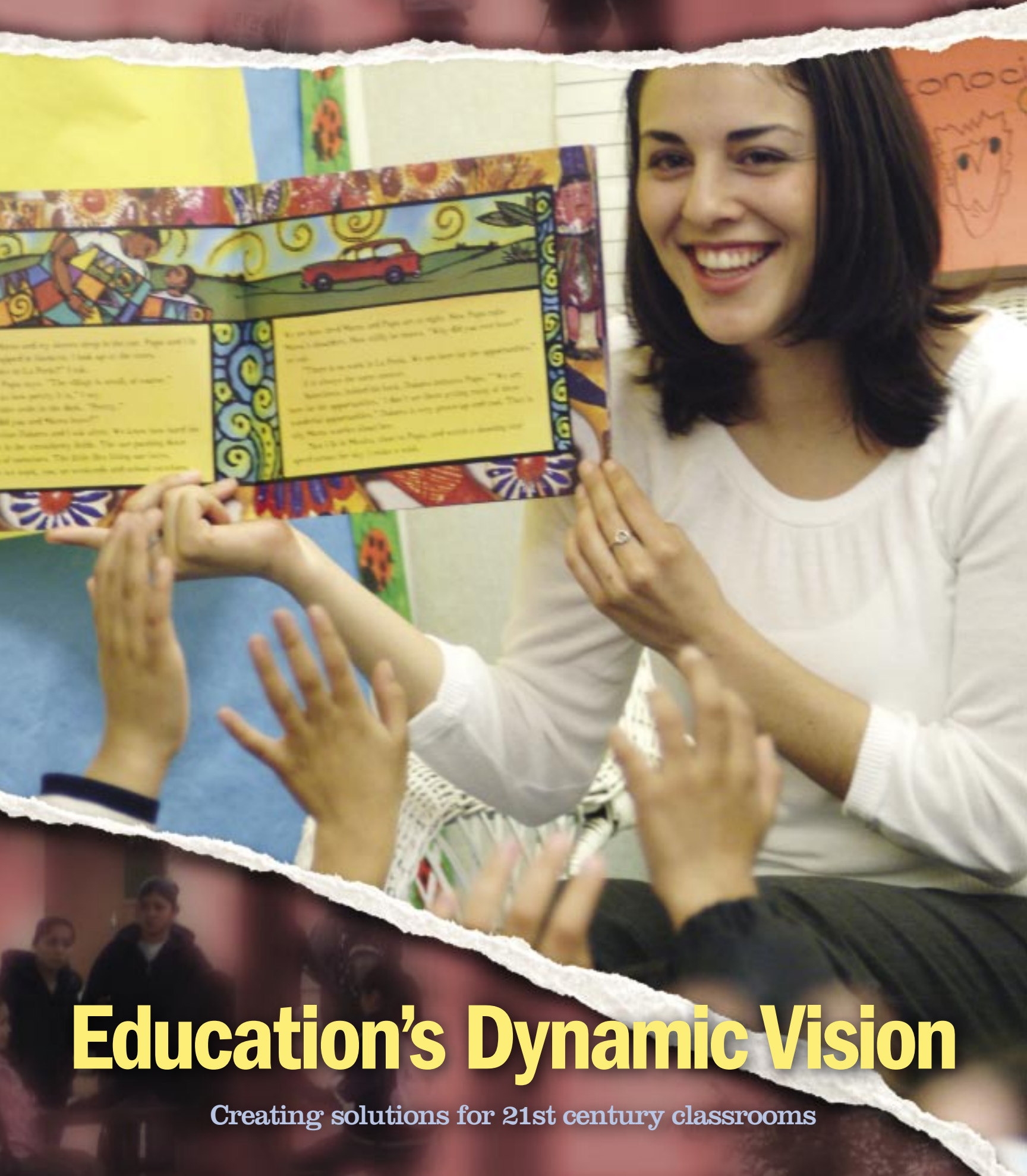


# FresnoState



## Education's Dynamic Vision

Creating solutions for 21st century classrooms



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Spring 2005

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*On the cover:* Student-teacher Cristina Hernandez, a liberal studies student, will soon be joining the ranks of Fresno State-trained teachers who are making a difference in schools throughout the region and the state. Since its founding as a normal school in 1911, Fresno State's commitment to training teachers and serving the educational community has not wavered.  
**Photo by Kelly Peterson**



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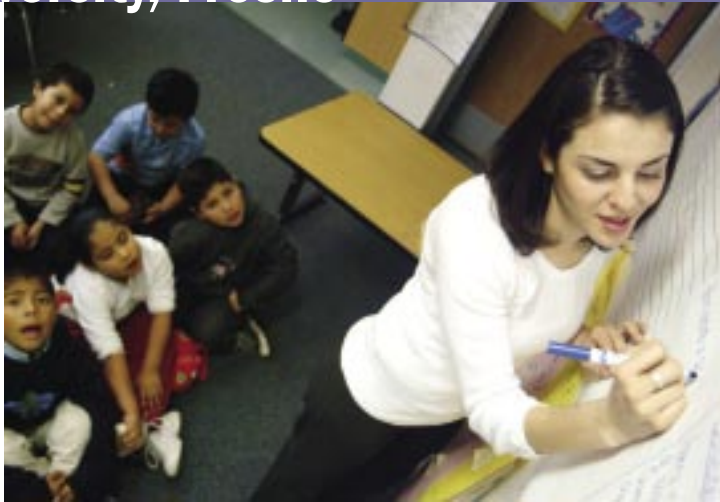
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## Stay in touch

We'd like to hear your comments about *FresnoState Magazine*. Please e-mail them to [magazine@csufresno.edu](mailto:magazine@csufresno.edu).

If you receive more than one copy of *FresnoState Magazine*, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State!

If you would like to support Fresno State, please visit [www.csufresno.edu/giving](http://www.csufresno.edu/giving) to make a contribution.

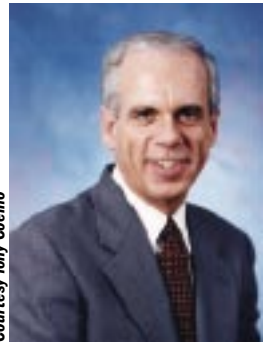


By Dorina K. Lazo



Courtesy Walter Karabian

Karabian



Courtesy Tony Coelho

Coelho

#### KARABIAN, COELHO DONATE POLITICAL PAPERS

The Central Valley Political Archive at Fresno State is filling shelves with more donations from two long-time politicians.

Former California Assemblymember Walter Karabian, a Fresno native, donated his papers to the archive, which is part of the Henry Madden Library. The collection includes correspondence, press files, photographs, campaign material, articles, speeches, memorabilia and other records documenting Karabian's legislative and civic activities.

Former U.S. Rep. Tony Coelho, who represented the central San Joaquin Valley for 10 years and rose to become House majority whip, also donated his records to the archive. Coelho, from Hilmar, was a force in Democratic Party politics for two decades.

His papers join those of Coelho's mentor, Rep. B.F. "Bernie" Sisk.

For more information on the archive: [www.cvparchive.org](http://www.cvparchive.org).

#### CAMPUS BOASTS HIGH GRADUATION RATE

For those who wonder why Fresno State graduation ceremonies are growing bigger and longer, there may be an answer: Fresno State holds the second highest graduation rate for first-time freshmen in the California State University system.

Only Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo tops Fresno State.

A survey conducted by the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange also reveals that Fresno State is a leader in high learning standards. Dr. Paul M. Oliaro, vice president for student affairs, says efforts to provide advising and tutoring to students contribute to the high graduation rate.

The graduates include student-athletes in growing numbers. The Athletics Department saw an 11 percent increase in its overall graduation rate, with a 17 percentage-point increase among football players, half of whom stayed the course to graduation.

#### RESEARCHER WINS AWARD

Dr. Kathleen Curtis, director of research and external programs for the College of Health and Human Services, is the 2005 recipient of the prestigious President's Award of Excellence.

The University Advisory Board selected Curtis for the honor, which includes a \$10,000 award. The board cited her work on a quartet of influential research projects whose results were released recently by the Central California Children's Institute ([www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs/CI](http://www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs/CI)), which Curtis directs.



University Advisory Board chair Hugo Morales, left, and Dr. John D. Welty present Dr. Kathleen Curtis with award.

Donna Scholl Photography



Above: Fresno State student Nancy Reynoso points out a new word to Camille Lujan. At right: Fresno State student Amanda Pena reads with Jessanae Williams.



#### FRESNO STATE JUMPS TO THE TOP

Fresno State's Jumpstart program has a jump on the rest of the nation's programs, ranked No. 1 of 57 programs.

Jumpstart matches college students with preschoolers from low-income backgrounds to help the youngsters one-on-one for a year with language, literacy and social skills.

Fifty-five Fresno State students participating in the Jumpstart program work with more than 250 preschoolers at sites that include Head Start, the Huggins Early Education Center and Campus Children's Center at Fresno State.

Fresno's program, coordinated by Amy Lukianov, is special because of its management, curriculum development, quality of work, classroom routine and relationship building.

A grant from AmeriCorps funds Jumpstart. Fresno State students receive \$1,000 education awards through the grant and federal work-study allowance for the time they spend as tutors.

For more information: [www.csufresno.edu/jumpstart/](http://www.csufresno.edu/jumpstart/).



