

FRESNO STATE

MAGAZINE



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REACTIONS TO
BULLDOG STADIUM RENOVATION PLANS

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NEW APP HELPS REDUCE WATER USAGE

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A University of CHOICE

We live in a region that needs more problem solvers, more innovators and more critical thinkers. The good news is that Fresno State is a popular destination for new students who will become those leaders in our region.

Applications from talented and diverse undergraduates throughout the Valley and state hit a record number this year. We received almost 31,000 applications and welcomed 5,400 new freshmen and transfer students. As I meet these students on campus, I am impressed with the excellence they bring to Fresno State, and I look forward to seeing them graduate.

Our graduation rate is steadily improving. The six-year rate is projected to increase to nearly 58 percent this year. That is more than a 9 percentage-point increase in the past two years. Our goal is to achieve a 70 percent graduation rate by 2023, and we are well on our way.

Another measure of achievement is in national rankings, and we are thrilled that Fresno State ranked No. 4 in the nation among master's degree-granting universities, according to the Washington Monthly, a magazine based in Washington, D.C. This ranking is particularly important because it considers several key factors to our region, including how well schools perform as an engine of social mobility for students, research and public service.

This is a bold time for the University, and these are only a few highlights from Fresno State's commitment to students and community. Thanks to the efforts of faculty, staff, alumni and friends, there is much to be proud of at Fresno State.

Go 'Dogs!



President Joseph I. Castro

FRESNOSTATE Magazine is published by the Office of University Communications at California State University, Fresno.

Fall 2015

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Fresno State serves the richly diverse region of Central California. The U.S. Department of Education designates our University as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

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FRESNO STATE NEWS



Biology and music grads awarded highest honors by Tom Uribes

Fresno State's top academic honors were awarded to Yesenia Thompson (master's in biology) and Joseph M. Bohigian (bachelor's in music composition) at Fresno State's 104th Commencement in May.

Bohigian was chosen from a group of nine Deans' Undergraduate Medalists and Thompson from nine Deans' Graduate Medalists.

Thompson, of Lindsay, was selected as the University Graduate Medalist, Fresno State's top honor for a graduate student. Thompson's family immigrated from Mexico to the United States. She earned a 3.91 GPA while researching the role of pesticide exposure in cancer cases among Hispanic farmworkers. She now works as a research associate at Beckman Research Institute in Duarte.

Bohigian, of Clovis, was selected as the President's Medalist, the University's top honor for an undergraduate student. A Smittcamp Family Honors College scholar, Bohigian earned a 4.0 GPA, and his original compositions have been performed in Armenia, Germany, Portugal, Brazil and across the United States. He has a Graduate Council Fellowship at Stony Brook University in New York.

Graduate Art Studios opens in downtown Fresno

Fresno State and Granville Homes celebrated the grand opening of the Graduate Art Studios — the University's first satellite campus — in May at the M Street Arts Complex in downtown Fresno (1419 M Street).

The space provides a safe, clean and professional environment where artists can create and the community can discover and support local art. Students work side-by-side with faculty and professional artists in the 6,000-square-foot building on the corner of M and Tuolumne streets. The complex has galleries, a conference room and 15 private working studios for Fresno State graduate art students.

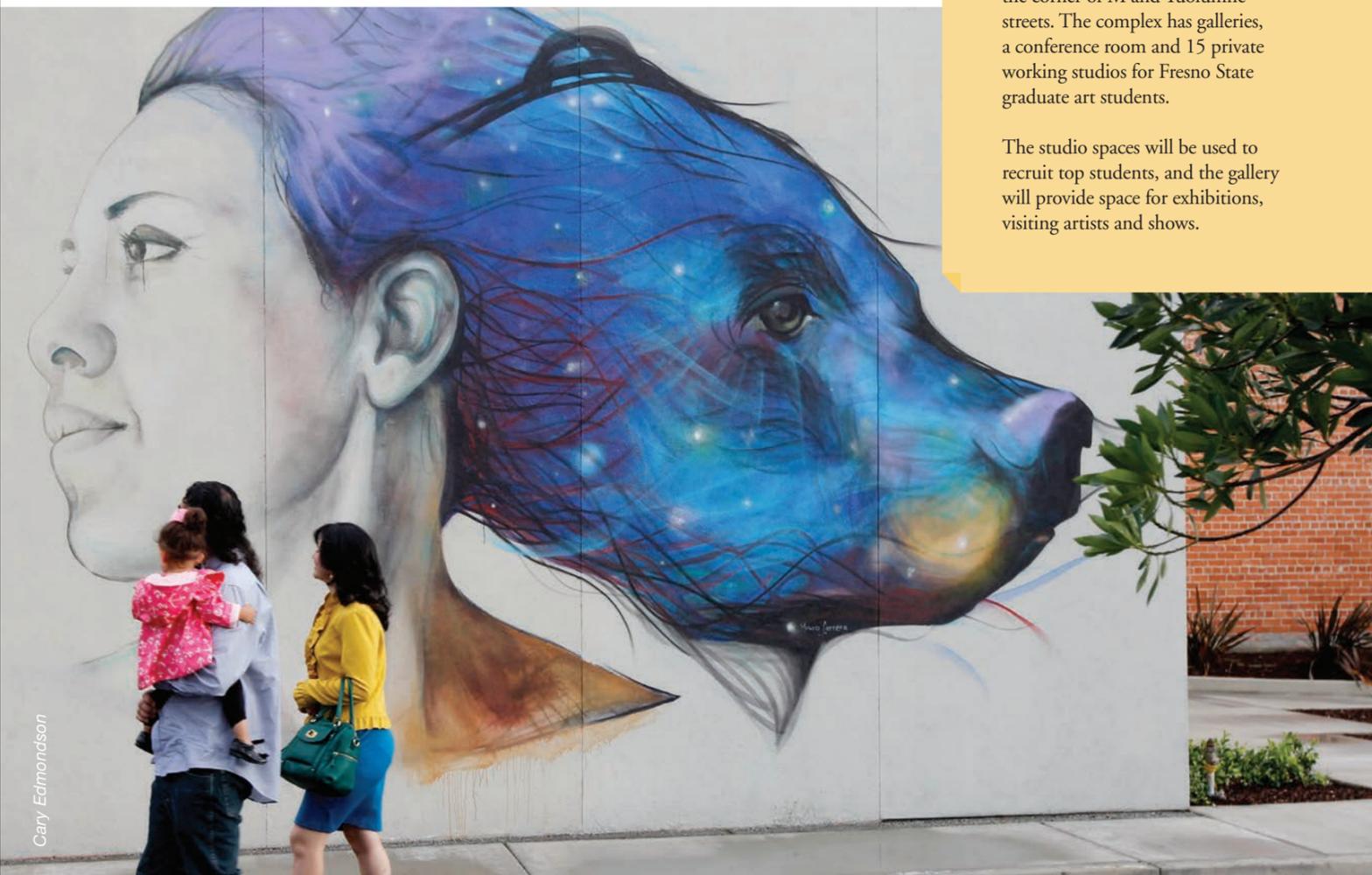
The studio spaces will be used to recruit top students, and the gallery will provide space for exhibitions, visiting artists and shows.



New retailers now open at The Square at Campus Pointe

The Central Valley took another step forward in urban street resurgence when Fresno State celebrated the grand opening of The Square at Campus Pointe July 17.

Located across from the Save Mart Center, just off Highway 168 (Chestnut and Shaw avenues), the new retail development formally opened with three tenants: Maya Cinemas, Beach Hut Deli and Mad Duck. Cold Stone Creamery, Screen Works, Yogurtland, Pieology and Wahoo's opened this fall.



Cary Edmondson



Winemaking: a growing specialty

by Eddie Hughes

A short walk atop a hill at one of Napa Valley's most well-known wineries reveals an enchanting building constructed in 1888 that resembles an English gothic castle. It's Chateau Montelena — built of thick, rectangular stones and covered in vines as green and healthy as the grape vineyards in the fields it watches over.

It's a structure made for the big screen. And while Hollywood took a bit of creative liberty in producing the 2008 film "Bottle Shock" — a Napa Valley love story highlighting the rise of California wines — it certainly captured the charismatic personality of Bo Barrett, CEO and president of Chateau Montelena.

Barrett, a Fresno State alumnus who studied viticulture and enology in 1976-77, was portrayed in the film by Chris Pine. The movie tells the story of a British wine connoisseur who visits Napa expecting to find a product inferior to the French wines that had traditionally dominated the market. But a blind taste test by French judges in Paris proves the California wine — namely the 1973 Chateau Montelena Chardonnay — to be the best in class.

The nine judges were taken aback when they realized they had selected a California wine. The "Judgment of Paris," as it became known, was featured in TIME magazine, and a bottle of the Chardonnay is on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Continued

Viticulture and enology

New University winemaker Matt Brain says Fresno State has the “best viticulture and enology program in the United States.”

Fresno State certainly made news in 1997 when it became the first American university to operate a commercially bonded, on-campus winery. The Fresno State Winery has won more than 600 awards and bottles 20 varieties of wine. The unique winery has been featured on ESPN numerous times during nationally televised Fresno State football games.

The University offers wine tasting courses and sells its product in the on-campus Rue and Gwen Gibson Farm Market, Save Mart Supermarkets and other stores, as well as online. Proceeds from wine sales support students in Fresno State’s Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

“I think that teaches the students something of value, because the job is to reward your consumers,” Barrett says. “At the end of the day, to be successful in this business, you must consider the ultimate arbiter of quality for your success is the consumer. So having Fresno State teach its students right off the get go that you’ve got to make stuff that people are going to want, that’s a critical component.”

One of the major advantages of Fresno State’s program is that viticulture and enology are under the same umbrella, where students are exposed to the art, science and farming of winemaking, as well as marketing.

Professor Kevin Smith, sales and marketing manager for the Fresno State Winery, says students are required to spend six hours per week in the winery during the fall semester developing wines that will be sold on store shelves. Later, they work events and sales channels. “Between the winery equipment, real-time wine chemistry testing, bottling line and sales software, our students are able to hit the ground running from their first day after graduation,” Smith says.

Continued

During production of the Chardonnay, Barrett and his father, Jim Barrett, portrayed by Bill Pullman, discover the white wine in thousands of bottles had turned a darkish color, a phenomenon known as “pinking” or bottle shock. Barrett recalls learning about the process in a class at Fresno State led by Sig Shandrel, who told the students they’d likely never see such a thing in America because the wines aren’t acidic enough. But Barrett quickly chimed in with his story.

“That was the first time I ever spoke in front of my classmates,” Barrett says. “I put my hand up and said, ‘Actually our ’73 Chardonnay pinked,’ and the professor said, ‘Tell us how you accomplished this feat.’”

In scientific terms, pinking occurs in the presence of polyphenols that turn colors due to oxidation. In the film, the wine turns back to its proper color over time.

“Bottle Shock” helped Chateau Montelena, nestled near Mount Saint Helena in Calistoga, become even more of a tourist attraction, ballooning in popularity with fans of the film. The winery produces 50,000 cases a year and farms about 200 acres.

