced City School District, was appointed the first female superintendent of Merced County's largest school district.

Rosalina Rivera (2004) is the first Latina to head a Kern County school district after her appointment as superintendent of the Delano Joint Union High School District.

Sara Mohr works where her favorite animals play



Sara Mohr (2009) parlayed what she learned in and out of the classrooms at Fresno State into a career-beginning job that's both fun and serves others.

Mohr is the marketing assistant for the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, which is dedicated to educating central San Joaquin Valley residents and putting them in close contact with animals to "strengthen the bond between people and wildlife."

Mohr, a mass communication and journalism (MCJ) graduate, entered the job market as a slump in the economy was eroding opportunity. She talked about her postgrad experience with Katie Johnson (2003) **LIFE**, one of Mohr's supervisors and mentors at the Fresno State Alumni Association and now director of social media relations.

Q. How was the job search experience after graduating?

A. It was slow at first. I started very early looking for a job. I was employed at two places I loved to work (Alumni Association and the Cheesecake Factory), so I was pretty optimistic. When I found out that I would not be able to stay as a student assistant at Alumni for my final class at Fresno State, I began to get more serious. I e-mailed professors to let everyone know that I was looking for work. I found Fresno Chaffee Zoo's opportunity through a job search engine that I subscribed to through Twitter. Yes, the job search engines do work.

Q. What best prepared you for the job search?

A. There are so many factors. I spent a lot of time on my résumé and portfolio. With each job I applied for, I had to modify them. With interviewing, it may sound silly, but I took time out to practice. I downloaded a tool that gave me some questions that were actually asked in my interviews. I practiced answering them in the mirror and without using a lot of hand gestures, which I have a habit of doing. I also crafted questions to ask them. Employers don't like to hear "no" when they ask you if you have any questions. The MCJ department really emphasizes appropriate résumés/portfolios and interview skills.

Q. How did your course work/department prepare you for your position?

A. I enjoyed all my classes in the MCJ department. Classes for my special event-planning certificate really sharpened my skills. I use those skills daily. My internships at the Fresno Grizzlies and Alumni Association were doors opened by professors. I would not be where I am if it were not for those supportive professors and their guidance. Working at the FSAA gave me a great scope of Fresno State and the Fresno community. I had the opportunity to participate in the **LIFE** membership campaign, assist in planning events and also gained a very valuable resource for social media and marketing in Katie Johnson.

Q. Did you have a mentor or favorite teacher at Fresno State?

A. MCJ professors Betsy Hays and Jan Edwards have been amazing mentors. With so much information and real-world experience in public relations, they give their students the structure and tools necessary for us to step out into the professional world and succeed. My experience at the Alumni Association proved most valuable through (associate director) Sarah Woodward's (2002) mentorship. She does an incredible job at event planning and I learned so much working as her intern and student assistant.

Q. How do you use social media to promote the zoo?

A. Social media are extremely important to any organization. The zoo has Twitter and Facebook pages and a blog. One of my roles is to keep them going, and I'm trying to develop a strategy for what we need and want out of those outlets.

Q. Are you a tweeter or a Facebooker?

A. I am a tweeter and Facebooker. I do not use them as seriously as I would like, but I'm starting to get the hang of it more. I want to use them to the fullest of their capabilities.