Fresno State student Ramon Aguilar works with Erick Duvenge.



Arnulfo Florentino enjoys time with Lydia Castillo.

#### MOLDOVA BENEFITS FROM BOOK DRIVE

The Fresno State community is sharing knowledge with people in Moldova, Europe's poorest nation. A book drive brought in 20,000 volumes during the winter.

The books were collected for Balti State University, whose 7,000 students must make do with scarce library resources.

Fresno State's Dr. George DeGraffenreid spearheaded the book drive. He collected more than 8,000 books, which



Preparing books for Moldova are above, Dr. George DeGraffenreid, and Helga Curry, left, and Courtney Cox.



will nearly triple the size of the library's holdings.

DeGraffenreid also rounded up donations from the Fresno community to help cover the \$5,000 cost to ship the books from Fresno to Moldova.

#### VERITAS FORUM PONDERS BELIEF QUESTIONS

Does God exist? What do you believe and why? Are all religions just different ways to the same truth?

These are a few of the burning questions discussed at the Veritas Forum on campus in February by scholars and spokespersons from the diverse world of spiritual thought. A multi-faith panel included Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Jewish and humanist perspectives.

Fresno State joins more than 50 universities across the United States that have engaged in such forums.

The Veritas Forum was founded in 1992 by a group of grad students at Harvard University who wanted to bring their hardest questions about truth and life to the campus community. Today, the Veritas Forum is a national organization.

For more information: [www.fresnoveritas.com](http://www.fresnoveritas.com).





## Fresno State is leading the way in teacher education

By Jacalyn Thornton

**Fresno State's founding commitment to preparing teachers to educate future generations has not changed. It has broadened to meet the challenges unforeseen in 1911 of a diverse, growing region and a constantly changing educational and political environment.**

Today's university has nearly 94 years of experience training teachers and now trains educators for the state's

fourth-largest school district and hundreds of other schools throughout Central California. The Kremen School of Education and Human Development also has become a conduit of creative energy connecting the university with the region's thousands of educators.

The Kremen School offers more than 70 partnerships with the community, while providing undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programs and continuing

## CAN-DO describes institute's pivotal role in regional education

When the 82,000-student Fresno Unified School District faced a forced state takeover last year due to multimillion-dollar deficits and poor student performance, it needed experienced leadership immediately.

The success of Fresno's school system — largest in the Valley and fourth largest in the state — is vital to the region's social and economic future.

It was at that point that the director of Fresno State's new Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute stepped forward. Dr. Walt Buster volunteered to take a leave from his post and offered his services to Fresno Unified for free.

His years leading the high-achieving Clovis school system, his reputation as a calm yet dynamic leader, his willingness to step into the fray and his position as institute director made him uniquely qualified to help Fresno Unified as interim superintendent.

Although the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute's primary purpose is neither to "loan" superintendents nor "fix" school systems in crisis, the action illustrates the enormous impact the new

institute is having on schools in Fresno and the surrounding region. It was established in spring 2004 to invigorate schools in the region and improve the economy by offering school leaders new strategies and perspectives to eliminate the region's "achievement gap."

While Buster's service to the district was a unique occurrence, it "demonstrates what Fresno State's school of education can do for the community," says Dr. Paul Beare, dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

The university has been a leader in trying to close the gap in achievement between different groups of students and in addressing the area's chronic poverty by developing a better-educated work force. The institute enhances those efforts by offering speakers, workshops and coaching for educators.

"It was clear to President [John] Welty and Dean Beare that superintendents, principals, teacher leaders, school board members and other school leaders needed new skills to address the learning gaps associated with poverty, high student mobility and second language acquisition,"

(continued on page 9)

*Dr. Walt Buster, director of Fresno State's new Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute.*



*Photos by Kelly Peterson unless otherwise noted*

education for educators who work with children from early childhood education through high school.

The university's role is especially important in a politically charged educational climate that mandates standardized testing to measure student performance and demands teacher accountability for the progress of students. One result has been a decline in people interested in teaching as a career at a time when enrollment in the region has been increasing.

Dr. Pete Mehas, Fresno County schools superintendent, praises the Kremen School's program and achievements.

"Today's teachers must 'have it all.' High-stakes testing and rigorous state and federal standards require curricular knowledge, skills, technology and passion. The Kremen School has established outstanding programs that address the multitude of challenges facing both new and veteran teachers," Mehas says.

Mehas says he is particularly pleased that the Kremen School has also "expanded its boundaries" beyond the classroom through a variety of programs that

# Challenge and change for today's teachers

cultivate Central Valley leadership for aspiring administrators and provide a source of enrichment and improvement for educators.

In addition to the traditional effort to train teachers, Fresno State has on-site facilities to train early childhood education specialists and on-campus opportunities for high school students to take university classes. The school offers reading-intervention programs and projects to energize school leaders and invigorate schools. It also provides research and evaluation for school districts and assistance to enhance the teaching of mathematics, science and writing.

The Kremen School also is creating a Center for Literacy Practices to take a leading role in reading and literacy practices throughout this culturally diverse region where more than 100 different languages are spoken.



Dr. Judith Neal, chairperson of the Literacy and Early Education Department in the Kremen School, says the new center will define literacy for the Central Valley, work aggressively to revolutionize the issue of literacy and help educators develop expertise in teaching reading and writing.

The Center will build on successes in the 12-year-old Reading Recovery program, which Neal describes as “a collaborative relationship with the public schools.” The program has trained nearly 2,000 teachers and helped more than 25,000 children who struggle with reading.

The university infuses energy into the community through the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute’s workshops, research and coaching for the region’s superintendents, principals and other school leaders.

They, in turn, pass along strategies for teachers to improve schools and eliminate achievement disparity between different groups of students. The result is a better-educated work force to serve the needs of the regional economy.

Institute director Dr. Walt Buster, a former Clovis schools superintendent, saw an example of the need during a visit to a Fresno school last year.

“The building was poorly maintained, the children live in abject poverty and the neighborhood is unsafe,” he explains. “I was welcomed with open arms. The children spoke Hmong, Spanish and several other languages. The principal, teachers and staff were working diligently and loved their children, but

**Education professor Dr. Pam Lane-Garon, rear, developed the Mediator Mentors program to train young peer mediators to become skillful problem-solvers on their campuses. Fresno State teacher credential student Monica Ybarra-Merlo, rear right, works with students at Tehipite Middle School in Fresno.**

they wanted to know how to teach more effectively, and they wanted the superintendent and the district to provide clear goals and support.

“That visit and others reinforced my commitment to making the institute a resource that will support this principal and this district,” says Buster. “Valley schools need the support of the university to learn from other successful schools how to best help their children.”

Another project designed to support schools by helping them improve student achievement is the Central Valley Partnership for Exemplary Teachers. The program placed 30 teacher candidates in regional school districts to work alongside professionals and attend university classes on-site. This fall, 90 teacher candidates will work at partner schools in the region.



**Dr. Karen T. Carey, chair of the Department of Psychology and former director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, serves as an adviser to many students in the joint doctoral program. She is among specially selected faculty members who provide students with a wealth of expertise in leadership, including educational administration, education, anthropology, sociology, business, psychology, linguistics and economics.**



Partnership director Dr. Robin Chiero says the benefits are threefold: student teachers learn in a school environment with working professionals; on-site staff participate in ongoing professional development; and university professors can do research in teacher preparation and actual classroom practices at all grade levels.

Chiero says the program’s primary goal is to improve student achievement, but it also helps regional schools by recruiting and retaining quality teachers.

There has been an increasing call for teaching core values to students and for teachers to live up to high

## CAN-DO *(continued from page 6)*

explains Buster. “It was also clear that business and government leaders in the Valley were eager to support this effort.”

At the institute’s first seminar, 100 school superintendents, principals and prospective administrators from Modesto to Bakersfield listened to speakers such as Douglas Reeves, author of “The Daily Disciplines of Leadership” and founder of the Center for Performance Enhancement in Colorado.

Participants say they learned practical strategies for handling issues such as evaluating students, improving performance and working together — not merely philosophical concepts or motivational calls for leadership. And Buster says the “world-class training” doesn’t strain already tight school budgets.

Last summer the institute joined forces with the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative, providing financial support to Fresno’s program and presenting a seminar that brought together educators from throughout California. The institutions also supervise pilot projects in Exeter, Kingsburg, Sanger and Fresno that offer resources and coaching from Fresno State professors Drs. Sharon Brown-Welty and Don Wise and former school superintendent Lloyd Wamhof.

Madera Schools Superintendent Julie O’Kane and 60 of her administrators attended the Best Practices Institute and immediately formed their own districtwide leadership team.

“We also followed-up on a number of strategies — using data to develop intervention for students, being more collaborative, and improving communication throughout the system,” O’Kane explains. “We definitely will continue to participate in institute programs. It was so worthwhile.”

The institute seeks more connections with the wider community, such as its service to Fresno schools.

“It was a great opportunity to work as a leader in the district that is the largest client of the Kremen School of Education,” says Buster. “My role as director of the Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute enabled me to connect the university’s research to my superintendent’s role in Fresno Unified.”