“We make a lot of noise for a small company,” says Barrett, whose wife Heidi and two daughters are also in the wine business. “It’s such a well-known and prestigious brand, people think it’s bigger than it is. We’re trying not to grow in size, just grow in quality. When we put a cork in a bottle, we pack as much good stuff in there as we can.”

Chateau Montelena, built in the 19th century for barrel storage, was purchased by Jim Barrett, an attorney, in the early 1970s. The vineyard was cleared and replanted, and the winery was updated with modern equipment. Wine was produced for the first time in 1972, and a year later won the

Paris tasting. The winery started with 10 employees and today has 80.

Barrett originally attended the University of Utah, when he was an avid skier, before transferring to Fresno State. He won an academic excellence award in 1977, the same year his son was born.

Barrett’s story is one of many that have spawned from classrooms at Fresno State to grape vineyards all over the world. The University estimates that since 1950 about 1,000 alumni have worked in the grape and wine industry throughout California and abroad. About 84 percent work in California — 60 percent of those in the Central Valley, North Coast and Central Coast — and 3 percent in foreign nations like Spain, Bolivia, New Zealand and Japan.

Barrett says the camaraderie between students with similar interests and relationships he developed at Fresno State were

a valuable part of the education. One of his former classmates, Dave Vella, is now the vineyard manager at Chateau Montelena. They each took classes from Vince Petrucci, the founder of the University’s viticulture and enology program.



A global influence of alumni

Fresno State's viticulture and enology graduates can be found all over California and the globe. And many have left their marks on the industry, such as Ondine Chattan, director of winemaking for Accolade Wines/Geyser Peak Winery North America; Greg Stach (1992), winemaker, whose Landmark Vineyards wine has been served at the White House; Hal Huffsmith, senior vice president for vineyard operations at Sutter Home Vineyards; Louis Moreau (1990), a sixth-generation winemaker from Chablis, France; Mark Beringer, chief winemaker for Beringer Vineyards; and Fred Holloway (1981), director of production and winemaking for JUSTIN wines — just to name a few of the graduates.

"I keep in touch with some fellow grads and have met many more over the years," says Ondine Chattan. "When I do meet fellow alumni, there is a great, instantaneous connection."

Chattan, who earned her master's at Fresno State in 1997 and now lives in Healdsburg, says daily interaction with professors and industry professionals helped prepare her for a competitive workplace where she faced challenges in achieving her goals.

"Being a woman tends to get you typecast in laboratory or clerical roles," she says. "I had to be steadfast in my commitment to run production winemaking, never wavering and always dedicated to the goal."

Eric Gallegos (*inset*), general manager for Gallegos Wines, faced challenges of his own in building a startup company. Gallegos' grandfather immigrated to Napa Valley from Michoacan, Mexico, in 1956 and worked at Beringer Winery for more than 30 years. His father was the vineyard foreman at the Hundred Acre J.J. Cohn Ranch in Rutherford, where the family lived in a tiny farmhouse.



"I guess you can say wine is in my blood," Gallegos says. "I was on a tractor as young as I can remember, and by the age of 7, I was pruning in the vineyards. My brother and I would race to see who could reach the end of the row first."

The family winery now produces more than 1,000 cases annually. "Fresno State gave me the opportunity to expand my professional network and get the technical schooling needed that has helped move Gallegos Wines from an idea to a successful startup."

It's an exciting time to be in the growing wine business, which is part of the reason Fresno State's program is growing as well. Barrett recalls something his professor said in 1976. "Professor Sig Shandrel said, 'If Americans ever start drinking wine there will be a single, continuous vineyard from Guadalajara to Vancouver.' And what we see now, from Ensenada to Vancouver, in an airplane, you can always see a vineyard. The future is very bright for American wine."

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor for FresnoState Magazine. 



"I keep in touch with some fellow grads and have met many more over the years. When I do meet fellow alumni, there is a great, instantaneous connection."

— ONDINE CHATTAN



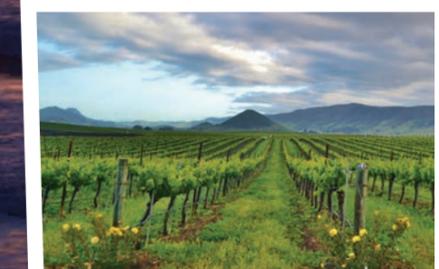
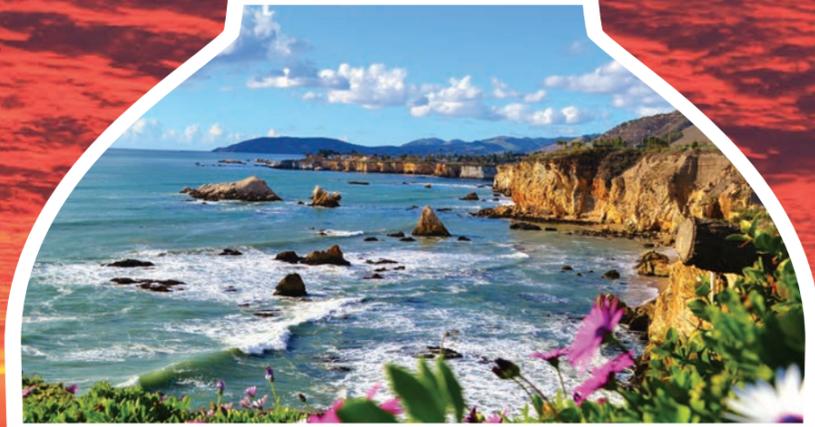
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CLASSICCALIFORNIA.COM



Autism Center expands services across region

by Melissa Tav

Sounds of laughter permeate the hot summer air as young children, bouncing with excitement, await their turn to pet Fresno State's newest live mascot, Victor E. III. Some kids playfully run away, with Victor E. in close pursuit. Five-year-old Uriah falls to his knees and is immediately greeted with wet, friendly kisses from Victor E. An ecstatic smile spreads across Uriah's face.

Laughter is a welcome noise for those who work at the Autism Center at Fresno State. For some of these kids, a visit from Victor E. was just what they needed. All the kids at the center, ages 18 months to 5 years, have Autism Spectrum Disorder or a related disability.

Affecting nearly one in 68 children, autism is a developmental disorder that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

Just two years ago, Uriah was not able to verbalize his emotions. His mother, Valerie Williams, of Fresno, said it began when he was 16 months old. That is when his speech regressed seemingly overnight.

"Within a couple of months, he just lacked all speech and was yelling and grunting to get attention," Williams says.

At age 3, he began early intensive behavior treatment at the Autism Center, and the improvement in his speech was immediate.

"As soon as he came in to the Autism Center, I noticed progress very fast," Williams says.

"From the age of 3 to 5 1/2, Uriah went from nonverbal to having full-length, competent conversations. At the center, he was able to get that one-on-one attention that he needed."

— VALERIE WILLIAMS

Uriah, who graduated from the program in July, no longer has the diagnosis of autism and began kindergarten in the fall — fulfilling a prime goal of the Autism Center.

Tim Yeager, clinical director of the Autism Center, says Uriah is one of many success stories that arise from the program each year.

Since 2007, the Autism Center has provided more than 80 children with early intervention services. As a treatment, education and research center, it provides children diagnosed with autism between 20 and 40 hours of weekly therapy services to improve the child's language, motor, social and learning skills.

In addition, 50 undergraduate students majoring in psychology, early childhood education and speech-language pathology are employed and receive training there. The center is part of the Behavioral Sciences Institute in Fresno State's College of Science and Mathematics.

"The rates of autism continue to rise," Yeager says. "The Central Valley, in particular, is identified as an autism cluster with significantly more children with autism here than in other areas in the country."

To broaden the services offered in the region, a new satellite location was launched in August at Valley Children's Hospital in Madera County. The new two-room site, located nine miles north of Fresno State, serves up to 16 clients. Children receive 15 to 30 hours of treatment a week and are referred for services through the child's

pediatrician or through the Central Valley Regional Center. Yeager hopes to open additional locations in the future.

Students and staff working at the Autism Center at Fresno State will receive additional training at the satellite location.



Behavioral interventionist Camille Williams (pictured above, no relation to Valerie) worked at the Autism Center for the past three years while pursuing her bachelor's degree in psychology. She was hired full time at the Autism Center soon after graduating and says the experience she's gained will be tremendous toward obtaining a master's degree in applied behavior analysis.

"If I know how to work directly with children, I'll be able to train other people to work with children in the future," Camille says. "Starting here has helped me gain valuable and extremely rewarding experience in working with children with autism."



— Melissa Tav is a communications specialist for the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State.



Unable to verbalize his emotions and with his speech regressing, Uriah began early behavior treatment at the Autism Center at age 3 and his family saw immediate results.



Valley veteran beats breast cancer, homelessness to earn degree

by Susan Hawksworth

Army veteran Iantha Hutchinson — a breast cancer survivor — was living in a homeless shelter in Fresno in 2012 as a result of financial hardships caused by medical treatment. An online community college student at the time, she learned about the Veterans Education Program at Fresno State and was encouraged by director Dr. Daniel Bernard to participate in the first student cohort.

The program, founded in 2012, gives veterans access to resources at Fresno State and connects them to support organizations across the Central Valley.

Because of Hutchinson's homelessness, Fresno State's Division of Continuing and Global Education raised funds to house her in the campus dorms and to provide a meal plan while she completed the program. Hutchinson was among five veterans who graduated from the first cohort in 2013.

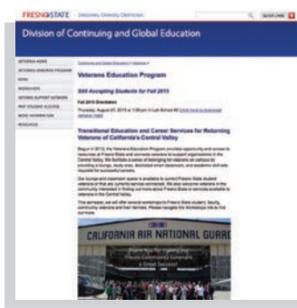
For many Valley veterans, returning to civilian life can be a challenge emotionally, mentally and sometimes financially. And for some, it's further complicated by a life-threatening health condition.

After many years of struggle and frustration in school, Hutchinson was diagnosed with dyscalculia, a condition sometimes known as math dyslexia in which it is difficult to comprehend arithmetic.

"Because I was in a small class with Dr. Lance Burger [associate professor of mathematics], I was able to get insight into how my mind processed mathematical equations," Hutchinson says. "What a light bulb moment that was for me. I could now move forward with a personal understanding of what, for me, had been an impediment to my academic success. Most of all, I gained confidence."

The support and encouragement of her Fresno State professors — Burger, Dr. James Mullooly, Dr. Gary Rice and Dr. Tim Skeen — renewed her hope and desire to pursue a degree in anthropology.

When she finished the Veterans Education Program, Hutchinson was accepted at California State University, Northridge, and relocated to reconnect with family in the area. In May 2015, she graduated from Cal State Northridge with a bachelor's degree in anthropology, proudly accessorizing her commencement attire with a Fresno State stole. (pictured)



The Veterans Education Program also offers veterans a parallel admission route into Fresno State. By successfully completing small group classes focused on coursework necessary for admittance into the University, student veterans can transition to matriculated status at Fresno State. The courses are available to veterans who are service-connected and/or honorably discharged.

