In our society, unfortunately, socio-economic status is often an accurate predictor of success in a variety of endeavors related to school. Children from homes with fewer economic resources do not perform as well in school, particularly on standardized tests, as students whose families have incomes in the middle class or above and have a history of college graduates. Family income is the single best predictor of scores on the ACT and SAT exams that are supposed to predict success in the first year of college.

From 2012 through 2016 my colleagues Drs. Torgerson, Marshall, Tracz, Chiero, and I have published a series of articles that demonstrated that teachers from CSU in general and Fresno State specifically defy that prediction. Examining principals’ evaluation of teachers’ performance at the end of their first year of teaching found that teacher’s family income, status as an English learner, or SAT/ACT score predicted nothing. This has received a great deal of attention because national accreditors and the U.S. Department of Education want to rank teacher preparation programs based, in part, on the SAT/ACT scores of the students admitted to the program. We have disputed and spoken against this, becoming visible nationally, because we have challenged an unproven measurement. On my email tagline I have a quote from CSU Chancellor Timothy White, “We have to quit ranking universities by who they exclude but rather by who they graduate.”

We have ascribed this defying of conventional wisdom to the fact that Fresno State is a transformational university. Almost all our students come from our four county region (many more apply but we turn them away because of the geographic priority the CSU uses in admissions). These four counties have the lowest median income in the nation and the lowest percentage of college graduates. The P12 students are 35% English learners and 70% of our university students are first generation. Despite these predictors, our students excel. The teacher graduates whose parents did not attend high school (21%) perform just as well as teachers as the graduates whose parents have college degrees. We are incredibly proud of this and it motivates our faculty every day.

Now others have noticed Fresno State’s transformational ability, and it is very gratifying. Since 2005, the Washington Monthly has released an annual College Guide and rankings, where they rate schools based on what they are doing for the country. It’s an answer to U.S News & World Report, which relies on crude and easily manipulated measures of wealth, exclusivity, and prestige to evaluate schools. Washington Monthly rates schools based on their contribution to the public good in three broad categories: Social Mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), Research (producing cutting-edge scholarships and PhDs), and Service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).
Last month Washington Monthly ranked 303 universities that they categorized as “National” meaning they are four-year institutions that offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Those ranked first, second and third were predictably, Stanford, Harvard, and MIT. Six UCs were in the top 20. Michigan, Vanderbilt, Columbia, and Notre Dame were 21, 22, 23, 24; and then at 25, was California State University, Fresno. Trailling Fresno State were Wisconsin, Dartmouth, Arizona State, Washington, Rice, etc for another 278 major schools. This does not include the other 2000 higher education institutions that do not warrant this level of competition. The work of being an engaged university; and for the Kremen School partnering in teacher and leader preparation/residencies, doctoral students’, and our counseling center services are evidence of the public good we do.

We were proud of Fresno State when Derek Carr led it to victory, when we won the Mountain West in basketball last spring, when the Kremen School received the 2014 Christa McAuliffe Award, and last spring when 5000 students graduated. This ranking is however something special. It recognizes that what we do is different, it is exceptional, we knew it and now others recognize it. This award is certainly due to Presidents Castro and Welty and Provosts Zelezny, Covino, Hoff, Neff, and Echeverria, but it is also due to each faculty member and each staff who are devoted to our students’ success. We will cheer our athletes this year and our students at commencement but we should honor, respect, and cheer what the faculty and staff do so amazingly well each and every day.

**Summit**

**Better Together California Teachers Summit**

Hundreds of the Valley’s educators joined a statewide movement to connect and collaborate at the 2nd annual Better Together California Teachers Summit on July 29, 2016. The Summit was held at nearly 40 locations across California, including Fresno State, where almost 300 Fresno Area teachers learned new ways to motivate students and how to keep up with ever-changing technology and curriculum. The event was hosted by the Kremen School of Education and Human Development. Dean Paul Beare welcomed the participants which included K-16 teachers, professors, and Fresno State students and graduates considering a career in education. The day included a keynote address from actor Ernie Hudson which was streamed to all 40 sites, in addition to two local educators who presented “EdTalks.” Joe Marquez, a science teacher at Clovis Unified’s Alta Sierra Intermediate, stood before his peers wearing a belt that scrolled bright green letters past a screen and declared: “I’m a tech geek and I know it.” Marquez urged teachers to embrace students’ obsession with their iPhones – which he calls “computers with a phone app,” and he begged them to continue to learn every day and embrace technology.

Tiffany Castillo, a teacher on special assignment in the Fresno Unified School District, spoke to teachers about the importance of what happens to kids outside of the classroom. In a district like Fresno Unified, where nearly 90 percent of students come from low-income families, Castillo said it’s especially important for teachers to know the ways that outside trauma can follow students into the classroom.

Next years Better Together Teacher Summit will take place on July 28, 2017 at the Satellite Student Union.

**Doctoral Program**

**Collaborative Online Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (CODEL) is Officially Underway with Cohort 1**

The very first cohort of students is engaged in their studies as the Collaborative Online Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership (CODEL) is now underway. The program is a joint collaboration between Fresno State and CSU Channel Islands, and has been in the planning and development stages since early 2012.