It doesn’t stop there. The institute’s role in the future of Valley schools uniquely connects Fresno State with the region’s social and economic future. ■

— Jacalyn Thornton



Courtesy The Fresno Bee

**An annual teacher fair draws school districts from throughout the state to Fresno to interview candidates from the Kremen School of Education.**

ethical standards. The Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship at Fresno State has been answering those calls in the region for more than 20 years.

The Bonner Center holds a yearly conference on character and civic education to offer future educators tools for teaching children character development and thinking skills to make their own ethical decisions. The center sponsors an award program recognizing regional schools that intentionally promote moral thinking and behavior and it conducts grant-funded research projects to study the correlation between student behavior, school environment and achievement. ▶



**For additional information, please contact:**

Bonner Center for Character Education and Citizenship:  
<http://education.csufresno.edu/bonnercenter/bonner.htm>

California Mini-Corps:  
[http://education.csufresno.edu/mini\\_corps/](http://education.csufresno.edu/mini_corps/)

Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute:  
<http://www.csufresno.edu/cveli/>

Central Valley Education Research Consortium:  
<http://bogota.soehd.csufresno.edu:16080/cread-nsf/cread.html>

Central Valley Partnership for Exemplary Teachers:  
**559.278.0362**

Central Valley Science Project:  
<http://csmp.ucop.edu/csp/fresno>

Ethics Project:  
**559.278.0373**

Joint Doctoral Program:  
**559.278.0427**, <http://jdpel.csufresno.edu>

Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center/Fansler Institute:  
**559.278.0225**, [http://education.csufresno.edu/ec\\_cntr/](http://education.csufresno.edu/ec_cntr/)

Kremen School of Education and Human Development:  
<http://education.csufresno.edu/>

Literacy and Early Education Department:  
<http://education.csufresno.edu/lee/>

Mediator Mentors:  
[www.csufresno.edu/mediatormentors](http://www.csufresno.edu/mediatormentors)

Reading Recovery Project:  
**559.278.0224**

San Joaquin Valley Mathematics Project:  
<http://csmp.ucop.edu/cmp/sanjoaquin/index.php>

San Joaquin Valley Writing Project:  
[www.sjvwp.org](http://www.sjvwp.org)

Dr. Pamela Lane-Garon, an assistant education professor and associate director of the Bonner Center, also heads The Ethics Project – a pilot program to infuse character education into teacher preparation curriculum and establish the first formal class in character education.

Dr. Jacques Benninga, the Bonner Center director, says the program also helps ensure teachers live up to ethical standards.

Benninga says the center lives up to Aristotle's admonition: "We become just by the practice of just actions, self-controlled by exercising self-control and courageous by performing acts of courage."

"His message was moral virtue can be taught and learned, and that's the message we're teaching at Fresno State," says Benninga, a professor of education.

The importance of our youngest students is addressed through the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center, the D. Paul Fansler Institute for Leadership in Early Childhood Education and the Marlene M. Fansler Infant and Toddler Program.

"There's no doubt universal preschool is coming," explains Dr. Shareen Abramson, director of the Huggins Center and coordinator of the Early Childhood Education Program. "The center's role is to provide direction and leadership. Research shows preschool programs must be quality programs to provide long-term benefits. Poor quality programs can actually harm children. So it's essential we improve programs for young children and provide quality training for teachers."

Another program improving the quality of Valley schools is the Joint Doctoral Program, a partnership comprising Fresno State and University of California campuses in Davis, Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.

By offering classes in the evening and on weekends, the program provides regional educators an opportunity to earn advanced degrees without leaving jobs and families. Since 1991, Fresno State has awarded 88 doctorates in education.



**Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty**

"This program was specifically designed to attract educators from the Central Valley who will stay in the Central Valley," explains program co-director Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, an associate professor of education.

In 2001, Joint Doctoral Program graduates formed the Central Valley Education Research Consortium, which produced three studies in three years on successful methods to improve schools and student achievement. The consortium now is studying effective teaching practices in high schools.

"This is a major contribution to the region," says Dr. Brown-Welty. "The results have been disseminated widely in our eight-county area. Our graduates are providing research-based leadership practices."

**Dr. Jacques Benninga**



Brown-Welty said many Joint Doctoral Program graduates also provide leadership in community colleges by serving as presidents and top administrators.

Leadership in education is why the university recently was selected to house the Renaissance Group, a prestigious national consortium of 36 colleges and universities with a major commitment to the preparation of educators. Nationwide, one in 10 teachers is trained at a Renaissance Group campus.

"The foundation of this university is teaching," Kremen School associate dean Colleen W. Torgerson said.

The university's role in preparing educators will assume increased significance with a statewide teacher shortage looming. The Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning projects an additional 50,000 teachers will be needed in California by 2012. The Kremen School supplies 75 percent of the region's teachers, each year graduating 750 new educators and awarding nearly 200 master's degrees and advanced specialist credentials.

As Kremen Dean Beare explains, "Education is the foundation of a healthy, successful and viable society. It is the key to opportunity." ■

*Jacalyn Thornton is a freelance writer in Fresno.*



# Student-teacher sees hope in Room 6

It's 8:30 a.m. on a cool overcast day, and Room 6 at Greenberg Elementary School in southeast Fresno is warm and already humming.



Student-teacher Cristina Hernandez, about to graduate from Fresno State, works three days a week with eager first- and second-graders at Fresno's Greenberg Elementary School.

To the ears of student-teacher Cristina Hernandez, it's the sound of music, the soft voices of 19 pupils seated in mini-chairs, their heads bowed, all of them reading aloud, slowly and quietly. They are 7 and 8 years old, eager first- and second-graders, more than half members of migrant families from Mexico, not unlike Cristina herself when she was their age.

"It was October 28, 1991, and I was 8 years old when we crossed the border," she says. "I remember the date exactly. I remember my first Halloween here."

The trick, she also remembers, was staying awake that first year in school in Kerman. Unable to understand, she fell asleep twice in English class. "In Mexico, you could be a top student, but not here because of the language," Hernandez says.

Now she is 21, about to graduate from Fresno State with a degree in liberal studies, working three days a week in teacher Arsenia Zarate's room, making certain her little charges stay awake by challenging them to read and question and reason.

At one table, 7-year-old Jose is deep into "Corduroy Makes a Cake." He is reading it in English. Most of the others are reading theirs in Spanish. They will read in English later. It's a learning process, one step and one new word at a time.

"It's all about accountability, too," says Zarate, who is at another table, going one-on-one with pupil after pupil.

"She's testing them on what they've read. She's such a great teacher," says Hernandez, who knows something about being tested.



Photos by Kelly Peterson

Along with her parents, two sisters and four brothers, she recalls sharing a two-bedroom trailer with relatives, 14 of them altogether, sleeping on the floor. They moved from Kerman to San Joaquin, where she spent summers working in the fields chopping weeds and later in packing sheds.

After high school in Tranquillity, Hernandez enrolled in Fresno State, where the learning curve soared. "There were so many new things to learn, particularly science," she says. "It's where I got my real education."



For her pupils now, real education begins in groups of five seated in a semicircle, on the edge of their chairs, eyes fixed on her, ready to raise hands at the first question. "They're very competitive," Hernandez says. "They correct each other all the time."

When Sara reads a question from a book but pronounces it as an exclamation, the others immediately and gleefully catch her. "*Muy bien*," says the teacher, laughing with them, and with Sara.

Abigail gets a "*muy bien*" for knowing that a cow shown in the book is dancing to music because of the music notes above the radio.

The children are challenged to predict how a story will end, to make up questions, to reason and summarize, as they did to

their regret with "The Little Mermaid." They predicted she would marry the prince. Instead, she turned into foam. "They didn't like that book," Hernandez says.

The children learn about cause and effect, as they did from the story about the sheep that fertilize the pasture that produces the grass they eat.

"That caught their attention," Hernandez says.

Eyes wide and ears wider, the children listen intently, not missing a word. They want to succeed, to outdo each other, not to mention to please the teacher they all obviously adore.

"It's very rewarding," says Hernandez, recalling the girl whose mother thought she should be placed in special education because she couldn't begin to recite the alphabet. Instead, she was persuaded to bring her daughter to Room 6 where she joined the mainstream. "In a few months she was at grade level and so happy when she had the right answer to a problem. It makes it so worthwhile."



So much so that Cristina Hernandez, thanks to Fresno State and the help of California Mini-Corps, the state's migrant education program, eagerly anticipates her teaching credential so she can continue her career. She may even consider going for a master's degree.

Until then, and between college classes, Hernandez will be on duty in Arsenia Zarate's Room 6 at Greenberg Elementary, where three times a week she helps keep everything humming along very smoothly. ■



Background images: PhotoDisc



# Adapting to education's many changes

**Test scores, teacher accountability, political posturing. Educators face a variety of challenges each day as they step into their classrooms and administrative offices. Dr. Paul Beare, dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development, offers answers to questions on many people's minds about how Fresno State is meeting challenges of today's educational environment.**

**Q. We've heard that in just a few years there will be a severe shortage of teachers in California. How did this happen? How is the Kremen School working to boost the number of teachers?**

A. Large numbers of teachers are approaching retirement at the same time California has enormous growth due in school-age population, thus the supply of graduates won't keep up with vacancies. This shortage is exacerbated by the current climate of politically motivated attacks on teachers and schools. These attacks reduce the number of students seeking teaching as a profession.