— Susan Hawksworth is program and marketing specialist for the Division of Continuing and Global Education at Fresno State.

Visit www.ReturningVeteransEducation.com to learn more about the Veterans Education Program.

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Registration now open to **SAVE A LIFE**

by Eddie Hughes and Erika Castañon

Justin Garza started his battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2011. Now 40 years old and married with two young children, Garza is fighting as hard as ever, having twice come out of remission. He's fighting for his young family — wife Regina, 4-year-old son Joaquin and 11-month-old daughter Elena — but also for other people facing blood cancers and immune disorders.

That's why Garza, who is on leave from his job as Central High School football coach and teacher, got involved in organizing bone marrow registry drives in the community to educate people about the need. At first, he planned a drive at Central's home opening football game in fall 2014, but word spread and others wanted to get involved.

In September 2014, the Justin Garza Blood and Marrow Registry Drive at Fresno State, his alma mater, drew 672 new marrow registrants. Within four months, the Be the Match for Justin Garza team registered more than 2,200 people.

Joining the registry is as simple as a cheek swab that is sent to a lab for analysis. One out of every 500 people who register will be called to donate.



That call came for Johnathan Benson, a Fresno State senior majoring in environmental sciences. He joined the registry at that on-campus drive and was called 10 months later as a possible match for an infant diagnosed with an immune system disorder.

"I thought, 'What kind of terrible person am I if I say no to this?'" Benson says. "So of course I called them back in 30 seconds and said, 'I'll do it.'"

Benson then provided a blood sample for further testing and was scheduled for a physical examination before undergoing the hour-long procedure to donate his marrow.

"How often do you have a chance, in an instant, to say, 'Yeah, I am going to do something that could change someone's life?'" Benson says.

That potentially life-changing moment came for Garza this past year as well. He had been through chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, and the next step was a marrow transplant. In August 2014, Garza's match was located in Europe.

"I was relieved that I found a match and excited that at least I had a chance to beat the cancer that had come out of remission twice already," says Garza, who this summer was receiving treatment at Stanford University Medical Center for complications related to the transplant. "Some patients never find a match."

A new student club wants to help make more matches possible. This fall, Fresno State launched a chapter of Be the Match On Campus — becoming the third California State University to do so. The chapter planned four marrow drives for the year.

Marrow registrants 18 to 44 years old have the highest chance of being a match, and every year about 14,000 people are in need of a marrow transplant, says Ariana Cavazos, president of the Be the Match On Campus chapter.

While Garza's organs still try to adjust to his donor's cells, he remains focused on surviving for his family and helping others do the same for their loved ones.

"Just joining the donor registry provides an opportunity to save a life," Garza says. "There are people like myself who are in the middle of their great lives, and all they have for a chance to continue their lives with their families is a matching donor. You may be their last chance."



Justin Garza, pictured with 11-month-old daughter Elena and 4-year-old son Joaquin, is spreading awareness about the bone marrow registry.



Visit www.bethematch.org for more information or to see how you can help.

A Love REUNITED



Navy veteran Ed Bates visited several Washington D.C. memorials as part of the seventh Central Valley Honor Flight.

REUNITED

EDITOR'S NOTE

Navy veteran Ed Bates can't help but break into a grin when he chats about his late wife Freda, a former Marine. The two met in 1945 in Washington, D.C., as World War II neared its end. During their marriage of 57-plus years, they discussed taking a trip back to the city where they first met, but Freda passed away in 2003 before they had the chance.

Ed, a former Madera County sheriff who taught criminology at Fresno State, was determined to fulfill his promise. He was invited to join the seventh Central Valley Honor Flight to visit veterans memorials in the nation's capitol, and he carried a large, framed photo of Freda with him from site to site.

The honor flight took 46 World War II veterans and 21 Korean War veterans from Fresno to Washington, D.C. After seven such flights, roughly 475 Valley veterans have visited memorials in less than two years. The first flight was October 2013.

Bates, a 1977 Fresno State graduate (1980 master's) who will turn 90 years old in November, shared the meaning behind his Central Valley Honor Flight experience in the following handwritten letter.



ONLINE EXTRA

Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine to watch Bates tour Washington, D.C. with a photo of his beloved wife in hand



Gene Day

Ed Bates carries a photo of himself with late wife Freda at Arlington National Cemetery.

by **EDWARD BRYANT BATES**

I was in Washington, D.C. in June 1945 and the war was in full engagement.

For reasons unknown the Navy was holding up my transfer to a very secret employment in interior China.

A soldier and I were in a Pepsi-Cola service center when we saw the two Marine ladies hesitate at the entrance.

“Oh my God — I hope they come in.”

My prayer was answered. They took the only two seats left, at our table.

Corporal Freda June Ball, USMC (women's) sat across from me. She was the girl of my dreams!

They stated they were waiting for a movie to open ... and of course we said that was where we were headed.

At the entrance to the movie, I realized I had spent all my cash the previous night with a Navy wave! I had to borrow \$2 from her to gain our admission.

I promised to repay her; that I had money at my quarters. I promised to take her to

a really nice restaurant. She reluctantly agreed. That meeting led to the two of us exploring all of the many museums and monuments in Washington, D.C. We were allowed to climb the interior of the Washington Monument.

After two weeks Freda believed I was a deserter; so I told her of my orders sending me away on a mission.

In early August 1945 my orders arrived and hope of a formal engagement was dashed — no one knew when or if I would return.

She kissed me goodbye, and I boarded a Navy plane. At Calcutta, India, I was ordered off the plane. We learned a single bomb had destroyed one city in Japan and another would be dropped within a week. I returned to Washington.

A call to Freda was my first priority. Now I knew why my orders had been delayed for almost three months.

We were engaged — met again at my hometown, after our honorable discharges, and on March 9, 1946, we were married. We were for 57 ½ years until she left us for paradise, where she awaits me.

The Honor Flight to D.C. in June 2015 had to be an act of God. We met in D.C. in June. Her middle name is June; so her birthday was there in D.C.

The Honor Flight took us to all the monuments Freda and I had walked. I carried her photograph with me; in my lap and next to my heart the entire tour. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier — tears came to me. As a Marine stationed at Henderson Wall, at the base of the National Cemetery; she had patrolled that very place as a MP.

The Honor Flight must have been allowed by higher authority. Our love was renewed even more.

A reporter seeing the picture asked me what my first words would be when we met again. After due recollection, it will be:

“I love you Freda.”



RED WAVE

ramps up support for Bulldog Stadium renovation

by Eddie Hughes



Fast forward four to five years. You're tailgating on campus, gazing up at the beautifully updated façade of Bulldog Stadium. You walk in through a tunnel and reach a cross aisle a short distance from your seats (*no more hikes up 60-plus rows of stairs*). Look around. There are new scoreboards; a massive west side tower featuring a club lounge, luxury suites and a press box; and a two-story football building at the bottom of the ramp behind the south end zone. Imagine it's time for the first game in the newly remodeled stadium.

"I think it's going to be one of the biggest events in Fresno history," says Cameron Worrell, a former Bulldogs safety who played six seasons in the NFL and is now part of the broadcast team for 940 ESPN Radio. "There's going to be such a feeling of accomplishment, not just here at the University and around the program, but in this community as a whole. From Chowchilla up north to Bakersfield down south, I know there are so many people who are so pumped to see this happen."

One of them is Gary Castro, a 20-year season ticket holder and Bulldog Foundation supporter who owns KRC Safety in Visalia. He's seen the renderings and videos showing the possibilities. When asked what he will feel like walking into a renovated Bulldog Stadium with his family for the first time, he gets quiet for a moment. "Wow, you just hit me right between the eyes," he says. "I've got goosebumps."

For Fresno State fans, there will come a time when visiting Bulldog Stadium feels different than it does today — a time when it feels more modern, comfortable, accessible and convenient. It could be as soon as 2018 or 2019. And it will be a game changer, for the University and the community.

First-year director of athletics Jim Bartko held a press conference June 26 to announce his vision for modernizing the 35-year-old Bulldog Stadium and shared concepts that were developed by AECOM Sports, LLC — the same company that designed stadium upgrades for Oregon and other major universities.

Continued

Jim Bartko, director of athletics, says enhancements to Bulldog Stadium will address fan needs.



Cary Edmondson

Addressing fans' needs

While Bulldog Stadium has long been a tremendous home field advantage for Fresno State, and regularly hosts the largest crowds in the Mountain West Conference, it is an aging facility that hasn't had any major updates since expanding to 41,031 seats in 1990.

"Think of your own home. If you have a home that was built in 1980, and you didn't do anything to renovate it and keep it up, it's going to look a little worn," says Fresno State football coach Tim DeRuyter. "And that's where we're at right now. With this new renovation, we're going to get a stadium at a fraction of the cost, but it's going to look like a brand new stadium."

The main thing Bartko wants to convey to the community is the University is listening to fans' needs. In his first few months on the job, a survey was sent to thousands of fans to identify the things that are most important to them — better restrooms, concessions, easier accessibility to their seats and parking. And all of those things will be addressed within Bartko's vision.

"With so many of our games being televised now, if you don't have a compelling reason to come, people stay at home in HD and watch the game. We want them to come to Bulldog Stadium, feel the excitement and feel like they have to come and experience Bulldog football that way."

Tim DeRuyter
Fresno State head coach

A privately funded project

To make this vision a reality, it will take private funding — from \$100 donors to multimillion dollar donors. It could include a naming rights deal for Bulldog Stadium, and a handful of lead gifts. In fact, Bartko has already identified some willing philanthropists to help with the project that could cost about \$80 million.

"For this to work, everybody has to be a part of it," Bartko says. "We can't just have 100 people do everything. We want every fan to be engaged. If they can give \$100 or \$1,000, buy season tickets, buy extra tickets and bring friends. All of our fans can take ownership to help because we can't do it alone. The state isn't going to fund it."

This past summer, the first wave of enhancements came with installation of a new 24-foot-tall, 66-foot-wide HD video board and a 104-foot LED ribbon board on the north end of the stadium. Best-case scenario, Phase 1 will be executed before the 2016 football season with fencing and branding around the facilities; Phase 2 will be done by 2017 with tunnels, cross aisles, restrooms and other amenities; and Phase 3 in 2018 would add additional luxury suites, club lounge and press box. The final phase will be a new football facility housing the

Bulldogs' locker room, offices and an alumni lounge for former student-athletes.

"As former players," Worrell says, "we take a lot of pride in the fact that what we were able to do on the field has allowed the players that come after us to experience better things, to get better equipment, to have a better locker room, to have this meeting room that we didn't have when we were here. And we feel an obligation to help any project that the football team has moving forward."