Q. What motivated you to work for a nonprofit (besides needing to pay rent)?

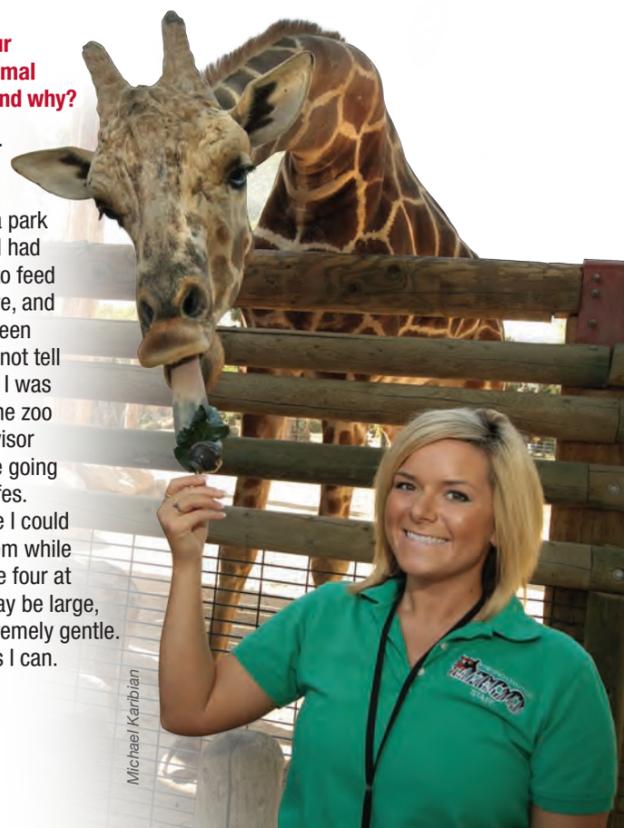
A. The people I work with at the zoo love what they do, and they are passionate about our mission. You know you're doing something good and making a difference.

Q. Why do families enjoy coming to the zoo?

A. Our zoo is family affordable, especially to our members, who pay an annual fee that allows them access year-round. It's educational for the entire family and, ultimately, provides something unique to the Valley – a close, personal experience with a variety of animals.

Q. What is your favorite animal at the zoo and why?

A. The giraffes. My first experience with giraffes was at a park in Texas, where I had the opportunity to feed them. I fell in love, and ever since I've been awestruck. I cannot tell you how excited I was my first day at the zoo when my supervisor told me we were going to feed the giraffes. I couldn't believe I could actually feed them while at work. We have four at our zoo. They may be large, but they are extremely gentle. I visit as often as I can.



Michael Karibian

Marriages

Shannon Boatman (2004) and Kevin Main on May 27, 2009, in Santorini, Greece.



Kevin Dillon (2001) and Ami Zinken (left) on May 23, 2009, in Laguna Beach.

Melinda Grace Nunes Madeiros and **Sean Michael Rose** (2006) on July 17, 2009, in Aptos.

By the numbers



SAN JOAQUIN COLLEGE OF LAW

28 – Fresno State alumni who were 2009 juris doctorate awardees at San Joaquin College of Law in Clovis: **Wendy Aguilar** (2005), **Aaron Aguirre** (2004), **Michael Arnold** (2006), **Juan Avitia** (1995), **Laura Bragg** (2003), **Daniel Brickey** (2003), **Jennifer Byers** (2004), **Brandon Collett** (2003), **Steve Graham**,

Sherylyn Greet, **Brande Gustafson** (2005), **Lisa Horton** (2004), **Rhea Yukawa Ikemiya** (1998), **Stephen Labiak** (1996), **Kelly Leslie** (1993, '00), **Lisa Madden** (2003), **Jennifer Nelson**, **Alexandra Belardinelli Noyes** (2006), **Christopher Noyes** (2006), **Rosalina Nunez**, **Julya Reshad**, **Adam Rodriguez** (2004), **Jonathon Rooker** (2001), **Lacey Nelson Sanchez**, **Emily Harue Takao** (2006), **Valerie Velasco** (2005), **Shon Wilson** (2001) and **Dennis Yamada** (1999).

4 – alumni who are directors of Fresno-based Hinds Hospice. **David Silveira** (1998, '02) is director of psychosocial services, bereavement and Angel Babies in Merced. **Kathy Cromwell** (2003) is director of the Center for Grief and Loss. **Bev Robinson** (1977) is director of finance. **Jane Lindberg** (1988, '90) is executive director of clinical services.

2 – alumni, twins **Fernando** (2004) and **Carlos Munoz**, who bought the Sears Hometown Store in the Watsonville suburb of Freedom, financing their venture by flipping a house in Fresno.

2 – alumni partners in the new Fresno law firm, Mitchell, Miller & Ayala: **Nathan Miller** (2000) and **Mary Castro-Ayala** (1999).

2 – alumni honored by the Association of Mexican-American Educators as 2009 Administrator of the Year: **Roberto Vaca** (2004), a Sanger High School guidance and learning specialist, and **George Alvarado** (1997, '99, '06), a Clovis High School administrator.