Along with the usual literature, brochures and our Advising and Recruitment Center, the Kremen School has numerous programs that promote teaching as a career. Teachers of Tomorrow Clubs offer scholarships, conferences such as the African-American Future Teachers and Southeast Asian conferences, and a summer Leadership Camp. We also have the Teaching Fellows scholarship program, Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program and Bilingual Career Ladder in Special Education, all of which exceed 75 percent in minority representation. We have the Mini-Corps Program to support migrant students in becoming teachers.

**Q. Students who want to become teachers have to pass several "high-stakes" tests to be credentialed. Do these exams ensure that candidates are qualified to teach?**

A. There is no research to support the validity of teacher exams used in California and other states, nor do such exams predict who will be effective in raising achievement or able to manage a classroom. If anything, most of these tests make teachers memorize facts that may be used only rarely in the classroom. The tests don't measure depth of knowledge or show understanding of a topic. Their difficulty is not based on any absolute standard of what a teacher should know to succeed and the tests discourage a diverse field of candidates.

**Q. California's governor has proposed that a merit-pay system replace tenure for teachers. Will that improve student achievement in the state?**

A. All research on merit pay for teachers shows it fails to positively affect student achievement. While there are many kinds of motivation, job satisfaction largely is associated with intrinsic reinforcement such as self-actualization, accomplishing good and helping others. A proposal for merit pay implies that teachers somehow aren't trying their hardest and need some additional incentive to put forth maximum effort. To suggest teachers need this is an insult to our profession.

We know from data-based research that differences among schools on their students' achievement are aligned closely with the degree of poverty present. Merit pay for achievement rewards teachers for teaching in wealthy districts.

One way that teaching compensates for the relatively low salaries compared to many professions is with job security. Removing tenure means districts could replace strong, experienced teachers with

new, younger and cheaper teachers or replace strong content teachers to get a good coach. Tenure protects quality instruction.

**Q. How is the Kremen School involved in school improvement and reform?**

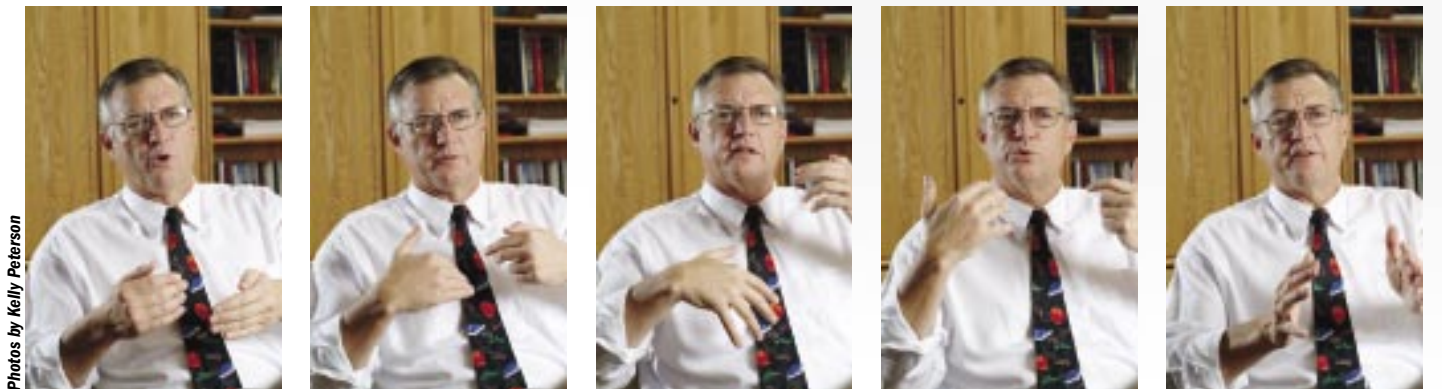
A. The Kremen School has over three dozen partnerships that contribute to school improvement and student achievement. Our newest is the Central Valley Partnership for Exemplary Teachers. It will place cohorts of teacher candidates into area schools for both coursework and field experience and move university faculty into these schools to provide professional development for teachers of all grade levels.

The Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute works with superintendents and principals to raise school achievement and student learning. We are the Reading Recovery training center for a seven-state area. The California Reading and Literature Project, Central Valley Science Project, San Joaquin Valley Mathematics Project, Turning Points Academy, Fresno Family Counseling Center, San Joaquin Writing Project, and the Bonner Center for Character Education, to name a few, are operated through our school.

**Q. It's often reported that children in the United States fall behind those in other countries in educational achievement. Is that true? Do educators think the No Child Left Behind initiative will help our children in a competitive world?**

A. Few other countries actually educate all students, and they certainly don't test them all, making such comparisons ludicrous at best.

Many portions of No Child Left Behind only serve to demoralize schools and



Dr. Paul Beare, dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

teachers. The testing, that is its heart, restricts learning to the memorization of information that can be evaluated by a standardized test. These tests do not measure the ability to think. Teachers don't have time to teach subject matter deeply or to focus on critical thinking; they have to teach to the test as the policymakers demand.

Why would policymakers do this? Money and power, of course. High-stakes tests are all about serving up our schools to the marketplace. Test costs alone siphon hundreds of millions of dollars to testing companies. Billions are spent on teaching materials used only because they promise to raise test scores, even if they otherwise poorly serve the learner. Even more sinister is that they pave the way for school vouchers and privatization and for-profit charter schools. Supporters of privatization believe that if the public can be fooled into believing teachers and the public schools are failing, it can, perhaps, be tricked into accepting vouchers and privatization, which have no evidence of effectiveness. The way to improve schools is to allow teachers to use best practices to teach to standards in ways that motivate students and create deep involvement in learning.

**Q. Reports say the high school dropout rate is increasing. Why? What can our schools do to stem this tide?**

A. It is actually unclear if dropouts are increasing or if reporting is becoming more standardized. Dropouts are an

**'The Kremen School has over three dozen partnerships that contribute to school improvement and student achievement.'**

immense problem, produced by a number of factors. Research shows that high-stakes tests for high school advancement or graduation create frustration and artificial barriers that chase students from schools. The movement to a Zero Tolerance, more punitive, atmosphere also chases away students or ejects them. Schools can be rewarded by dropouts when they are low achievers, as they usually are, in that test scores rise. No Child Left Behind forces high schools into an all college-prep curriculum, making it meaningless for many students who do not have the ability or motivation for college.

**Q. Central California is known for its residents' willingness to get involved and help when a need arises. What can we do to help our children succeed and how can we help the Kremen School fulfill its mission to prepare teachers and partner with schools?**

A. For Fresno State to continue to build excellent programs for future teachers, counselors and school administrators through the Kremen School of Education and Human Development, it must rely on support from its community and private individuals. This support is welcome in the form of time, talent and treasure.

Expect the best for your children. Support having well-prepared teachers in classrooms; don't assume that a person with content knowledge can teach. Teaching is about relationships and graduating productive and informed citizens. It is not about Scantron sheets and tests. Teach children a respect for education. If you respect teachers and value learning, so will your children.

The Kremen School's mission to prepare educators and work with schools in improving achievement needs the community's talents and treasure. The Kremen School and the community need volunteers for projects whether it be reading to first graders, helping tutor in math or serving on an advisory committee. As Fresno State enters its Comprehensive Campaign to raise support throughout the university, some incredibly important initiatives will be presented to transform the education of the region's children. Consider supporting these efforts in any way possible. ■



# Getting an early jump on education

By Lisa Birrell and Shirley Melikian Armbruster

**In just 10 years, the Joyce M. Huggins Early Education Center at Fresno State has grown into a national model of early childhood education and a catalyst for improving the quality of programs throughout the region.**

The Huggins Center provides undergraduate and graduate students, teachers and other professionals with training, demonstration and research opportunities in education, child development, marriage, child and family counseling and other related areas.

In addition, the center serves the university community. The children of Fresno State students, especially those with low incomes, have priority in receiving Huggins Center services to assist them in completing their educational goals.

More than 125 children ages birth to 12 years are enrolled in the Marlene M. Fansler Infant Toddler Program, the D. Paul Fansler Preschool and the school-age program at the Huggins Center. Through a collaborative partnership with the Fresno Unified School District, children with special needs benefit from a fully inclusive program that is also a model of best practices.



The work of the Huggins Center is so impressive that Maryann O'Sullivan, founder and CEO of Oakland-based Preschool California, says, "I only wish all California children could have access to such a preschool."

At Huggins, quality is the priority.

*The Huggins Early Education Center on campus provides "a creative, loving and stimulating environment for children," says Maryann O'Sullivan, founder and CEO of Preschool California.*

"Through a quality early education program, children learn to be learners and master skills to be successful in school and in life," says director Dr. Shareen Abramson, a literacy and early education professor who is committed to making the public aware of the importance of quality in ensuring children's success in school.



Each year, more than 1,000 student teachers from Fresno State, community colleges and other educational institutions are trained by the Huggins Center in conjunction with the university's D. Paul Fansler Institute for Leadership in Early Childhood Education.

The center offers workshops, conferences, training and technical assistance for public and private early childhood teachers and administrators to improve their programs. As a result of these successful initiatives, Huggins-trained teachers hold key positions in early childhood education throughout the region.

Training in early education is vital in a region where, in Fresno County alone, one-third of preschool-aged children can't find a place in a quality preschool program, according to Preschool California.