Five-year NFL wideout Charlie Jones, whose 3,344 receiving yards from 1992-95 are the most ever by a Bulldog, says he would encourage former players to get involved and make the alumni lounge a reality. "That would be huge for our football tradition," Jones says. "As everyone does different things after they take off their helmets for the last time on Senior Day, the lounge would give them a place to always be welcome back home."

And Fresno State wants all alumni to feel like it's their home. "It's going to be a great touch point for all alumni to come back and see the games, have alumni events in the stadium and host University groups," Bartko says.



How you can help renovate Bulldog Stadium

- ❑ Purchase season tickets.
- ❑ Join the Bulldog Foundation by visiting www.BulldogFoundation.org or calling 559.278.7160.
- ❑ Ask a family member or friend to become a season ticket holder or Bulldog Foundation member.
- ❑ Purchase a youth season ticket for a deserving Valley youth organization.



ONLINE EXTRA

Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine to see renderings and exclusive video interviews with Tim DeRuyter, players and alumni!

Facility improvements help all sports

Six days per year, football games draw more people to campus than any other event and often draw a national television audience. That support generated by football helps fund the 18 other athletics programs at the University. So Bartko says it makes sense to bring Bulldog Stadium up to industry standards so it can continue to attract fans.

Women's tennis coach Ryan Stotland says he is amazed by the Bulldog Stadium renderings he's seen. "I showed everyone right away and said, 'Look at how great our stadium is going to look.' It helps everybody. Everything benefits everybody else, so the more we build, the better."

Fresno State is also constructing new tennis courts, improving women's soccer and lacrosse locker rooms and preparing to install a new track. "We have momentum, we have people who want to help. It's going to help out all of our sports," Bartko says.

"The football stadium brings a lot of exposure to the community and the University. It's a great front door for everybody to see, but it's getting a little aged after 35 years. We have to make sure it's around for another 35 years."



What they're saying:

"A lot of fans around Fresno are going to want to come to more games now, and they're going to help us out even more."

Keyan Williams
redshirt freshman wide receiver

"To see these changes now are extremely special to me. As a father, I am excited to bring my family to games and share my experiences with them and build new memories that I hope they enjoy."

Adam Messick
offensive lineman from 2002-05

"We have been season ticket holders since the stadium opened in 1980. The main hardship now is, because we are 35 years older, climbing the stairs to get up to the stadium and then climbing down to our seats and then up to the restrooms and snack bar."

Leah Gill
35-year season ticket holder

"There's no question that new, modern facilities heighten fan enthusiasm. The updates will help draw and keep the fans in the stadium."

Rich Tobin
25-year season ticket holder

"Every time I'm with friends or family, they ask me, 'So hey, the new stadium, that's going to be pretty sweet, right?' I think they're more excited for it than I am, and I'm the one who gets to play in it."

Kyle Riddering
redshirt freshman tight end

COLLECTING ACES ON AND OFF THE COURT

by Eddie Hughes

Original photograph by Cary Edmondson
Photo illustration by Todd Graves

Reigning Mountain West player of the year Sophie Watts was one of four Fresno State tennis players with a 4.0 GPA this past semester.

Fresno State women's tennis coach Ryan Stotland has a love-love formula when recruiting players to his program. He wants to make sure they have two loves — academics and tennis — in that order.

The results are positive. In the spring 2015 semester, four of the eight members of the team earned perfect 4.0 GPAs, and the team had a 3.73 GPA overall. From 2010-14, the team earned the NCAA's highest possible Academic Percentage Rate (1,000), which measures eligibility, retention and graduation. And the Bulldogs have won two straight Mountain West championships.

The 4.0 GPA club includes 2015 graduate Tanya Murtagh, sophomore Mayar Sherif Ahmed and seniors Annie Watts and Sophie Watts, the reigning Mountain West player of the year.

"When I'm recruiting, I make sure academics is a priority," says Stotland, the fourth-year coach. "I always look at their high school grades and find out if their work ethic is good. I tell them when they come in, they are student-athletes and the 'student' part is the first part of that term. Being an athlete is the bonus part."

This season, all eight players on the Bulldogs roster are from overseas — four from England, two from Egypt, one from Russia and one from Sweden. "Some of their schools are so hard they're prepared for college life right away," Stotland says. "They work so hard, and international kids know it's a good opportunity so they make the most out of it when they get here."

Twin sisters Sophie and Annie Watts, from Hitchin, England, are both biology majors. Sophie wants to work in conservation, and Annie wants to work with animals. As a doubles team, they were unbeaten in the Mountain West regular season, and Sophie advanced the NCAA Round of 32 in singles play.

"When [Stotland] recruited me, he was very keen to point out all the academic facilities and stressed the fact that there are a whole team of people here to help us succeed in the classroom," Annie says.

New Mexico from 2003-06, he became the first four-time Mountain West All-Academic honoree in school history while triple majoring in accounting, marketing and business and graduating magna cum laude. On the court, he was ranked No. 2 in the nation.

And on the court, Stotland expects this Fresno State team to be his strongest yet. The Spalding G. Wathen Tennis Center was outfitted with a brand new playing surface this summer, just in time to welcome a transfer from Idaho who was the Big Sky player of the year, plus two of the highest ranked players from England.



Tanya Murtagh



Mayar Sherif Ahmed



Annie Watts

"Coach understands the first reason we come to college is to get an education," Sophie adds. "There is always competition between myself and my sister, and that extends to the classroom especially. We always want to do better than each other."

Senior Rana Sherif Ahmed, who is also on track to graduate with honors in economics, says the success is by design. "It is not a fluke," says Rana, whose younger sister Mayar earned a 4.0 GPA this past semester. "We work hard on and off the court, and that is what makes us perform well in the classroom."

It makes sense that Stotland puts such emphasis on academics. While playing for

"Winning the Mountain West title is great, and that's our goal every year, but we want to look bigger and do more," Stotland says. "We want to reach new heights in the NCAA tournament."

Stotland believes the talent is in place, and with a strong work ethic, this team could develop into a special one. "At the end of the day, I always like to ask them, 'Did you get better today?' If the answer is yes, you've done your job. If the answer is no, you need to make sure that doesn't happen again."

ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS RISE TOGETHER

50%
of the team earned
4.0 GPAs

6 of 8 players
named Intercollegiate
Tennis Association
scholar-athletes

Perfect
1,000
NCAA four-year
Academic Percentage Rate

6-0
in Mountain West



BOLD

Alina Bhatti, a freshman majoring in Biology, participated in the First Year Experience program, which cultivates critical thinking skills for academic success and beyond.

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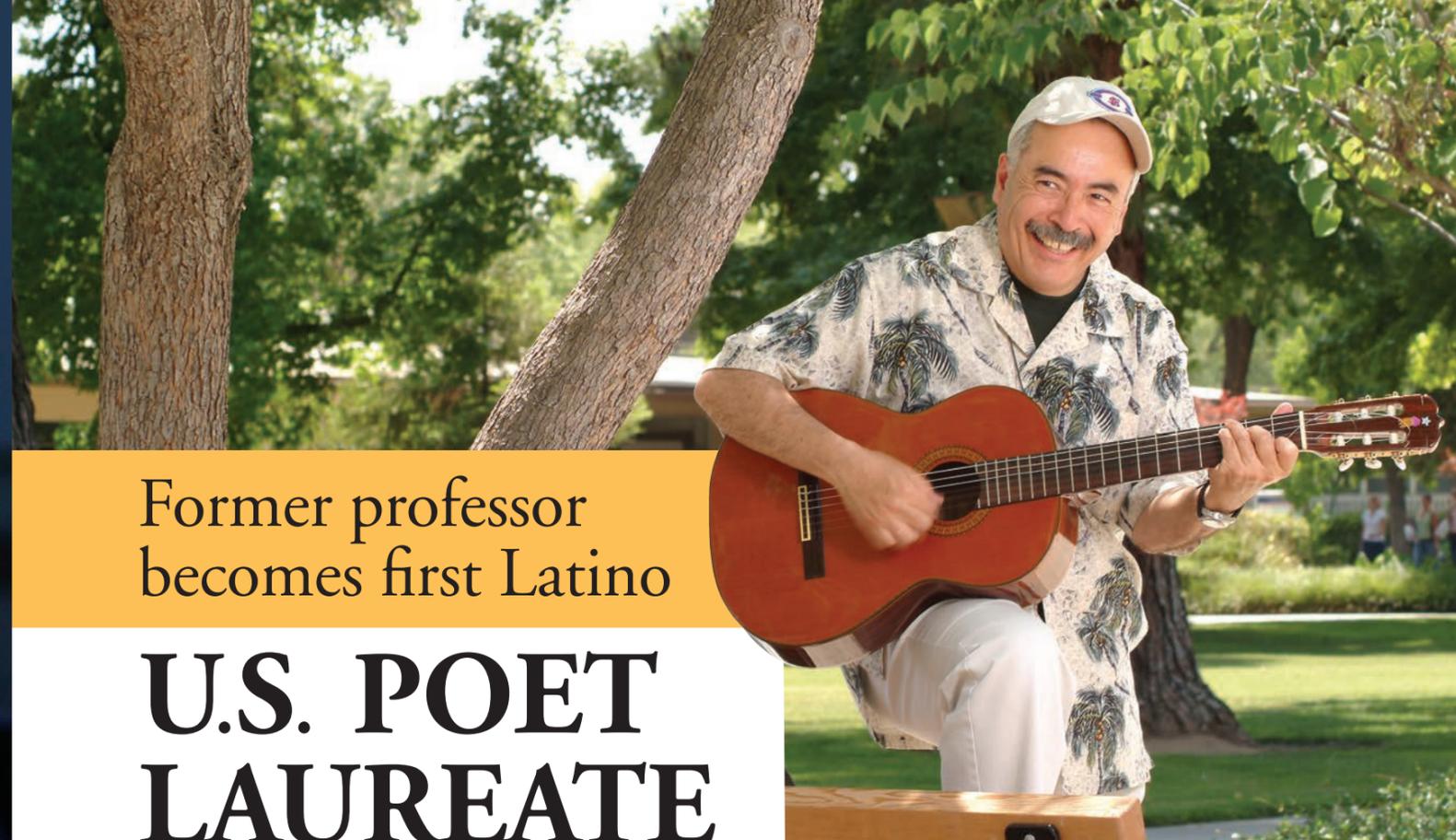
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Former professor becomes first Latino

U.S. POET LAUREATE

by Tom Uribes

Juan Felipe Herrera became the first Latino to earn the nation's highest poetry honor when it was announced in June he would be the United States' 21st poet laureate.

Herrera, who was named the 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2015-16 by the Librarian of the United States Congress, is a former Fresno State professor from Fowler. He completed a two-year term as California poet laureate in 2014 before being named U.S. poet laureate.

Herrera is the second former Fresno State professor to be honored with the distinction, following the late Philip Levine, who served as the 18th U.S. poet laureate in 2011-12.

"It's just been incredible," Herrera says. "This journey is quite a leap.

"I want to take everything I have in me, weave it, merge it with the beauty that is in the Library of Congress, all the resources, the guidance of the staff and departments, and launch it with the heart-shaped dreams of the people. It is a miracle of many of us coming together."