2 – alumni are the top executives of **Climber.com**, which helps people understand their career goals and what companies can help them succeed: **Michael O'Brien** (1994), the CEO and co-founder, and **Nick Jimenez** (1997), the president and manager of product development and sales strategy.

Class notes

1990s

F. Brian Alvarez (1990) was appointed a Fresno County Superior Court judge by Gov. Schwarzenegger after working as a supervising deputy state attorney general.

Greg Andersen (1994) was named retail sales manager at Driscoll's, a berry packer and distributor headquartered in Watsonville.

David Bigalk (1996) completed California Highway Patrol training and was assigned to duty in the El Cajon area. He previously was a substitute teacher.

Joel Bock (1998) was elected president of the Bakersfield Chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants for 2009-10.



Albert Cano's (1994) book, "My Sleep Apnea Experience," was released by PublishAmerica.

Patricia Costner (1991) opened the 1,000th Aunt Annie's Pretzel franchise store at Fresno Fashion Fair mall.

Eric Estep (1991) directed "Alice in Wonderland Jr." for Children's Musical Theatreworks in Fresno.

Lance Heiden (1993) a Tulare County Sheriff's deputy, was promoted to operations sergeant, overseeing patrol duties out of the Porterville Substation.



Stacey Louie (1993) was named chief information officer for Interthinx Inc., which provides risk-mitigation and regulatory compliance tools for financial services firms.



Robin McGehee (1998) received a Free Speech Award from the Fresno Free College Foundation for helping organize the "Meet in the Middle for Equality" rally in Fresno.

Christopher Miller (1994) was appointed marketing director for Peak Broadcasting after a 15-year career with Fresno's B-95 Radio.

Frank Oviedo (1994) was hired as the first city manager of Wildomar, a new Riverside County community, after seven years as deputy city manager of Elk Grove.

Matthew Potter (1999) co-directed the film "Goodbye Victoria," described as a "hipster-flavored homage" to Jean-Luc Godard.

Michael Proserpi (1996) was honored as Registered Nurse of the Year by the Greater Madera Kiwanis Club for his work at Madera Community Hospital.

Michael Scovel (1994) was named senior vice president of the West Central Zone for New York Life Insurance Company.

Scott Speidel (1998), research associate in breeding and genetics at Colorado State University, received the 2009 Frank H. Baker Memorial Scholarship Award, from the Beef Improvement Federation.

Warren Sun (1996, '02) was promoted to food services director for the Lodi Unified School District.

Victor E. goes to Washington

By Katie Johnson



Victor E. jetted into our nation's capital, where I had the privilege of "escorting" Fresno State's very own icon for a whirlwind late-summer trip.

Victor E. had a "supreme" time, especially since he began his tour of Washington, D.C., visiting Lady Justice at the Supreme Court. The justices were away, so unfortunately there were no cases to howl about.

We hit Capitol Hill (above right) and strutted the halls of Congress. After taking a special guided tour, we visited the office of Rep. Jim Costa (1974) in the Longworth House Office Building, just south of the Capitol. Victor E. is a great fan of tradition, and the Capitol has loads of it.

He loves books, too, which you'd expect of a university mascot. The new Henry Madden Library on campus isn't enough for Victor E., though. He insisted we check out the Library of Congress (below). Just between you and me, he likes the Madden Library more. There was no Starbucks in the Library of Congress!

Victor E. crossing the Potomac? What a memory. (above left)

OK, it isn't quite that painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware during the Revolutionary War, and no memorable battle in our nation's march toward freedom beckoned. No, Victor E. shipped out to historic Alexandria, Va., for lunch, also a worthy quest.