The Huggins Center's work is recognized nationally and internationally. Abramson and teachers from the center have presented at national conferences, published on the program and created videos and other resources about the program and curriculum.



Many teachers at the center are Fresno State graduates and a number are pursuing master's degrees in early childhood education in the Kremen School.

The center's fully accessible outdoor environment includes an aquatic study area, forest, garden and other features to encourage early interest in science, agriculture and nature studies.

In one class, Sharon Arias combines her teaching expertise with training in the arts to design a program for 3- to 5-year-olds in the Forest Room. Baskets filled with shells, smooth and rough rocks, and pinecones are available for children to touch and study. A long,



curving Chinese dragon puppet rests near glass terrariums that house Madagascar cockroaches, lizards, snakes, tarantulas and frogs. Musical instruments, including a drum set, are classroom favorites. Colorful paintings by the children are displayed everywhere.

Arias says of her curriculum: "If you teach a child to invent, that child has got it made."

One of those who wholeheartedly supports what the Fresno State center is accomplishing

## Quality early education: 3 essentials

**Relationships.** With the guidance of a skilled early childhood teacher, children develop positive relationships at school. They gain social competence as they learn how to interact with others, listen and follow directions and work individually or as part of a group. The teacher also builds a partnership with parents in ensuring children's success.

**Experiences.** Children are provided with interesting experiences that are intellectually engaging. Having first-hand opportunities such as growing a plant from a seed, caring for a classroom animal, observing the weather change or meeting a community helper arouse children's curiosity and questions. Complex, challenging experiences often become the basis for deeper investigation and study.

**Communication.** Children are introduced to different ways to communicate ideas. In order to communicate, children must acquire understanding of the symbolic systems that comprise our culture. Through learning activities in language, literacy, mathematics, science, music, the arts, nutrition and physical education the full potential of children's abilities and unique talents can be realized.

— Dr. Shareen Abramson  
Director, Huggins Early Education Center



**Children thrive at the center and future teachers learn the best practices in early childhood education.**

on a daily basis is O'Sullivan, who visited last year.

"I saw a creative, loving and stimulating environment for children – just the kind of program children need at a time when their brains are developing so rapidly," she says. "I saw children engaged with each other and with their teachers in the kind of educational and social activities that lay a strong foundation for all they will learn in elementary school and beyond."

Abramson says she and the Huggins Center are committed to maintaining a leadership role in modeling quality early education programs.

"The focus of our efforts is to work toward creating quality programs so that children, families and our region can reap the educational and societal benefits," she says. ■

*Lisa Birrell is a marketing manager in Fresno and a freelance writer. Shirley Melikian Armbruster is director of News Services at Fresno State.*



# Madden Library begins a transformation

By Stephanie Rodriguez

Fresno State’s Madden Library is getting an extreme makeover. It’s so extreme that a good portion of the library will be torn down and a modern, gleaming building will replace it.

The two portions of the library built in 1956 and 1965 will be torn down and replaced with a modern five-story building scheduled to open in 2008.

The project, financed from Proposition 55 bonds approved by voters in 2004, will result in a 380,000-square-foot library with state-of-the-art information technology systems, 3,600 reader stations, group study rooms and space for special collections, offices and storage.

Today, the university’s 21,000 students are served by a library designed for a far smaller student body. The renovated library has the capacity to serve students and the community for years to come.

“The older parts of the library are 40 to 50 years old,” says Michael Gorman, dean of the Madden Library. “The lack of space and the fact that large parts of the library were outdated and could not accommodate current technology is a factor in the renovation.”

Another factor is changes in the way today’s students use the library.

“Students study differently; we are seeing a lot of group studying,” says Susan Mangini, assistant dean for special projects. “The renovated library will offer more space for collaborative studying.



Courtesy A. C. Martin Partners

“New additions, such as a café, will address students’ personal needs while using the library’s facilities,” she adds.

Patrons will notice a brighter, more airy library that is user-friendly. It also will accommodate an enlarged Special Collections Library, which includes rare books and materials on state and local history; the Central Valley Political Archives; and the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children’s Literature.

“The space is so limited right now, we haven’t been able to actively solicit or receive large donations of collections,” says Mangini. “There is no place to put them.”

The renovated Madden Library also will have dedicated carrels for graduate students, which can be reserved so students have a place to keep their books, laptops and personal items while conducting research.

Hillier Architects in Washington, D.C., and A.C. Martin Partners in Los Angeles are the design partners on the

library project to be constructed by Swinerton Builders in Sacramento.

The Madden Library is the largest academic library between Sacramento and Los Angeles and serves not only students, but also residents throughout the central San Joaquin Valley. With the new building, Gorman expects usage will dramatically increase. And he believes it will become a venue for university programs and presentations.

“By remaining in our current location we have greater ease of access for the students and the community. We feel the Madden Library is the heart of Fresno State,” said Gorman.

A Web site, [www.maddenlibrary.org](http://www.maddenlibrary.org) will provide updates on the library makeover. ■

*Stephanie Rodriguez, a 2002 graduate of Fresno State, works in marketing in Fresno.*

# Pinnacle of giving

By Mary Anna Dunn

More than 10,000 people and organizations donated to Fresno State last year, providing the university with private support that is vital to programs all across the campus. Donors give for scholarships, library materials, instructional programs, outreach efforts, capital construction and more.

As Fresno State looks ahead to its first comprehensive campaign, the role of private support becomes increasingly important. The difference between good and great depends heavily on private dollars to complement resources provided by the state.

This year, 2004-05, the generosity of alumni, friends, parents, businesses and foundations continues and the university is preparing to celebrate its top donors. The premier donor event is the Pinnacle Society dinner in May. Established in 1997, the Pinnacle Society recognizes donors for their cumulative giving.

Pinnacle Founders – numbering more than 200 – have been recognized for their lifetime giving of \$100,000 or more. In a formal ceremony, President John D. Welty will present a medallion to each donor with a reproduction of Ansel Adams’ “Moon and Half Dome,” a striking image representing vision, foresight and investment in Fresno State students and programs.

As of 2005, two Pinnacle levels are being initiated: El Capitan for donors at the \$500,000 cumulative level and Paramount for donors of \$1 million or more. Nineteen Pinnacle Founders already qualify at the Paramount level and will be presented with a custom-designed crystal memento.

New Paramount donors also will be inducted this spring.

“Fresno State has a deep tradition of philanthropy, as demonstrated by Pinnacle Society members,” says Welty. “The university’s comprehensive campaign will build on that tradition.” ■

*Mary Anna Dunn is director of Fresno State’s comprehensive campaign.*

## Legacies to celebrate

Founding members of the Heritage Society of California State University, Fresno will be acknowledged this year.

The society recognizes those who have included Fresno State in their estate plans. Membership is open to individuals who inform the university of a bequest, trust, real estate gift, insurance gift or charitable gift annuity benefiting Fresno State.

Carol Widmer, director of planned giving, says, “We appreciate knowing about people’s arrangements so that we understand their intentions and can make sure their ultimate gift will support the program of their choice.”

For more information about gifting methods, contact Widmer at 559.278.8667 or at [cwidmer@csufresno.edu](mailto:cwidmer@csufresno.edu).



Randy Vaughn-Dotta

## Annual contributions recognized

In addition to acknowledging lifetime giving, Fresno State celebrates annual giving from alumni and friends. Annual recognition levels established this spring are based on individuals’ total giving to all university programs.

Centennial Society	\$10,000 and up
Cardinal and Blue Patrons	\$5,000-\$9,999
Benefactors	\$2,500-\$4,999
Fellows	\$1,000-\$2,499
Builders	\$500-\$999
Partners	\$100-\$499

As an example, someone who donates \$1,000 to Ag One, \$1,200 to the Bulldog Foundation and \$500 to the Madden Library will be acknowledged as a Benefactor.

Plans are under way to publish an Honor Roll of Contributors on the Fresno State Web site after the close of the fiscal year. If you would like to contribute, visit [www.csufresno.edu/giving](http://www.csufresno.edu/giving).



# Professor lends expertise after tsunami

It was the worst natural disaster in modern history: A shift in the earth's crust off Indonesia generated a tsunami that left hundreds of thousands in South Asia dead, injured, homeless, traumatized, afraid, hurting.

When the government of Indonesia called Dr. John Dussich for help, the internationally known expert in victimology, trauma and crisis intervention did not hesitate. Dussich, a Fresno State professor, headed to Jakarta to train people who would help their countrymen deal with the emotional devastation that engulfed survivors long after the giant wave receded.

During an "emotional, intense" week in late January, Dussich conducted training sessions with the Red Crescent of Indonesia (similar to the Red Cross). He also spoke to a children's foundation and other non-governmental groups working with survivors. The workshop participants ranged from physicians, psychiatrists and sophisticated CEOs to 20-something lay workers.

Dussich was interviewed on Indonesian television about his work and met with the nation's minister of social affairs to discuss the need for a national disaster organization and victimology coursework at the university level.

"This country does not have a full-time disaster management relief organization. There are few professional crisis interveners," he says.

Although media coverage dwindled within a month of the tsunami, Dussich says there is "a continuing disaster" in Indonesia.