His term began Sept. 15 when he presented a reading of his work at the Library of Congress National Book Festival. President and Mrs. Obama served as honorary co-chairs.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington says he sees the work of an American original in Herrera's poems that "champion voices, traditions and histories, as well as a cultural perspective, which is a vital part of our larger American identity."

Herrera, 66, the son of migrant farm workers, was a professor in Fresno State's Chicano and Latin American Studies Department from 1990 to 2004, serving as department chair his final two years before accepting a position at the University of California, Riverside, from which he retired in May. He resides in Fresno.

Says Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro, "His success demonstrates that big dreams can be achieved when we make higher education accessible to talented students from all communities. I know the extended Fresno State community throughout the world is enjoying this journey with [@Cilantroman](#)."

[@Cilantroman](#) is Herrera's Twitter handle and a reference to his use of symbols and metaphors to bring his work to life.

The University is working to schedule an appearance with Herrera on campus in the fall.

Victor Torres, Chicano studies professor, says many of Herrera's former students will come back and honor their teacher.

"His poetry is like his personality: colorful and thoughtful," says Virginia Madrid-Salazar, a 1995 mass communications and journalism graduate who is now studying law. "I recall how fascinating he made any interaction. Later, I often read his books to my own kids when they were growing up."



— Tom Uribes is a public affairs specialist at Fresno State.

New app helps University farm reduce water usage

by Geoff Thurner

Each morning when he wakes up, Robert Willmott glances at his cell phone and is reminded of modern technology's impact on agriculture.

The Fresno State campus farm technician checks the WiseConn smart phone app that is virtually connected to the University's olive orchard. A few clicks verify the 20 acres of trees he oversees are receiving the right amount of water via drip irrigation to keep them healthy and productive.

Willmott is also able to monitor the orchard's pumps and make sure water is flowing efficiently. The system uploads data 24/7 to an online server and will alert him of any sudden changes.

"We still have to see how the trees are doing every day, but the information helps the process operate smoother," Willmott says.

"It even alerted me that my water flow has been 20 percent less this year through my filter system."

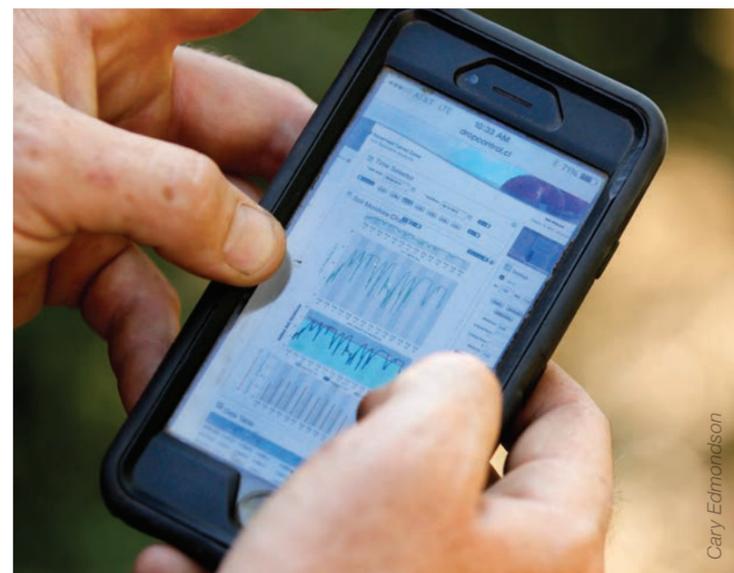
— ROBERT WILLMOTT

Once Willmott gets to work, he can reassess the data on his desktop computer and compare irrigation and weather information to adjust planning for the next day, month or season.

Before the technology's arrival, irrigation timers had to be manually set at each field, and there was no real-time soil moisture data. Now Willmott can schedule irrigation rates by duration and quantity from his phone and can turn the system off to stress the olives and increase their oil quality and quantity.



Guillermo Valenzuela and Robert Willmott look over the WiseConn app in the University's olive orchard.



Cary Edmondson

From Chile to the Central Valley

The WiseConn DropControl monitoring equipment was installed at Fresno State in summer 2013. The company is a University farm partner through the campus Water, Energy and Technology Center that supports innovative start-up agricultural companies.

Fresno State has served as an ideal test location for WiseConn, which started in Chile in 2007. One of the company's founders, Guillermo Valenzuela, met Fresno State's David Zoldoske, director of the Center for Irrigation Technology, at an international conference in 2012. After visiting WiseConn's headquarters, Zoldoske suggested the campus farm as a springboard to the U.S. market.

Fast forward to 2015, and the fourth year of a statewide drought is forcing the nation's leading agriculture state to re-examine its water use.

"The Central Valley is the breadbasket of U.S. agriculture, especially with its wide

array of specialty crops," says Valenzuela, who now lives in Clovis. "Being able to work with experts from campus is a perfect transition. We had a similar drought in Chile that started four years earlier, so Fresno-area farmers have shown great interest. Many have quickly cut back their water and energy usage noticeably and still had great productivity."

Willmott didn't adjust his irrigation schedule the first year using the system but is now fine-tuning his methods according to baseline data. Last year, a second soil moisture sensor was added after testing revealed different irrigation needs in the orchard. The app manages the water distribution differently between each soil type.

In July, he started using the same technology for the University's 66-acre almond orchard — part of the 200 acres he oversees that includes pistachios, grapefruit, oranges, clementines, peaches and nectarines.

Avoiding over-irrigation of the almond trees is critical in preventing phytophthora damage. The pathogen is aided by standing ground water and can attack the roots and threaten tree life and almond quality.

Valenzuela says the WiseConn system originally was developed for the agricultural field, and has now been adapted for government irrigation districts and mining industries.

"Water is a commodity that is in rare supply, and we need to manage it the best possible way," Willmott says. "This technology is helping achieve that." 

— Geoff Thurner is a communications specialist for the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State.

BIOPLASTICS

Fresno State researchers turn food waste into sustainable form of plastic

by Erika Castañon

“It’s really fascinating and interesting because what we’re doing is developing technology that allows us to produce a material that is used extensively throughout society — plastics,”

— DR. WILLIAM WRIGHT



A Fresno State professor’s bold thinking is leading to a new way to use food waste.

Dr. William Wright, a civil engineering professor in the University’s Lyles College of Engineering, and his students are producing bioplastic — a material derived from renewable resources, like food waste from food processing operations.

“It’s really fascinating and interesting because what we’re doing is developing technology that allows us to produce a material that is used extensively throughout society — plastics,” Wright says.

These plastics are unlike typical, petroleum-based plastics, a resource Wright says is abundant, but “there will be a day when those reserves start to dry up.” Wright believes the sustainability of bioplastics is its greatest selling point.

In 2012, brothers Dane and Jeff Anderson approached Wright with the idea. They founded a firm called Back2Earth Technologies (B2E), then later Full Cycle Bioplastics. Wright ran with the idea and, in partnership with B2E, began looking for ways to fund the research. The first investor was Bill Smittcamp, president and CEO of Wawona Frozen Foods in Clovis and a longtime supporter of Fresno State.

Wright and his students now have an onsite research facility at the frozen fruit production location. “He supplied us with a building, air, water, power and air conditioning, everything we needed,” Wright says. “And all the fruit we wanted, which was essential to what we were doing at that time.”

Brian Dawson, executive chairman of Full Cycle Bioplastics, says Fresno State was an ideal partner for the company. “It’s not only from a technical expertise, it was also a great relationship to leverage because of the connection to agricultural clients like Wawona,” Dawson says. “The technical help and the business development help put us on the map in the agricultural ecosystem.”

Wright also secured a grant in 2013 from Agricultural Research Institute, a California State University entity that operates out of Fresno State’s Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. That grant was matched dollar-for-dollar by Bill Smittcamp and the Lyles College of Engineering. However, the majority of the funding has come from Full Cycle Bioplastics, which has been a strong supporter of research at Fresno State.

Potential community impact

Imagine a meal being packaged in a plastic container made from food waste. Imagine eating the meal with a fork or spoon made from that same waste, and drinking from a wholly repurposed plastic water bottle.

The technology even has medical potential. “The advantages to bioplastics are that it’s biocompatible, that is it doesn’t negatively react with human tissue,” Wright says. “So one of the uses that has been developed in recent years is for plastic parts associated with implants and other things that go into people.”

These plastics are produced with volatile fatty acids from fruit, vegetable, fat and other types of organic waste. Natural microorganisms break down molecules in the food waste, and a different bacteria is used to convert the molecules into acids. These are fed to another bacteria, which is placed in a controlled environment with an excess of carbon but [with] a restricted amount of nutrients and oxygen. The microorganisms “fatten up,” and as a result, a polymer material called polyhydroxyalkanoate, or PHA, is produced and used for plastics.

“We take something that is a problem and turn it into a high-value product,” Dawson says.

Excessive costs are circumvented by avoiding genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for bacteria, which pose potential issues to the environment. “We were the first to get our costs close to petroplastics while others before had come in with plastics two or three times the cost,” Dawson says. “The plastics are also biodegradable in the ocean, which propels us further than others.”

Wright’s lab manager, Mike Nunes, envisions vast possibilities. “There is a long-term vision that we get the material and plastic to the point where we can re-digest the plastic itself so that we can take a food container with food in it at a cafeteria, someone could eat the food, throw both the leftover food that they didn’t finish and the plastic itself into the waste receptacle,” Nunes says. “We collect that, re-feed it into the reactors, and then we have a completely recyclable product.”

Wright believes it can be done. Nunes says their research is on the “ragged edges of technology,” and Fresno State is surpassing other universities worldwide.

“This has never been done before, only thought of and looked at in niches, but never looked at as this all-encompassing method that could change how we deal with waste.”

— Erika Castañon is a student news assistant in University Communications at Fresno State.

Cary Edmondson

A Community of Writers

Alumni become leaders of their own college writing centers

by Jefferson Beavers



Cary Edmondson

Tabitha Villalba is the coordinator of the Writing and Reading Center at Fresno City College.

When past and present tutors from the Fresno State Writing Center gathered this past spring to celebrate the center's 35th anniversary, alumna Tabitha Villalba felt right at home.

"It's good to be surrounded by fellow writers," she says.

Villalba is one of at least 10 tutor alumni from Fresno State who have gone on to run their own centers. Villalba serves as coordinator of the Writing and Reading Center at Fresno City College. Others have created or run centers at universities, community colleges and high schools throughout the West — as far away as the University of Colorado at Denver and as close as McLane High School.

Villalba says the best centers focus on the writers, not the writing. The Fresno State Writing Center, under the College of Arts and Humanities, serves all Fresno State students with any writing they're working on, through small-group, walk-in or online tutoring.

Villalba's center at Fresno City College sees writers from every demographic, not just different ages and ethnicities, but "students on parole, students that have been to prison, students who haven't eaten in a couple days." Their life needs, Villalba says, make her tutors' jobs even more important — empowering writers to communicate.