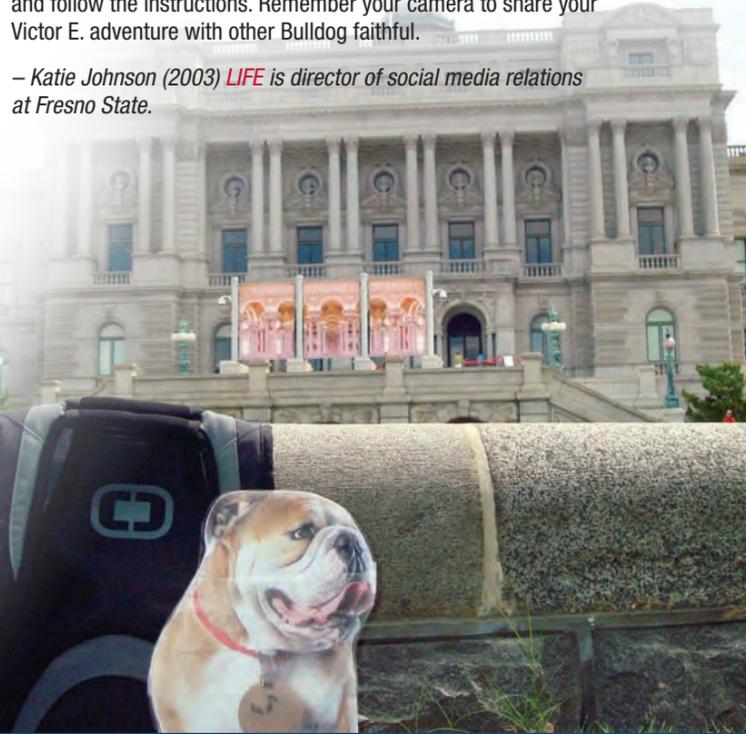
Always the gentleman, Victor E. didn't want to be late, because we were meeting D.C. Bulldog Jill Wyman (2001) 🐾 in Old Town Alexandria for Thai food. The pad thai was a little spicy for Victor E., but the company was great and Jill told us about all the "watch" parties in D.C. for Bulldog sports.

Our bellies full and our craving for travel satisfied, we returned to campus so Victor E. could get ready for new adventures.

You, too, can take Victor E. on your next journey.

Visit www.csufresno.edu/alumni/a_images_kj/Flat_Victor_E.pdf and follow the instructions. Remember your camera to share your Victor E. adventure with other Bulldog faithful.

— Katie Johnson (2003) *LIFE* is director of social media relations at Fresno State.



Fresno State Mobile is the campus connection



The Fresno State Alumni Association is offering tech-savvy alumni and university friends new ways to stay connected to campus through Fresno State Mobile.

Students, alumni, faculty/staff and friends can use Fresno State Mobile to receive text message alerts about campus news, events and athletics. Additionally, iPhone and Blackberry users can download a mobile application that delivers current information directly to their device at any time.

The Fresno State Mobile app includes:

- Athletics news, schedules, scores and ticket information.
- Campus headlines from FresnoStateNews.com and the Collegian.
- Student, alumni and arts calendars to stay up-to-date on campus events, and a science calendar soon to be added.
- Special promotions from the Kennel Bookstore, Bulldog Shop and Gibson Farm Market.
- A campus map.

To opt in, text the word "bulldogs" to 258664.

And for even more connectivity to campus, check out the multimedia options at gobulldogs.com, which offers ringtones, wallpaper and a Bulldog sports scores/news update service.

Class notes

2000s

Miguel Arias (2008) was hired as the Fresno Unified School District's chief information officer after working for Fresno City Council Member Blong Xiong.

Kris Cadieux (2007) was appointed shop manager and scenic designer for Children's Muscial Theaterworks in Fresno to build sets and teach students in a technical theater internship program.



Gary Edmondson (2002), the California State University, Stanislaus university photographer, received the grand gold medal for Photographer of the Year from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Edmondson's photos can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/n99j86> and <http://tinyurl.com/ma2dah>.



Brett Gipson (2006) co-stars in the film "Russel Fish: The Sausage and Eggs Incident."



Liz Gonzalez (2003) was appointed a news anchor at KMPH, Channel 26, the Fresno Fox-TV network affiliate. She previously was the South Valley bureau chief for KSEE, Channel 24, Fresno's NBC station.

David Gregorio (2007), who played soccer in his Bulldog days, was named manager of the Pro Soccer sports apparel and equipment shop in Fresno.

Eddie Hughes (2005) 🐾 was appointed editor of Community Medical Centers' news Web site, MedWatchToday.com, which won an Inspire Award from the League of American Communications Professionals for Best Communications Materials.



Casey McGehee (2004), a former Fresno State baseball player, was a starter for the Milwaukee Brewers. He and his wife, Sarah, are active in raising awareness about cerebral palsy, with which their son, Mack, has been diagnosed.