Cohort 1 was welcomed and convened in-person at their first Summer Residency week hosted at CSU Channel Islands on June 19-24, 2016. Among the first day’s activities, were presentations regarding resources and the tech support available to them from both campuses (as they progress through their studies). Also during the Summer Residency week, CODEL faculty presented some initial course modules for the core classes that the students would be experiencing early in the program.

From their Monday afternoon ropes course/team building activity in Agoura Hills (and the record 116 degree temperatures), to a wonderful evening celebration dinner on Thursday of that same week, it was exciting to see how the group had bonded so quickly and worked together. They are all determined to complete their degree on time in 2019 and have adopted the slogan of “19 in 19.” They are 19 in total number, and they plan to work hard and support one another to finish collectively in Spring 2019.

The initial cohort of students for CODEL consists of individuals representing both higher education and P-12 school districts throughout California. A majority of the initial group is representative of the Southern California region, but there are also members from the Central Coast and Central Valley areas.
The Convocation of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development was held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 7:15pm in the Save Mart Center. Faustino Aguilar, Ko Yang, Lucia Ramirez Munoz, Nancy Vongthichack, and Tony Losongco graduated from the Kremen School with a Master of Science in Counseling, option Student Affairs and College Counseling.

Alumni

Jessica Miguel

Two years ago I chose to enroll in Fresno State’s Multilingual Multicultural Master’s in Education (MME) Program. As an educator I wanted to learn how to better help students that come from low income and high minority schools, I could think of no better location then Fresno State. Over the course of two years, I learned and grew as a person and educator. I was aided by amazing professors, to explore issues of race, ethnicity, language, citizenship status, gender, income, and class to name a few. These explorations both shook my personal foundation and reaffirmed my life mission, all while allowing me to grow professionally. My MME experience was further made special by the immense amount of support that I received from the LEBSE department, Kremen School and Fresno State. From mentoring support to financial support for conference attendance I was provided with many resources in my educational journey.

The path that I embarked on two years ago has lead me to where I am now. This fall semester I will begin a doctorate in education program at UC San Diego on a full scholarship. I will enter a program committed to creating transformative change in our growing and diverse society. The research I began at Fresno State, working on issues of language and culture among students in Special Education, will continue. Upon finishing my degree, my goal is to become a professor at a four-year institution and an educational advocate in my community. I would like to help at-risk students’ find their path in life, and teach topics that produce students who are agents of change in their communities. This plan is in direct response to my time at Fresno State. I want to make sure that the support I was given is passed on to new generations of students and that one day they also have many people to thank.

Convocation May 2016

The students pictured on the right were Wayfinders Certificate recipients

The Kremen School of Education and Human Development Convocation was held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 7:15pm in the Save Mart Center.

Jessica Miguel (Graduate Dean’s Medalist), Dr. Paul Beare, and Serenity Hansen (Undergraduate Dean’s Medalist)

Faustino Aguilar, Ko Yang, Lucia Ramirez Munoz, Nancy Vongthichack, and Tony Losongco graduated from the Kremen School with a Master of Science in Counseling, option Student Affairs and College Counseling.
New Director of Development

Laura Whitehouse

Laura Whitehouse has been named the new Director of Development for the California State University, Fresno Kremen School of Education and Human Development. She has a diverse background in fundraising, marketing, public relations, government relations, broadcast media, and communications. Prior to coming to Fresno State she served as the Vice President of Development and Government Relations for Mental Health Systems, was the Regional Development Officer for The Salvation Army, served as the President and CEO of the Fresno City and County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and was the Senior Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association. In this role, Whitehouse testified before the United States Congress, securing an increased appropriation.

Whitehouse also previously served as the Community Relations Manager for Children’s Hospital Central California, Marketing Director for The Fresno Bee and Director of Communications for The Big Fresno Fair. Prior to the Fair, she was a Public Relations Consultant for four years with her own company, Glad Public Relations. In 1990, after a two-year stint as a Field Producer for CNN in Los Angeles, she moved to Fresno to be a live show producer for KFSN-TV (ABC 30).

Whitehouse has extensive local board and committee involvement including: the Rotary Club of Fresno; the City of Fresno’s Utility Advisory Committee; Girl Scouts of Central California South; the Clovis North Educational Center Foundation Board; Mental Health Systems Board; The Salvation Army Central Valley Regional Board; Friends of the San Joaquin Political Academy; the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce Board; the Northeast Fresno Planning and Implementation Committee; the Fresno Coalition for Arts, Science & History Board; Community Hospitals of Central California Foundation Marketing Advisory Committee; Chair of the Central California Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America; Alta Sierra Intermediate School Parent Teacher Board; Marjaree Mason Center Board; Fresno Zoological Society Board; Fresno Advertising Federation; Fresno Women’s Network and Women in Communications, Inc.

Laura was honored with the “National Rising Star Award” from Women in Communications, Inc. in 1990 and “Public Relations Professional of the Year” by the Public Relations Society of America Central California Chapter in 2001. In addition, her work in marking and communications has earned numerous Addy Awards and honors from the Western Fairs Association.