"When I first started, the tutors had pens in their hands, which is something I discourage," says Villalba, who tutored at Fresno State for two years while earning her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. "I said, 'Don't do that.' This is a writing center, and the writer controls the paper. The writer should have the pen in their hand."



Another alumnus, Josh Geist,

(inset) now directs the Writing Center at College of the Sequoias in Visalia. Geist says many students have grammar-oriented experiences with writing. They put their hearts into a paper, and it comes back covered in red ink, as editing trumps ideas.

"We don't work on papers, we work on writers," says Geist, who tutored at the Fresno State Writing Center for seven years. "We certainly want the paper to get better, but it's much more important that the writer is learning something about how to write more effectively and how to make good decisions."

Geist, who holds a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing, says his center operates on the idea that all writers face the same challenges, no matter their level.

"You're still going to have that moment when you're going to sit down and stare at the blank page and have no idea," he says.

Both Geist and Villalba credit the current director of the Fresno State Writing Center, Dr. Magda Gilewicz, for their professional success. Gilewicz has coordinated the center since 1993.

Villalba says, "Magda taught from the inside out rather than the outside in. I think that she prepared us to make good decisions and to think about the ways we would train others."



—Jefferson Beavers is a communication specialist for the MFA program in creative writing at Fresno State.

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TOP DOG
ALUMNI AWARDS

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Thank you to those who have donated to the scholarship endowment!

The Fresno State Alumni Association is proud to award more than \$146,000 in student scholarships this year. Students are selected based on academic achievement, financial need and service to the community. The FSAA leads all of the 23 alumni associations of the California State University in annual student scholarship giving. The FSAA will honor 2015-16 scholarship recipients at the Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala.

FRESNO STATE
Alumni Association



A Role Model of Service

Dr. Robert Monke earns the Arthur Safstrom Service Award

The problems facing America and the world are numerous, but according to Dr. Robert Monke, the solution is simple. “A good education is what is going to make America go or not go. Now more than ever.”

In this spirit, Monke has dedicated his career and retirement to improving educational opportunities for students in the San Joaquin Valley by supporting the Kremen School of Education and Human Development at Fresno State.

Monke came to Fresno State as a faculty member in 1969 after earning a Ph.D. in counseling at Arizona State University. During his career he focused on counseling and teacher preparation, gender equity and diversity and community collaboration for improved learning. In 1985 he was named associate dean of the Kremen School and served as interim dean from 1988-1989 and 1996-1997.

Monke was instrumental in the development, construction and relocation into the school’s current building on Maple and Shaw avenues in 1994. He has served on numerous boards to enhance the teacher credential program at Fresno State. In 1993, Monke helped develop the concept of the Teacher and Friends of Education Honor Wall outside of the Kremen School and served as the chair of the Bricks Committee for more than 20 years. To date that project has raised nearly \$332,000 to improve educational technology used to prepare future teachers. His colleagues established a scholarship in his name to support future teachers and counselors. That fund is currently up to \$36,000 and continues to grow.

Monke retired in 2002 but never stopped giving back to the University. He currently serves on the Kremen Alumni Chapter Board, helping to drive one of the most engaged alumni chapters at Fresno State.

THE FRESNO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

TOP DOG ALUMNI AWARDS GALA 2015



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Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology



Mark Anthony Scott - '80
College of Arts and Humanities



R. Elaine Mason - '47
Department of Athletics



Kyle T. Stephenson - '74
Craig School of Business



Robert Aguilar - '62
Kremen School of Education and Human Development



Diana Gomez - '88
Lyles College of Engineering



Robin Johnston McGehee - '98
Division of Graduate Studies



Stuart R. Katzman - '87
College of Health and Human Services



Geraldine Tahajian - '65
Henry Madden Library



Scott Barton - '82
College of Science and Mathematics



Diana S. Dooley - '72
College of Social Sciences



Ryan Jacobsen - '02, '04
Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

Alumni Association Life Member



Armen Derian Bacon is accustomed to the unexpected. So when a fire alarm twice interrupts her keynote speech to hundreds of Clovis Unified School District employees, she effortlessly switches gears, sharing a childhood memory that explains her fear of fire. Within minutes the crowd is charmed by her unique blend of humor and grace. “I’m always sharing my insides with the rest of the world,” she says with a smile.

As a featured columnist at The Fresno Bee, sought-after public speaker and author of two books (“My Name is Armen: A Life in Column Inches” and “Griefland: An Intimate Portrait of Love, Loss and Unlikely Friendship,” co-authored with Nancy Miller), Bacon is a master at finding insight into the human condition.

But she says her current success as an author and inspirational speaker was never an aspiration during her childhood in southeast Fresno, time as an undergraduate at Fresno State or in the two decades she served as administrator of communications and public relations for the Fresno County Office of Education. For Bacon, the spark that ignited her passion to write was an unexpected phone call delivering the unthinkable news that her son Alex had died as the result of an overdose.

“I remember the feeling of being thrown out in the middle of an icy ocean, surrounded by sharks,” she says. In the days and months that followed, Bacon found herself writing compulsively as a tool to help navigate her grief. “Words became my oxygen. I was writing to save my own life.”

This new passion led Bacon back to Fresno State, where she spent four summers honing her writing skills as part of the CSU Summer Arts program. It was also through Fresno State that she was introduced to her writing partner Nancy Miller, who also was grieving the death of a child.

On Oct. 9, Bacon was honored as the Distinguished Alumna — the highest honor given by the Fresno State Alumni Association — during the Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala at the Save Mart Center. Her story of transformation echoes the life experiences of the 13 individuals who were recognized as distinguished alumni of each of the University’s academic colleges, the Department of Athletics, the Madden Library, the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Graduate Studies.

“The honorees this year represent the very best of what it means to be a Bulldog, and we are excited to have celebrated each honoree’s inspiring accomplishments,” says Jacquelyn Glasener, director of the Alumni Association.

It’s been 11 years since Alex passed away, and Bacon is quick to admit that some days are better than others. Nonetheless she is giving herself permission to be happy again — and in the process inspiring thousands to do the same. “It’s our scars that turn into beauty marks.”



Cary Edmondson

Armen Derian Bacon - '73
2015 Distinguished Alumna

Finding Healing in Storytelling

Author Armen Bacon named Fresno State’s 2015 Top Dog

by Kathleen R. Schock

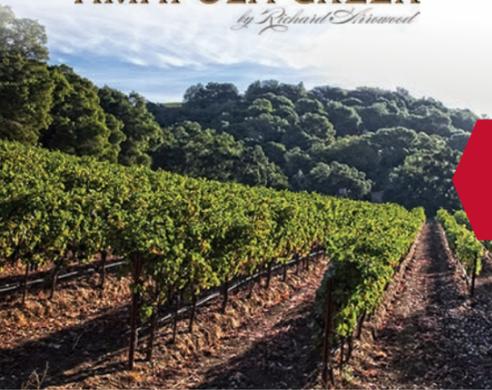
ONLINE EXTRA

Visit www.FresnoState.edu/magazine for behind-the-scenes videos with the Top Dogs.





AMAPOLA CREEK
by Richard Arrowood



CLASS NOTES

1940s

Richard Lee Arrowood (1945), winemaker of Arrowood and Amapola wines, celebrated 50 years of winemaking exclusively in Sonoma County.

Phillip J. Patiño (1949), a longtime Fresno educator and administrator, had a Fresno school posthumously named after him on North Clark Street.

1950s

Raymond F. Ensher (1956) received two awards from the California Retired Teachers' Association: Ron Ely Award for Communications and Mickey Matheson Award for Advocacy.

Satoshi F. Hirayama (1952) was one of the first Japanese-Americans to play professional baseball in Japan after World War II.

1960s

Hal Kissler (1968) stepped down from his CEO role at Manco Abbott to become chairman of the board. Kissler plans to retire in 2018.

Robert H. Oliver (1966) was named Granville Homes' Person of the Year in the 2015 Winter edition of Granville Lifestyle magazine.

Jim Pardini (1968) opened The Annex Kitchen, an Italian-inspired restaurant.

Virginia Walton Pilegard (1966) won the Best Educational Children's Picture Book – Bilingual award at the 2015 International Latino Book Awards in San Francisco for her book "Grandfather Ratoncito Perez and the Apprentice Tooth Fairy."

1970s

Charles "Chuck" Ahlem (1972), dairy producer, was named California's 2015 Agriculturalist of the Year by the California Exposition and State Fair Board of Directors in Sacramento.

Bruce Batti (1977), owner and operator of Jeffrey Scott Advertising, was awarded the Fresno Advertising Federation's 2015 Agency of the Year honor.

Jim Boren (1972) was named Fresno City College's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus.

Dennis Alan Brown (1971) retired after a 56-year career in radio broadcasting, print journalism and the aerospace industry.

Lilia Chavez (1977) is director at the Fresno Arts Council.

Robert "Bobby" Fena (1973) was named a top performer for 2014 by Colliers International, a commercial real estate firm.

Janet Gaard (1979), Yolo Superior Court judge, was appointed to the Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force to help advise courts on interpreter needs.

Ben Krikorian (1972) earned the 2014-15 Outstanding Rotarian of the Year award from the Fresno Sunrise Rotary Club.

Steve LeVa (1977) was appointed senior vice president and senior relationships manager for 1st Capital Bank.

Elpidio S. Munoz (1977) retired this spring as director of microbiology after 30 years with Lyons Magnus and Wawona Frozen Foods.

Maxwell V. Norton (1976, '77), director and adviser for the University of California Cooperative Extension in Merced and Mariposa counties, retired after 36 years.

Ron Orozco (1974) retired after writing for The Fresno Bee for over 41 years.

Michael Preslik (1979, '89) retired from Hurley Elementary in Visalia Unified School District after 26 years.

Steve Rontell (1979) was named a 2014 Top Performer and Everest Club Member, which recognizes the top 10 percent of Colliers International realtors in North America.

Carol E. Scott (1972, '76) is now CEO of Children's Discovery Museum in Rancho Mirage.

1980s

Joseph Albano (1987) is now director of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Mid-Florida Research and Education Center.

Nancy Avila (1984) is owner of Core Connection, an exercise studio in Cedar Center.

Alex Azodi (1984), founder of Omega Structural Engineers, PLLC, in Newbury, was selected as the 2015 New Hampshire Engineer of the Year.

Scott Barnes (1986, '93), a former Bulldogs basketball standout, is now athletic director for the University of Pittsburgh.

Dianne Cox (1988, '91) is now vice president of human resources for Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

Michael Cruse (1982) was named Social Worker of the Year by the Santa Barbara unit of the National Association of Social Workers. He works at Hospice of Santa Barbara.

Patricia Ann Eichhorn (1988) is an executive assistant at Fresno City Hall.

Tom Hallinan (1984) was named city attorney for Ceres.

1990s

Michael Allen (1994) is now managing broker at Century 21 Jordan-Link & Co.

Johnny Amaral (1998) is now deputy general manager for external affairs for Westlands Water District of California.