Tommy Mendonca (2009), Bulldog baseball's career home run leader, was a second-round pick in Major League Baseball's 2009 amateur draft and signed with the Texas Rangers, who assigned him to play in Class A Bakersfield.

Alex Murray (2004) was appointed executive producer of online media/Web reporter by Fresno Fox TV affiliate KMPH, Channel 26.1, and KFRE, Channel 59.1.

Amy Parrish (2008), who played basketball at Fresno State, was promoted to assistant coach for the Bulldogs women's basketball team.

Chantella Perera (2007) led the Australia women's basketball team to a bronze medal at the World University Games in Serbia.

Ernesto Saavedra (2008) was presented a 2009 Way of Peace award by the Fresno Center for Non Violence.

Lily Wang's (2000) "Garden Haiku: Raising Your Child with Ancient Wisdom" (iUniverse/\$9.94) became the bestselling haiku and Asian poetry publication on Amazon.com.

Payton Williams (2000) accepted a position as assistant director of academic and membership services with the NCAA office in Indianapolis.

Class unknown

Pam Georgeson was appointed manager of the Macy's store in Visalia after woking as manager of Macy's in Salinas.

Al Imbimbo was appointed vice president of sales for Lindsay-based Suntreat Packing & Shipping Co. after at 16-year career at Paramount Citrus Association and then Sunkist Growers.

William Milward completed California Highway Patrol training and was assigned to duty at the CHP's Monterey-area office.

Joe Montoya was appointed executive director of the Kern County office of the American Heart Association after working as general manager of the Bakersfield Brigade semi-professional soccer team.

Vernon Peterson, a fourth-generation farmer in Kingsburg, founded abundant Harvest Organics, which sells organic produce from central San Joaquin Valley farmers direct to consumers.



In memoriam

Robert Heeren (1943) *LIFE*, a retired industrial arts and driving education coordinator in the Fresno Unified School District, March 6, 2009, in Fresno.

Bruce Kirkwood (1958) 🐾, a retired Episcopal priest and furniture store owner, March 2, 2009, in Fresno.

Marilyn Ohanian (1987) 🐾, a retired clinical psychologist in the California parole system, July 25, 2009, in Fresno.

Greg J. Romagnoli (1992) 🐾, a CPA, July 14, 2009, in Fresno.

Charlie (Jean) Shewey 🐾, a retired community college dance instructor who helped direct dozens of musicals, July 14, 2009, in Visalia.

Jack Williamson (1949) 🐾, a seven-letter athlete at Fresno State who retired from a 30-year career in coaching, teaching and school administration, in May 2009, in Clovis.

For full list go to: www.fresnostatealumni.com

Debbye Scott

Behind every great mascot, there's a great mascot owner. At Fresno State, that was **Deborah A. "Debbye" Scott** (1987), the person at the other end of Victor E. Bulldog's leash when he stole the show at athletic events, community activities and in videos promoting the university.

Victor E. was "Norman" when Ms. Scott brought him to the audition for Fresno State's next mascot in summer 2006, where he bested 100 competitors to become the Bulldogs' top dog, based on poise, enthusiasm, athleticism, people interaction and crowd reaction. Together, they brought smiles to thousands of faces over the next three years of building Bulldog spirit.

As a Fresno Police Department senior community service officer, Ms. Scott was responsible for the myriad of details in preparing cases for prosecution to keep the community safe. Her numerous community contributions included organizing the annual Thunder Run motorcycle ride benefiting United Cerebral Palsy; Police Activities League events; and volunteering as a taekwando instructor and mentor to inner-city Fresno youth.



Ms. Scott was 46 when she passed away Oct. 3, 2009.

Muriel Smittcamp

Muriel Schmeiser's (1940) love story began during a Fresno State geology field trip when she and **Earl Smittcamp** (1939) stole a kiss that led to a marriage that endured for 69 years, until Mrs. Smittcamp passed away Oct. 7, 2009. She was 92.

Mrs. Smittcamp was a full partner in the family's farming and food production business headquartered in Clovis and in the rearing of their four children, also Fresno State alumni and accomplished in their own rights.

Muriel and Earl Smittcamp were generous benefactors throughout the community, but especially to Fresno State.