Whitehouse has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a concentration in Radio/TV/Film and a minor in Women’s Studies from California State University, Fullerton. In addition, she is a graduate of the San Joaquin Political Academy and Leadership Fresno.

Andrew Shin was born on June 2, 2016.
Congratulations Myung and Jane Shin

Luke André Wandeler was born on August 10, 2016.
Congratulations Danelle and Christian Wandeler

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FRESNOSTATE
Kremen School of Education and Human Development
Teachers and Friends Honor Wall
New Faculty Members for the Kremen School

Department: Counselor Education and Rehabilitation

Dr. Jeff Crane is from the very exotic state of Kansas. As a native Kansan he has very little interest in the finer things in life like mountains or oceans. Rather, he spends his free time locked away in an office conducting research. Among his many research interests, he is particularly passionate about studying intimate partner violence and neuroimaging. With degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy, he finds great enjoyment helping couples, families, and individuals improve aspects of their daily lives. Regardless of his deep passion for research and conducting therapy, his greatest fulfillment comes as a husband and a father to three wonderful, and sometimes crazy, children.

Dr. Sergio Pereyra is of Mexican and Argentine descent. Raised in Houston Texas, he completed his education at Brigham Young University. Sergio and his wife Raquel have two wonderfully energetic boys and a beautiful baby girl. He has a passion for diversity issues and specifically has focused on clinical and research efforts in serving the underserved Latino population. As a Marriage and Family Therapist, he enjoys working with couples that have relationship issues and helping parents with child difficulties through parenting training both in English and in Spanish.

Department: Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Myung Shin received his Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education from Michigan State University. His research focuses on three areas. The first involves understanding how to broaden participation in STEM among students from historically marginalized communities. The second focus is on designing innovative, empowering, and equitable STEM learning environments. His third focus is on supporting pre- and in-service teachers in teaching STEM to students from diverse backgrounds. His recent research involves designing inclusive makerspaces and makerspace Education programs for youth from marginalized communities.

Dr. Nichole Walsh comes to Fresno State with 16 years of experience in education. Most recently, Dr. Walsh worked as a Principal in Hanford and part-time Porterville cohort lecturer. Prior to this, as Curriculum and Instruction VP at Madera High, she lead PLC’s and unit design work across all content areas. Dr. Walsh’s experience has also included teaching, academic coaching, and other administrative roles in both Elementary and Secondary contexts across disciplines, and as a contributing committee member for curricular, assessment, behavioral support, and technology initiatives at the district office level. Her research interests are teacher preparation and adolescent learners.

Dr. Trang Phan’s background is in Learning Design and Technology, Linguistics, and Teaching English as a Second Language. Her research interests are: 1) aspects of cultural diversity and students’ learning patterns in Massive Open Online Courses, 2) mind mapping, and 3) integration of technology in teaching and learning. She was a coordinator for the exchange Master program while doing her Ph.D. and would like to continue her work along side her responsibilities at the Kremen School.
(Continued) New Faculty Members for the Kremen School

Department: Literacy, Early, Bilingual, and Special Education

Timothy Yeager was born and raised in Selma, California. Timothy is a proud father of an intelligent and witty daughter. An alumnus of Fresno State, with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Mathematics, he holds two Master’s degrees from Teachers College of Columbia University in Special Education with emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis and Curriculum and Instruction. He is currently completing his PhD at Columbia University. Timothy is a credentialed teacher and Board Certified Behavior Analyst and is passionate in seeing lives changed through teacher education. When not working, he enjoys cooking with friends and rooting on the Giants.

Dr. Patrick S. DeWalt received his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado at Boulder and was born and raised in Houston, Texas. Dr. DeWalt’s research interests include racial and cultural identity with an emphasis on the African Diaspora, teacher education and issues of diversity, curriculum development through the incorporation of digital media, and theory and pedagogy. Before pursuing his terminal degree, Dr. DeWalt taught within the Houston Independent School District primarily as a first grade teacher. Dr. DeWalt’s educational background includes biology, business, education, and cultural studies. Each of these areas and experiences allows for an interdisciplinary approach to research as well as teaching and learning.

Dr. Selena E. Van Horn received her Ph.D. at The University of Missouri in Learning, Teaching, and Curriculum with emphasis on Literacy Education and a graduate certificate in Qualitative Research Theories and Methodologies. While living in Columbia, MO, she served as the Director of Education for the local Boys and Girls Club and served on the board of The Center Project, Mid-Missouri’s LGBTQ community center. Her research focuses on social justice, queer literacy pedagogy, and children’s literature focusing on equity and literature response.

Kremen School Events

**Oktoberfest**
Thursday, October 6, 2016
from 5:30pm -8:00pm
Smittcamp Alumni House—Fresno State
RSVP online at www.fresnostatealumni.com or call Jackie Milian at 559.278.0215

**Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala**
Saturday, October 15, 2016
5:30pm—Cocktail Reception
6:30pm—Dinner and Awards Ceremony
Save Mart Center—Fresno State
For more information call Katie Adamo at 559.278.5723

Submit your story for the next newsletter
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