"The deaths are continuing and will continue for a year," he says, adding that some will result from suicide, helplessness and disease "because people have an incredible sense of loss" and give up taking care of themselves.

Dussich, who joined the Fresno State Department of Criminology faculty in 2003, offered his expertise in a volunteer capacity in Indonesia. ■

– Shirley Melikian Armbruster



**Dr. John Dussich, right, discusses disaster management with Indonesian aid workers.**

# CSU meets agriculture's needs

California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed chose Fresno State to spotlight the CSU's essential role in agricultural research and education as part of his effort to showcase the economic impact the 23-campus system has throughout the state.

At a January forum at the Fresno State winery, the nation's only bonded commercial winery on a university campus, industry and university leaders had an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between agriculture and education by discussing needs, exchanging ideas and expressing concerns, expectations and accolades for agriculture students.

"If the Central Valley were a state it would be ranked number one in agriculture production," said Reed, underscoring Fresno State's educational role in a region where agriculture provides one in five jobs.

"The CSU produces more than 52 percent of the state's

graduates in agriculture-related majors. That is about 1,200 job-ready graduates every year who invigorate the state's economy. Were it not for this highly-qualified workforce, California agriculture simply would not enjoy the level of prosperity that it does," Reed said.

In addition to Fresno State, agriculture programs at Cal Poly-Pomona, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, Chico State and Humboldt State train students in everything from production and marketing through economics and chemistry. CSU also has trained about 90 percent of the state's new agriculture teachers in the past five years.

At the forum, Reed also brought attention to the California Agricultural Research Initiative, which forges university and industry bonds through applied research at Fresno State and other campuses.

Reed helped further those ties by announcing formation of an agriculture advisory board that will meet regularly with him to provide another way for agriculture leaders to communicate research and education needs.

"Industry and alumni support allows us to go from being a good program to an outstanding one by providing dollars to do applied research and donations for endowed positions, scholarships, internships, entire orchards and equipment," says Dr. Daniel Bartell, dean of the Fresno State College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. ■

– Jodie Mocchiato



**CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed spotlights agriculture.**

By Ron Orozco

# A game plan for academic success



It's football's offseason, several months since a winning attitude and solid planning by head coach Pat Hill and his staff led to Fresno State's victory at the MPC Computers Bowl.



**John Baxter**

Now it's time to concentrate on the "student" part of student-athlete.

With a *learning* attitude and a solid plan drafted by associate football coach John Baxter, Bulldog football players file into the newly opened Ricchiuti Academic Center at the Duncan Building. Sean Finnerty and Ryan McKinley choose seats in the second row.

The players are participants in Academic Gameplan, a study-skills program that tries to take the frustration out of classroom work and teaches techniques for success in school and life.

Finnerty, a 6-foot-3, 285-pound offensive guard from Manhattan Beach, says choosing a seat in the second row is right out of the Academic Gameplan workbook. On Page 9, there's S.L.A.N.T., an acronym beginning with "Sit" up front in the classroom.

McKinley, a 6-foot-2, 220-pound freshman linebacker from Reno, Nev., who hasn't declared a major yet, says he always used to sit in the back in class.

Reflecting Baxter's guidance in Academic Gameplan, McKinley says now, "When you sit up front, it keeps the teacher happy."

A junior majoring in communications, Finnerty says Academic Gameplan has helped him "keep on track" academically with a 2.82 grade-point average. He says the workbook's use of sports nomenclature "makes sure the things you learn stay in your head."

"It teaches you to manage your time," Finnerty says. "It encourages you to talk with your teacher. By sitting up front, my face comes up."

Baxter created Academic Gameplan ([www.academicgameplan.com](http://www.academicgameplan.com)) because he believes that coaches teach athletes how to play, but someone needs to teach them how to study.

He started working on his idea 10 years before he says he "had the guts" to have Academic Gameplan published. After Sports Illustrated brought the program to national attention, Baxter and his wife, Jill, redesigned a guesthouse on their property in Clovis as headquarters for the program.

More than 120 junior highs, high schools and colleges around the country, including Arizona State, UC Berkeley, Oregon and Notre Dame use the Academic Gameplan.

At Fresno State, it helps a wide range of student-athletes. Baxter says Bulldog football players Clint Stitser, a redshirt freshman placekicker and a National Honor Society member as a high school student in Reno, Nev., and Dwayne Wright, a junior running back from West Hills College in Coalinga, struggled in their college classes before using Academic Gameplan.



Stitser has had straight As over three consecutive semesters, Baxter says. As for Wright, "All of a sudden, he's turned on to what he can do."

Baxter teaches the program to all Bulldog football players. And to prove Academic Gameplan benefits even the youngest students – not just college athletes – Baxter also teaches parts of the program to his daughters, Kelly, 7, and McKenzie, 8. The Century Elementary School pupils proudly show off their homework to-do lists (recommended by Academic Gameplan) to a visitor.

By giving football players the necessary coaching via Academic Gameplan, eight Fresno State football players qualified for Western Athletic Conference All-Academic honors with 3.2 or better cumulative GPAs and participation in half of the Bulldogs games last season. ■

Ron Orozco has been a newspaper reporter in Fresno for 30 years.



Stories by Leslie Sheets Cunning

# Bulldogs yesterday, educators today

Fresno State sports changed Prandini

Athletics Media Relations



Carlo Prandini is a low-key guy, who laughs easily, a trait that came in handy as principal of Clovis West High School and leader of its 2,770 students.

“Clovis West is diverse both economically and ethnically,” says Prandini. “It’s challenging to say the least.”

Now Prandini has a new challenge as a Clovis Unified assistant superintendent in charge of developing the district’s next education complex.

Prandini wasn’t always interested in education. He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School and entered Fresno State in 1970 where he “cruised along for a couple of semesters.”

Athletics changed that. Prandini becomes animated when he talks of his days as a sprinter with the Bulldog track and field program, guided by legendary coach Dutch Warmerdam. In the same breath, Prandini mentions coaches Red Estes, Ara Hairabedian and Jack Wilcox, using words such as “integrity” and “work ethic.”

“There’s a chance I wouldn’t be an educator without sports,” says Prandini. “Those men were such role models, they gave me the foundation I base my teaching on.”

He graduated from Fresno State in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and received his master’s in 1976. In 1988 he earned a master’s degree in education from the University of San Francisco.

Another local legend, Clovis schools superintendent Floyd “Doc” Buchanan, was an inspiration. Prandini quotes Buchanan when he says, “People not programs. I surround myself with excellent people because it’s the people who make the difference.”

Prandini and his wife, Theresa, have been married for 26 years and have three children, Christine, 24, Mark, 15, and Jenna, 12. ■

## Discus champion loves the classroom

So how does someone become a world class discus thrower? Lacy Barnes-Mileham laughs and answers, “I didn’t select the discus, it selected me.”

In middle school, Barnes-Mileham was diagnosed with cancer and had a kidney removed. After her operation, sprinting didn’t feel as natural as it had before for the recovering student, so her coach handed her a shotput and a discus and said, “Throw these.” Barnes-Mileham threw the discus farther.

Barnes-Mileham earned good grades in high school and was recruited on an athletic scholarship to Fresno State in 1983. You’d think with her background she would set her sights on coaching, but Barnes-Mileham majored in psychology instead.

Psychology professor Dr. Robert Levine, now associate dean of the College of Science and Mathematics at Fresno State, says, “Lacy is not only one of my all-time favorite students, but among one of the most remarkable women I’ve ever met. She excels in everything.”

In 1989 Barnes-Mileham earned a bachelor’s degree and married Matthew Mileham, an Olympic hammer-thrower for Great Britain. In 1992 Barnes-Mileham earned a master’s degree in psychology from Fresno State and began teaching at Reedley College, where students soon awarded her the Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching.

All the while Barnes-Mileham competed, including in the 1996 Atlanta



Athletics Media Relations

Courtesy Reedley College



Olympics. She and her husband also were raising daughter Cecilia, who is now 24 and a Division II national champion in the discus.

“I love teaching,” says Barnes-Mileham, a Fresno State, Fresno County, and soon to be Kern County Athletic Hall-of-Famer. “Education is the fabric from which my life is cut.”

Barnes-Mileham is finishing her doctorate in psychology from Claremont Graduate University. ■

*Leslie Sheets Cunning is a freelance writer in Fresno.*

# Bulldogs are more than athletic

By Jan Winslow



From preseason practice through postseason competition, Fresno State student-athletes lead full lives that require skillful time management to match athletic prowess on the field with academic excellence in the classroom.

Those individual efforts are paying off, especially in academic achievement. The good news:

- Bulldog student-athletes earned a record 2.91 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) in 2004, the highest in eight years. It was the seventh straight year that the Bulldogs earned a GPA higher than the rest of the campus student population.

- At last spring’s Kiwanis Torch of Excellence ceremony, 267 student-athletes were recognized as Fresno State scholar-athletes after achieving a 3.0 or better GPA during the 2003 spring and fall semesters: they represented 51 percent of the university’s student-athletes. Of those, 147 made the Dean’s List (3.5 or better GPA).

- In the 2003-04 academic year, 50 student-athletes recorded a perfect 4.0 GPA.

- Ten Bulldogs teams posted a 3.0 or better cumulative GPA.