Paul J. Bauer (1995) was designated a Northern California Super Lawyer, a distinction received by 5 percent of eligible attorneys.

Pamela Belding (1992) wrote "You're the Boat," a book about how to build a life worth looking forward to.

Heather Berg (1999) is project coordinator at Central California Children's Institute.

Sandra Bolt (1990) co-authored a book titled "Professionalism: Skills for Workplace Success." The fourth edition came out in January.

Carolyn Hogg (1985), Fresno's chief information officer, was named one of Government Technology Magazine's Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers for 2015.

Tracy Hostmyer (1988), producing director and actor, is co-founder of the Roust Theatre Company in New York City.

Steven Jolly (1988), managing director of investments for the Fresno office of Wells Fargo Advisers, was named a President's Premier Adviser for the 20th straight year.

Stacy Kunishige (1985) is managing partner of new Japanese restaurant KuniSama, in the Fresno-Clovis area.

Bernice Ledbetter (1981), business and management faculty at Pepperdine University, received a \$150,000 grant to start a center for women in leadership.

Christopher Jay Long (1987) is the director of marketing at Valley Children's Hospital.

Michael Lulejian (1988) is now president of Producers Financial Group West Brokerage General Agency.

Michael Feldman (1995) is now head of the wealth markets union for Union Bank.

Dr. Bertha Felix-Mata (1996), an administrator for West Hills Community College, authored "Dandelions in the Wild: The Voices of Migrant Youth from Poverty to Leadership."

Terance Frazier (1995), project developer, and LeRoy Candler Jr., president of the Fresno branch of the NAACP, were 2015 inductees to the Wall of Honor at the African American Historical and Cultural Museum at the State Center Community College District.

Matt Gamble (1992, '94) is principal at Washington Elementary School in Hanford.

Lance Gault (1999) joined the team of physicians at the Fresno Kaiser Permanente Hospital.

Dr. Michael Maurer (1985, '89), agriculture associate professor, received a Stephen F. Austin State University Teaching Excellence award.

Claire Rowland Mendoca (1985) was named Tulare County Panhellenic Woman of the Year.

Christopher Nola (1988, '96) is now director of workforce planning at Valley Children's Hospital.

Maury "Duffy" Peck (1983), owner of Sumner Peck Winery in Madera, received two silver medals in the Toast of the Coast competition in San Diego County.

Stacey Phillips (1989) is deputy district attorney of Fresno County.

Stephen Provost (1986) authored the new paperback, "Fresno Growing Up: A City Comes of Age 1945-1985."

Peter Reynosa (1988) wrote his first novel, "The Vulgarist."

John Rich (1985) is now managing editor for The Fresno Bee.

Pamela Shaw (1981), costume and make-up director at Santa Barbara City College, has made costumes for the movie "The Artist," has dressed

Tina Good (1993, '96), English professor at Suffolk Community College, spoke at the North Country Community Colleges commencement ceremony.

Lori Ann Grace (1998) is director of curriculum and instruction for Twin Rivers Unified School District in Sacramento.

Marcie Green (1994) is now pitching coach for Oregon State softball.

Jacob Hall (1999) is the foreign service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Australia.

Matthew Hart (1998) is now vice principal at Joe Michell K-8 School in Livermore Valley.

David Hemink (1990) is now president of Medivators Division for Cantel Medical Corp.

the cast of the TV show "The Vampire Diaries" and helped design the Energizer Bunny.

Daniel Silva (1983), the No. 1 New York Times bestselling author, has released his novel, "The English Spy."



Fred Smith (1982), athletic trainer for 31 years at Bakersfield College, was inducted into the California Community College Athletic Trainers' Association.

Janet Stoll-Lee (1980) was featured in Central Valley Magazine's "25 things you didn't know about..."

Keith Swinger (1981) and his Fresno Wells Fargo home mortgage teammate Latishia Sharer earned the top 10 percent award nationally in February.

FACULTY/STAFF

Ofelia Gamez (1995), director of Fresno State's College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), is president of the national High School Equivalency Program Association.

Terea A. Giannetta (1983) and **Kathleen Rindahl** (2007), nursing professors, were recognized with Nurse of the Year awards.

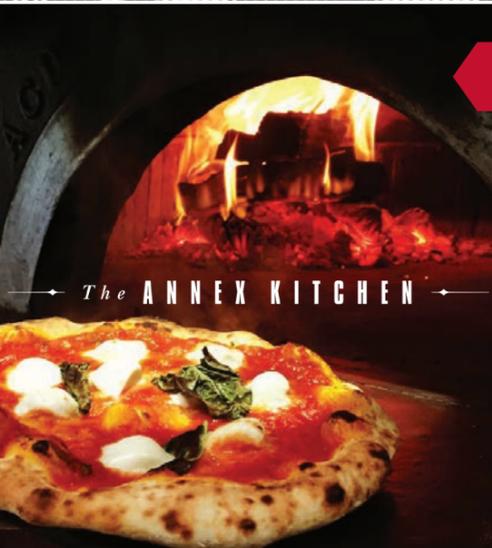
Jody Hironaka-Juteau (1987) is dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Teresa Huerta (1977), associate professor of literacy, early bilingual and special education, was named educator of the year.

Helda Lucia Pinzon-Perez (1992, 2008, '11), professor in the Department of Public Health and School of Nursing, received a Fulbright Scholar Teaching and Research Award to study diabetes in indigenous regions in Peru.

Scott Sailor (1988), Chair of Kinesiology, is now president of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Dr. Anil Shrestha, professor of plant science, earned the University's top teaching honor, the 2015 Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



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David Vartanian (2007) created an annual \$1,000 scholarship for a Fresno State pre-veterinary major in memory of his English bulldog Mr. Murphy.



1990s

Mary F. Lerner (1997) was named by Northern California Super Lawyers and Rising Stars as one of the top up-and-coming young attorneys in Northern California.

Tejpal Singh Mahil (1999) of Madera was named to the University Advisory Board.

Jodee Lynn Marcellin (1992) is the grants and program coordinator at Sanger Unified School District.

Gina Meyers (1994) is the author of "Love at First Bite: The Unofficial Twilight Cookbook."

Brent Miller (1995, 2001) is now sergeant at the Visalia Police Department.

Heather Taylor (1997, 2002), owner of Taylor'd Physical Therapy and Wellness, creates individualized physical-therapy routines.

Timothy John Woods (1992) is vice president of instruction at Fresno City College.

Dan Zack (1997) is assistant planning director for Fresno's high-speed rail.

Debra Zamora (1999) is quality management officer for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in White River Junction.

2000s

Grant G. Bedrosian (2008, '11) teaches sixth grade in Central Unified School District.

Peter Carrion (2001) of JP Marketing was awarded the Fresno Advertising Federation's 2015 Creative Talent of the Year award.

Sandy Cha (2005) is community affairs officer for Wells Fargo Foundation.

Matt De Fina (2001) and wife Denise are owners of De Fina Family Cellars winery in Napa Valley.

Brian Ekmanian (2003) is a senior commercial client manager at Bank of America.

Barry Falke (2001) is director of the American Red Cross Central Valley.

Allison Ferry-Abree (2009) is viticulture adviser for the University of California.

Kendra Fisher (2014) is tennis coach for Estancia High in Costa Mesa.

Ricardo Alejandro Gabaldon (2002) is teaching Ballet Folklorico at Righetti High School.

Brittany Giersch (2007) is manager of lululemon athletica in Fig Garden Village.

Rachel Goerzen (2007) earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tennessee.

Audrey Goral (2008) is operational flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base.

April Graff (2006) is a police officer in Bear Valley.

Rebecca Hellwig (2009) is communications manager at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Bonnie Her (2004) is a family practice doctor at Community Medical Providers.

Keith Hock (2007) created Hock Wines, a consulting business.

Brenna Hughes (2006) organized the second Central Valley Concussion Symposium.

Rafael Iniguez (2008) is career and technical education director for Parlier Unified.

Christina Louise Kwock (2008) earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine.

David Kwalwasser (2000) is geomatics engineer for high speed rail.

Benjamin J. Maddox (2002) is senior VP and market manager for Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Brandi Muro (2001, '04) is program director for the California Health Collaborative.

Christy Nance-Chastain (2002, '10) is pediatric nurse practitioner at Adventist Health/Community Care-Orosi.

Chris Ruiz (2000), sports information specialist for Long Beach City College, earned the Bringing Respect and Superior Service to our Profession or BRASS Top Award.

Terra Dawn Schmidt (2004) is head athletic trainer at Yavapai College.

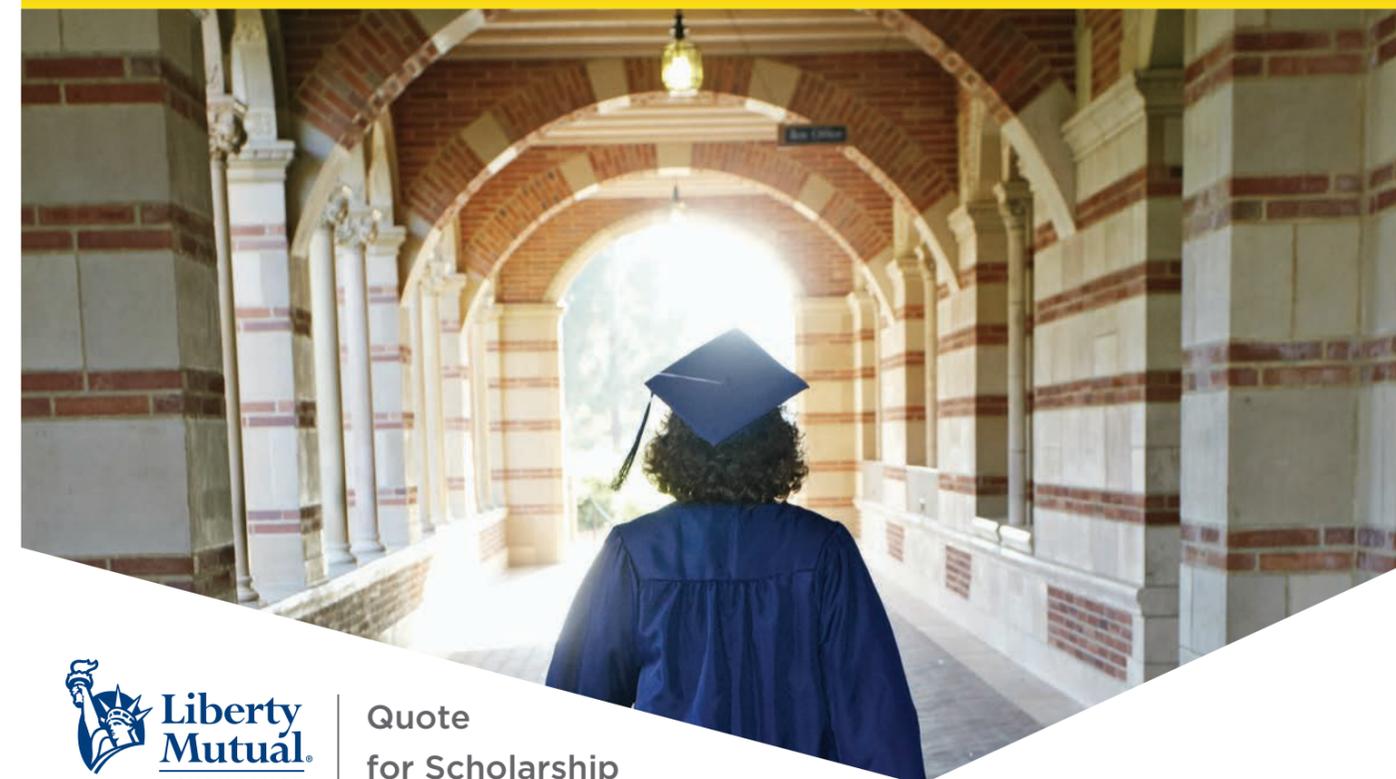
Mark Torres (2008, '10) is account manager at TechValidate Software in Emeryville.