It was their generous gift in the 1990s that helped build the Smittcamp Alumni House, a gateway to campus for thousands each year, and endow the Smittcamp Family Honors College, a gateway to excellence for top-achieving students.

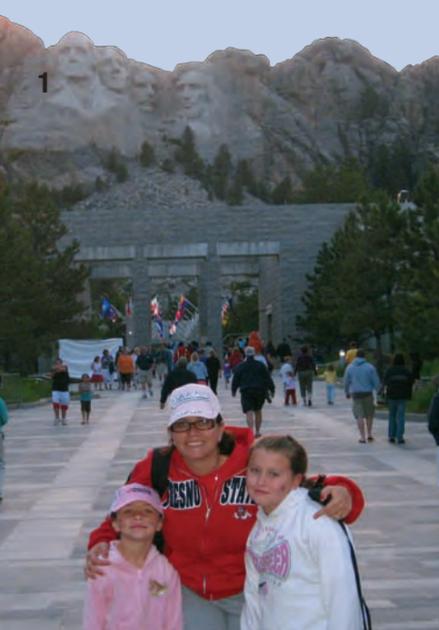
In 1980, the Smittcamps shared the Fresno State Alumni Association's Arthur Safstrom Service Award for generosity and active volunteer leadership on campus and throughout the community.

OFF the leash

Alumni, students, faculty and staff don't leave all the traveling to Victor E. They're representin' Fresno State around the world:

- 1. Micheala Bojorquez-Ford** (1996, '06) wore her colors with daughters Shelby and Samantha on a family vacation to Mt. Rushmore with four other alumni.
- 2. John DiGirolamo** (1987) and his son John DiGirolamo wore their Bulldog gear at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado for Father's Day.
- 3. Randy Larson** 🐾, Fresno State's director of Advancement operations, trekked through Yosemite National Park, proclaiming his allegiance on his shirt.
- 4. Shannon (Spann) Puphal** (1998, '04) 🐾 wanted to try her hand at triathlon competition, but needed the perfect swimcap. Puphal, who lives in Justin, Texas, contacted Bulldogs Coach Jeanne Fleck, who sent her the Fresno State colors, worn proudly in five triathlons.
- During a stop on their cruise, **Saul Salinas** (1997, '03, '09) **LIFE** and girlfriend Lancy Chan visited Haines, Alaska, which is on the United States' longest fjord and also home to the nation's biggest gathering of bald eagles. Salinas says the Mendenhall Glacier highlighted the trip.

When you travel, pack your Fresno State gear and your camera so you're ready to send us a photo when you get somewhere special. Have some scenery in the photo, which should be at least 300 dpi resolution and e-mailed as a jpg to llarson@csufresno.edu along with your comments.



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Tree portraits



Cercis occidentalis - Western redbud

This native tree is a legume, a member of the pea family, growing southwest of Engineering West. During fall, rusty brown seed pods can be glimpsed among light-green, heart-shaped leaves. The picture is painted in opaque watercolor on colored mat board.

Seed pods and leaf detail. Leaf-cutter bees have scalloped the edge of this redbud leaf to make their nest cells.

My favorite campus tree is the Western redbud, No. 93 on the arboretum "Treewalks" map. It's one of our most stunning native plants, blooming early in spring with bright magenta flowers. Redbuds turn the Sierra Nevada foothills into a park, looking like the work of a dedicated gardener. They're much tougher than they appear: drought-tolerant and easy to grow in your own xeriscape garden. For many years, my students and I did research on bacteria that live in tumor-like nodules on the roots of legumes and help them grow in poor soil. Redbud branched off from the rest of the legume family tree before the plant-bacterial relationship evolved and is one of the few legumes that does not host these bacteria. But I love them anyway.

Dr. Ethelynda Harding is an emerita professor of biology.

Illustrator Doug Hansen teaches in the Department of Art and Design and is the author and illustrator of "Mother Goose in California" (Heyday/\$16.95).

With about 4,000 trees, the campus was designated an arboretum in 1978. We invite the campus community and alumni to write about a favorite Fresno State tree to be illustrated in "Tree portraits." Contact Hansen at dhansen@csufresno.edu or 559.278.2817.



Dr. Ethelynda Harding

Randy Vaughn-Dotait/Fresno State

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