- The President’s Medal, which honors the top graduating student each year, has been bestowed on two Bulldog student-athletes: Dora Djilianova, women’s tennis (2000), and Derrick Mitchell, track and field (1998).

Pursuing its goal of having academics and athletics go hand-in-hand, the Athletics Department is pleased to have

Thom Halls



**Provost Jeri Echeverria, center, celebrates the academic achievements of student-athletes Leticia Pacheco (softball), Cophie Moore (basketball), Brittany Rossi (equestrian) and Yuko Mori (volleyball).**

student-athletes participating in one of the university’s toughest programs – the Smittcamp Family Honors College.

Since it was established in 1999, the Smittcamp program has admitted 12 Bulldog student-athletes. To be accepted, students must have superior academics and co-curricular and community service achievements throughout high school.

Bulldog student-athletes have been honored at the conference and at national levels, too.

The Western Athletic Conference selected 142 Bulldogs as scholar-athletes for at least a 3.2 GPA and competing in 50 percent of their team’s events in 2003. And in fall 2004, Fresno State had 22 honorees in football, women’s cross country, women’s soccer and volleyball.

Over the years, the WAC has honored 600 Bulldogs for academic accomplish-

ment, and two – Becky Witt, softball (2001), and Christina Bell, soccer (1998) – are Stan Bates Award winners as the conference’s top senior scholar-athlete.

Nationally, the Bulldogs have had 23 Academic All-Americans since 1985, eight of whom were two-time winners and two, three-time honorees: 34 awards in all. Two Bulldogs were singled out as the Academic All-American of the Year – Djilianova (1999) and Tommy Minor, baseball (1994).

In 2004, three-time softball All-American Jamie Southern garnered her first Academic All-American award, becoming the 14th Fresno State student-athlete to collect All-American accolades for athletic and classroom achievement in the same year.

With national success comes the opportunity to receive other academic awards as well. Twelve Bulldogs have been honored as Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars. In 2001, Bulldog football player Vernon Fox was one of 15 student-athletes awarded a National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Postgraduate Scholarship and Fresno State boasts 12 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award winners and has had one NCAA Top VIII awardee, softball player Amanda Scott, in 2000.

Excellence in the classroom and on the field is proof of the commitment of Bulldog athletics to the university’s mission to provide broad-based educational opportunities. ■

*Jan Winslow is the assistant athletics media relations director at Fresno State.* ▶



By Jan Winslow



## Bulldog chatter

### Bid for the Bulldogs

It's never too early to start thinking about the Bid for the Bulldogs, a fan-favorite annual summertime event to raise money for the Fresno State Athletics Department. Anyone wishing to donate items may call the Marketing Office at 559.244.2800. Bid for the Bulldogs is scheduled for June 4 at the Save Mart Center at Fresno State.

### Exposure, recognition follow grid success

Making its fifth national TV appearance of the season, the Fresno State football team closed out 2004 with a thrilling 37-34 overtime defeat of 18th-ranked Virginia in the MPC Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho.



The win also accomplished many other things for the Bulldogs (9-3), starting with the team's highest season-ending ranking ever: No. 22 in both the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN polls.

The Bulldogs improved their bowl-game record to 11-8 in their sixth consecutive postseason appearance, the longest streak in the West. Fresno State is the only non-Bowl Championship Series school in the nation to play BCS opponents in four straight bowls, losing to Michigan State (Big 10), then beating Georgia Tech (SEC), UCLA (Pac-10) and Virginia (ACC).

It's not just about bowl games, though. The Bulldogs have established themselves as one of the West Coast's best college football programs. Since 1999, only two schools — Boise State (60) and USC (58) — have posted more victories than Fresno State's 57. Of those, 10 have come against BCS conference opponents. The Bulldogs, Fresno State and the Red Wave have gotten plenty of national exposure, too, with 22 appearances on ESPN/ESPN2 since the 2001 season.

### Toyota sponsors Athletes of the Week

Toyota is now the official sponsor of the Student-Athlete of the Week, one of the most popular attractions on Fresno State's official athletic Web site, [www.gobulldogs.com](http://www.gobulldogs.com), since it was established two years ago.

Displayed prominently on the front page, the Student-Athlete of the Week presented by Toyota also features an archive of past selectees.

### Building a better tomorrow

Being out in the community as a Bulldog has been something very special for Fresno State student-athletes and coaches over the years.

During the final six months of 2004, Bulldogs were involved in more than 60 community-service events, including the collection of more than 1,200 children's books for the ReadFresno book drive.

Bulldogs braved cold and rain to ring bells for the Salvation Army's red kettle campaign, stood over hot stoves and served meals at the Poverello House and visited children in the Boise area before the MPC Computers Bowl.

Fresno State student-athletes and coaches hold clinics, promote education and keeping away from drugs, serve as guest speakers at service clubs and, most important, continue to be constant and visible role models for young children and teenagers.



ReadFresno book drive

### Bulldog Foundation chooses officers

Angie DiLiddo is the new president of the Bulldog Foundation.

Also serving in 2005 are Hank Smith, first vice president; John Wallace, fund drive vice president; and Rob Saroyan, secretary-treasurer.

For more information see [www.bulldogfoundation.org](http://www.bulldogfoundation.org).



DiLiddo

### 'She Can Coach'

Fresno State softball head coach Margie Wright is one of 20 of the nation's most successful female coaches featured in "She Can Coach!"

The new book is designed to inspire women coaches and recruit the next generation of female sports mentors.

Joining Wright in offering advice on such topics as motivation, decision-making, coach-athlete relations, marketing and media are other notable coaching legends including Pat Summitt (Tennessee, basketball), Mary Wise (Florida, volleyball) and Nell Fortner (former Indiana Fever, WNBA).

"She Can Coach!" (\$19.95) is published by Human Kinetics Publishers.

Submit CLASS NOTES online to [www.fresnostatealumni.com](http://www.fresnostatealumni.com).

## Class notes

🐾 Fresno State Alumni Association member

### 1940s

**Virgil Rasmussen** (1940), 🐾 a long-time supporter of the university, was chosen by the Ag One Foundation that supports the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology as the 2005 Community Salute Dinner honoree.

### 1950s

**Kathleen (McCorry) Crookham** (1958) was re-elected to a third term on the Merced County Board of Supervisors.

### Rutherford "Bud" Gaston

(1953) 🐾 was honored at the Noted Alumni Dinner sponsored by Alumni and Friends of the Kremen School of Education.

**Kendall L. Manock** (1951) 🐾 was profiled in "Northern California Super Lawyers" published by San Francisco magazine.

**Jerry Tarkanian** (1955), 🐾 spokesperson for San Diego-based Embrace: Racial Harmony & Equality, was honored by the San Diego Gulls hockey team for volunteer efforts.

### 1960s

**Dennis DeLiddo** (1968), who is retiring as the Bulldogs' head wrestling coach after 24 seasons, will be inducted into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in May.

**Clifford Eischen** (1960) is the co-author of "Résumés, Cover Letters & Interviewing" (South-Western College Press; \$23.95).

**Jack Globenfelt** (1964) 🐾 was appointed executive director of the Sunset Cultural Arts Center in Carmel.

**Mathias Matoian** (1965), president of OK Produce in Fresno, was honored by Fresno State with the renaming of a campus street to Matoian Way.

**Peter G. Mehas** (1962) 🐾 was honored at the Noted Alumni Dinner sponsored by Alumni and Friends of the Kremen School of Education.

**Jim Santos** (1962) 🐾 was inducted into the United States Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Richard Shehadey** (1965), 🐾 president of Producer's Dairy, is overseeing a 36,000-square-foot expansion project.

### 1970s

**Jane (Janie) Abel** (1976) was appointed treasurer, stewardship chair and co-chair of the Networks and Population Team of the California Division of the American Cancer Society.

**Frank Gabriel Campos** (1977), a professor at Ithaca College's Whalen Center for Music, wrote "Trumpet Technique" (Oxford, \$65).

**Carol (Robertson) Chandler** (1971) 🐾 was selected as the 2004 Agriculturist of the Year by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Jim Costa** (1974) 🐾 was elected to the House of Representatives from the San Joaquin Valley.

**Stephen Goodall** (1979) has been promoted to regional vice president of North Operations for the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Corporation.

**Frederick W. Hatfield** (1977) was appointed by President Bush to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**Rhonda (Day) Herb** (1977, 1981) completed her Ph.D. in communication from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

**Stanley Jantz** (1974) has co-written "Creation and Evolution 101" (Harvest House, \$12.99) with Bruce Bickel.

**Scott Nishioki** (1976) was named chief of staff by U.S. Rep. Jim Costa.



(Sitting) Maureen Lewis, Arnold Grant, Warren Fortier; (standing) Art Parhan, Mike Patton.

State Sen. **Charles "Chuck" Poochigian** (1972) 🐾 is a Republican candidate for California attorney general.

**Debbie (Koligian) Poochigian** (1973) 🐾 was honored at the Common Threads Award Luncheon at Fresno State that recognizes women in agriculture.

**Bruce A. Roberts** (1975), former Kings County director and agronomy farm adviser for the University of California Cooperative Extension, is first holder of the J.G. Boswell Endowed Chair in Plant Science at Fresno State.

**Denise (Black) Sciandra** (1975) is the founding president of the Arne Nixon Center Advocates at Fresno State and received Fundraiser of the Year honors from the Madden Library.