Ian Wieland (2007) is an attorney at Sagaser, Watkins and Wieland PC.

Quinn Zweigle (2008, '13) is director of research development at the National Raisin Company.

"Education is the lighting of a fire."

— William Butler Yeats



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For an explanation of the ACPE accreditation process, consult the CHSU website www.chsu.org/accreditation, Office of the Dean or ACPE, www.acpe-accredit.org.

2010s

David Campos (2010), who teaches English at Fresno City College, earned the 2014 Andres Montoya Poetry Prize, presented by The Institute for Latino Studies at University of Notre Dame.

Ashley De Young (2011) is vice president of marketing at De Young Properties.

Maria Del Refugio Bonilla (2012) is nurse practitioner at the Family Health Care Network at the Cutler-Orosi Health Center.

Dana Ferris (2012) earned Valley Children's Healthcare Education Nurse of the Year.

Marcos Flores (2015) started BaySick Leather company.

Fabiola Gonzalez (2014) is policy and communications officer at First 5 Fresno County.

Julie Hamilton (2013) is a registered dietitian at Family HealthCare Network, Goshen Health Center.

Brian Johnston (2013) is an officer for Pleasanton Police Department.

Marissa Markarian (2012) of Jeffrey Scott Agency was awarded the Fresno Advertising Federation's 2015 Rising Star Individual.

Jesus Marmolejo (2013) is a California Highway Patrol officer in Hollister-Gilroy.

Marissa McPhail (2010) is international marketing director at Culinary Competitions International.

Esteban Miranda (2013) opened Miranda's Thrift Shop in Atwater.

Matt Morse (2010) of KMPH FOX 26 was awarded the Fresno Advertising Federation's 2015 Professional of the Year.

Robert Musso (2012) is an officer for the Selma Police Department.

Paul Myers (2011, '13) is assistant editor for the Foothills Sun-Gazette.

Autumn Noelle Pierce (2010), wife of Philadelphia Eagles receiver **Seyi Ajirotutu** (2010), stars in "WAGS, The Hottest Wives and Girlfriends in Sports" on E!

Jodi Raley (2015) is director of regulatory affairs for the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Associations and the Western Agricultural Processors Association.

Jordan Rangel (2013) is operations and senior account manager for Ricana Media Group.

Quinn Robinson (2014) is sports writer for The [Bakersfield] Californian newspaper.

Ezra David Romero (2012) won two Golden Mike Awards from the Radio & Television News Association of Southern California.

Andrea Sandoval (2014) is head water polo coach for Dinuba High.

Sammi Slover (2010) teaches agriculture at Golden West High in Visalia.

Mark Evan Smith (2012) joined the Sierra Star newspaper.

Kim Sok (2011) is project coordinator for Fresno's Giroux Glass.

Janessa Tyler (2011) is project coordinator for The Fresno Bee's weekly community newspaper, Northeast Neighbors.

Carter Wells (2011) is vice president of banking and finance at Central Valley Community Bank in Sacramento.

IN MEMORIAM

Janice Andreasian (1959), May 10 in Fresno.

Phil Austin, June 18 in Fox Island, Washington.

Marjorie A. Baertschi, June 15 in Davis.

Gwen L. Barsarian (1989), April 15 in Fresno.

Evelyn Elizabeth Bateman (1939), March 6 in Raymore, Missouri.

Linus (Ted) Bennett, May 29 in Bakersfield.

Ralph Bernard (1956), May 6 in Water Valley, Mississippi.

Patricia Booras, May 27 in Fresno.

Thomas Stanley Borger (1954), March 8 in Morro Bay.

Frank A. Borges (1996), March 14 in Fresno.

David Gordon Brasher (1982), April 4 in Armona.

Margaret Onstead Bryant (1972), April 12 in Clovis.

Tony Cantú (1985), April 2015 in Fresno.

Paul T. Chambers (1966), March 10 in Fresno.

Jack R. Chappel (1953), March 19 in Fresno.

Felix Claveran (1955), April 28 in Brookings, Oregon.

Georgia Cucuk (1951), June 26 in Fresno.

Pete E. Culver, March 13 in Merced.

Marguerite Daubert (1952), May 19 in Camarillo.

Charles Francis DeLateur (1969, '75 '78), July 12 in Fresno.

John Anthony Dill, July 28 in Fresno.

George Dillard (1950), March 27 in Fresno.

Berniece Vetter Doan, March 18 in Visalia.

Allen Elia (1961), Feb. 28 in Fresno.

Bruce Farris (1950), May 6 in Fresno.

Charlotte Flanner (1991), Aug. 31 in Visalia.

Art Freeman (1951), June 25 in Madera.

Jeanette Laverne Frazier Frye (1977), May 4 in Fresno.

Pete Gianopoulos (1950, '57), July 19 in Bakersfield.

Elizabeth Gomas (1955), April 29 in Manteca.

Michael Thomas Gomes (1974), April 18 in Hanford.

Dona Huckobey (1965), May 5 in Santa Cruz.

Dawn D. (Sullivan) Johnson (1972), July 24 in Davis.

William "Bill" Kahrs, June 20 in Lodi.

Eileen Virginia Kilner (1939), July 19 in Fresno.

Tomoye Kitano, March 8 in Fresno.

Joyce P. Knodel (1977), July 29 in Fresno.

Hans A. Koch, Feb. 11 in Fresno.

Cornelius Robert "Bob" Koop (1930), May 22 in Fresno.

Donald William Kuhlman, April 14 in Sanger.

Leni Popp Kupfer (1984), Feb. 27 in Visalia.

Sean David Lopez, May 4 in Fresno.

Helen Rose Manson (1944), April 17 in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Kenneth Marple, April 16 in Fresno.

Donald Martin, July 15 in Fresno.

Dorman Martin, March 10 in Fresno.

Floyd Mauldin, June 22 in Woodland.

Wesley Alan McWilliams, March 21 in Santa Clara.

Tom Medina (1973), May 4 in Fresno.

Allen H. Middleton, March 17 in Fresno.

A. Dale Minor (1957), April 22 in Hanford.

William D. "Bill" Musick (1962, '68), April 15 in Fresno.

Robert E. Musselman Jr. (1989, '92), July 3 in Hanford.

Leonard Weblor Newton (1942), Feb. 28 in Stratford.

Richard Dirkran Nikssarian (1976), June 22 in Castro Valley.

Raul Barron Nuñez, July 22 in Tulare.

Marilyn Oh, April 3 in Fresno.

Jean C. Piston (1946), May 4 in Fresno.

Bette Elaine (Owen) Plummer, July 17 in Visalia.

Ralph Reitz, June 7 in Fresno.

Melissa Jean Reynolds-Bate (1996, 2001), July 22 in Lemoore.

James Rosetta, July 23 in Fresno.

Jemima Rowe (1964), March 16 in Bakersfield.

Marilyn Runyan, March 13 in Watsonville.

Richard Beecher Salmon (1973), May 6 in Stockton.

Stoney Harrison Savage Jr., June 24 in Visalia.

Marguerite Rose Shekian (1973), May 7, in Visalia.

George Anthony Silva (1960), May 29 in Fresno.

Donald Joe Silvius (1963), March 12 in Bakersfield.

James "Jim" Simpson (1972), May 9 in Clovis.

L. Glen Smith, July 15 in Yreka.

Jean Elizabeth Wright Stallings, March 13 in Mount Shasta.

Chester Vernon "Chet" Steinhauer, June 5 in Clovis.

Robert Michael Stone (1966, '72), April 9 in O'Neals.

Donna E. Thompson (1984), March 8 in Rancho Bernardo.

Diane Herold Trueblood (1959), March 21 in Rocklin.

Mary Elizabeth Truffa, July 13 in Escalon.

James D. Tudman, March 22 in Clovis.

Fred Jackson Tuttle (1964), March 13 in Bakersfield.

Sandy Vinatieri, April 11 in Whittier.

Mike Vuicich, July 11 in Clovis.

Paul Yunouye (2013), September 16 in Irvine.

FRIENDS

James Appleby, March 7 in Fresno.

Anthony Dominic Giannetta, May 30 in Fresno.

Kenneth Huey, May 14 in Fresno.

Kirk Kerkorian, June 15 in Beverly Hills.

Rodney Melikian, March 16 in Fresno.

Frank Nicholas Stepovich, March 1 in Fresno.

FACULTY/STAFF/EMERITI

Wayne Allan Brooks, April 25 in Fresno.

Dr. Chester Earl Christison, March 12 in Fresno.

Robert E. Griffith, March 7 in Fresno.

Barbara Elaine Johnson, March 6 in Fresno.

Jason Newsome (2004), July 17 in Fresno.

Vera Migliore, April 22 in Visalia.

Lester James Roth, April 25 in Fresno.

Marvin B. Wampler, April 25 in Fresno.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 Daniel Gordon (2007) married **Claudia Banuelos** on June 20 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

2 Sarah (2002) and **Jeff Schmidt** (2002) had a baby boy, Wesley.

3 Millie (2007) and **Victor Thao** (2008, '14) had a baby girl, Emerson.

4 Kassandra (2010) and **Adam Messick** (2005) had a baby girl, Addison.

5 Brooke and **Bo Lindblad** had a baby girl, Liana.

6 David Vartanian (2007) married **Kristi Lloyd** (2007) in August in Clovis.

7 Benjamin Holton (2008) and **Tracy Funk** (2000, '02) got engaged on April 3.

Becca Barnes (2011) married Jerry Wehust.

Greg Hutchings (2000) married **Michael Alexander** (1992) in July in Fresno.

Kathleen L. Reyna (1996) married **Carmen I. Arambula** in April.

Katie Rodgers (2014) and husband **Cullen** had a baby boy, Maddox.

Travis Stephenson (2011) married **Richard Perez** in May in Fresno.



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— **Joel Beery** is a graphic designer for University Communications. He created this original oil painting.



Joel Beery

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