**Dr. Mani Soma** (1975) was named acting dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Washington.

### 1980s

**Toni (Pallaya) Armendariz** (1982), a CPA, was appointed manager of General Accounting at Fresno State.

**Tom Bohigian** (1981) 🐾 was promoted to state director for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer of California.

**Timothy Byers** (1987, 1997) was hired as accounting manager by the James R. Jorgensen firm.

### Bulldog Bucks

The Fresno State Alumni Association has launched "Bulldog Bucks," a unique and cost-effective marketing opportunity.

Spearheaded by Arnold Grant of Heritage Marketing, "Bulldog Bucks" provides target marketing to a loyal Bulldog customer base.

For additional information, contact Grant, **559.313.4225**.

### Happy fifth birthday

The Smittcamp Alumni house will celebrate its fifth birthday with a wine tasting on April 27, 2005.

Dedicated on March 21, 2000, the Smittcamp Alumni House at Fresno State is named for the Smittcamp family. The two-story, 10,000-square-foot building stands near the main entrance to campus and welcomes alumni, students and friends to Fresno State.

Take an online virtual tour of the Smittcamp Alumni House at [www.fresnostatealumni.com](http://www.fresnostatealumni.com). For event rental information, call **559.278.2761**.



Photos by Peter Robertson



### Bulldog Alumni Wine Club

The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Fresno State Winery, is launching an exclusive Bulldog Alumni Wine Club.

Fresno State is home to the only on-campus commercial winery in the United States. It has won 146 awards over the years.

The winery will ship three bottles of limited-release award-winning wines twice a year to alumni.

“Wine lovers can support the Fresno State Alumni Association and the Fresno State Winery at the same time,” said Garrett Jones (2003), Fresno State Winery sales and marketing manager. Club members also receive a 15 percent discount on full-case wine purchases.

To join, call **559.278.ALUM** or go to **www.fresnostatealumni.com**.



**Garrett Jones and Fred Stein in the winery barrel room.**

**Shawn Carey** (1985) was appointed principal of Saint Anthony School in Fresno.

**Bill Coate** (1984), a teacher at Sierra Vista Elementary in Madera, led 14 students on a trek from El Paso to Austin, Texas, following a pioneer's route.

**Kathy (Barff) Colby** (1987) was promoted to executive vice president of sales and marketing at Claude Laval Corp. in Fresno.

**Ward Fansler** (1985) was selected as vice president of finance and administration and chief financial officer for Merritt College's Oakland and Sacramento campuses.

**Anthony Gamber** (1982) was the Fresno Association of Realtors 2004 Realtor of the Year.

**Matthew T. Loftus** (1987) joined Monsanto Dairy as area market manager.

**David Hussong** (1989) was hired as senior analyst at H&R Block in Kansas City, Mo.

**Enrique Lopez** (1982) opened Art Box gallery in Fresno.

**John McKeane** (1988) set a speed record at the Avenal Sand Drags track.

**J. Chris Robinson** (1981), a CPA, was appointed director of accounting services at Fresno State.

## 1990s

**Neil Castro** (1998) was appointed men's tennis coach by Fresno Pacific University.



### The Bulldog Byte

Fresno State Alumni can subscribe to the award-winning monthly E-newsletter, The Bulldog Byte. Connect online at **www.fresnostatealumni.com**.

**Chad Dotson** (1997) was appointed data processing supervisor at Professional Print & Mail.

**Stephanie Espinosa-Ringler** (1997) was appointed Central Valley regional director of the California Apartment Association.

**Nicole (Kasabian) Evans** (1993) was appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger as associate secretary for external affairs at the Health and Human Resources Agency.

**John “Jack” Hall** (1999) was chosen district director for U.S. Rep. Jim Costa and also was elected president of the Big Fresno Fair.

**Susan K. Hatmaker** (1992) became a partner with Sutton Hatmaker, a Fresno law firm.

**Ronald Hemman** (1997) opened a Weed Man franchise in Hanford.

**Barry Jager** (1993) was promoted to principal of Cole Elementary School in Clovis.

**Mario Langone** (1991), a member of Zenith:Nadir, had its song “My Odyssey” selected for “Renaissance — The Mix Collection #2.”

**Laurie Marshall** (1999) is the chief engineer for the third flight of the hypersonic X-43A research vehicle at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base.

**Kathleen Page** (1991) and Edgar Page (1991) formed the Page & Page law firm.

**Robin (Braze) Phanco** (1993) was appointed creative director of Virtual Cubed in Fresno.

**Patrick Prince** (1997) was appointed Multiple Listing Service operations manager for the Fresno Association of Realtors.

**Paula Richards** (1993) was appointed chief nursing officer at Tulare District Hospital after holding the same position at Children's Hospital Central California.

**Ultimio “Tim” Rios** (1993) was promoted to vice president and community development manager for Wells Fargo in Fresno.

**Frank M. Ruiz** (1992) created the logo for MINDHUB, an online community supporting creative professionals in the Central Valley.

**Mark Salazar** (1993), a Fresno Police sergeant, taped episodes of “COPS” for Fox-TV.

**Andrew Seeto** (1991) was hired as the regional account manager for CIT Small Business Lending Corp.

**Dr. Larry Shaw** (1993) was promoted to a professorship at BYU Idaho in the Health Science Department.

**Julie Smith** (1991), a former Bulldog and Olympic softball player, was named head coach and general manager of the New York/New Jersey Juggernaut pro softball team.

**James Spinetta** (1993) was awarded the Young Farmers & Ranchers Achievement Award by the California Farm Bureau Federation for his work at Charles Spinetta Winery in Plymouth.

**Michael Villines** (1990) was elected to the state Assembly from California's 29th District.

**Georgianne (Ahamnos) White** (1992) was appointed chief of staff for Fresno Mayor Alan Autry.

**Melissa Wolfmann** (1992) 🐾 sang selections from “Un Ballo in Maschera” in a benefit performance for the Townsend Opera Players in Modesto.

**Stephanie Wong** (1993) was appointed the strategic director at Design 5 in Fresno.

## 2000s

**Heather Addison** (2003) was commissioned a second lieutenant in the California National Guard.

**Ryan Garcia** (2004) won the National Bicycle League's Grand National Championship in the men's 22-29 expert class.

**Garrett Jones** (2003) was appointed director of sales and marketing at the Fresno State Winery.

**Brooke Levin** (2002), a designer at Smith Consulting Architects in San Diego, was runner-up in a storefront window design competition hosted by Workplace Services.

**Joshua Tehee** (2002) was appointed to direct public relations for Greytank Records.

**Nick Watney** (2003), a former Bulldog golfer, earned a PGA Tour playing card with his performance on the developmental Nationwide Tour in 2004.

## Etc.

**Louis Ammirati**, a Spanish teacher and retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, was named Teacher of the Year for 2004-05 by Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic School in Tucson, Ariz.

**David Carr**, the Houston Texans quarterback who starred at Fresno State, was listed by People magazine's Nov. 29, 2004, issue as the Sexiest Pro Quarterback.

**Kathy Fagan**, an English professor at Ohio State University, received the 2004 James P. Barry Ohioana Award for Editorial Excellence by the Ohioana Library Association.

**John Hollingsworth** 🐾 president of DataWorks Educational Research, was honored as 2004 Entrepreneur of the Year by Union Bank of California.



**Cuyler Legler** was chosen club pro by Copper River Country Club near Friant.

**Thomas Mar**, a World War II Army veteran, was grand marshal of Porterville's Veterans Day Parade.

**Caty Massey** 🐾 was promoted to director of development for the Craig School of Business at Fresno State.

**Harold Mynster** was appointed president of Elcon in San Jose, which engineers metal components for a variety of applications.

**Jill Nakamura**, a first-grade teacher at Wishon Elementary School in Fresno, was chosen to the All-USA Teacher Team by USA Today.

**John Obermire** was appointed to the management team at Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant in Coalinga.

**Jeff Weaver**, a former Fresno State pitcher now with the Los Angeles Dodgers, was inducted into the Bulldog Baseball Hall of Fame.

## By the numbers

**12** Fresno State alumni participating in the 2004-5

Leadership Fresno class sponsored by the Greater Area Fresno Chamber of Commerce: **Eric Cole** (1991), **Melanie Fortier** (1998), **Jana Harris** (1988), **Alan Hofmann** (1979), **Robert Hofman**, **Darrel Hyatt** (1979), **Genelle Taylor Kumpe** (1995), **Carol “Cam” Maloy** (1982), **Kenneth Maul**, **Manjit Muhar-AI** (1998, 2000), **Doua Vu** (2002) and **Robert Weil** (1984, 1992).

**7** Alumni on the steering committee of Creative Fresno, an arts organization founded by the

### Homecoming

Get in on the fun and help your alma mater by volunteering to serve on the committee for Homecoming 2005, which will be held Oct. 9-15.

Among the activities is the homecoming tailgate, which will be held on Oct. 15, when Fresno State takes on Utah State at Bulldog Stadium.

To participate, call Leticia Reyna at **559.278.ALUM**.



Great Valley Center: **A. Reza Assemi** (1998), **John Boyle** (1998), **Cary Catalano** (1999), 🐾 **Bret Engelman** (1996, 1999), 🐾 **Matthew Ikonian** (1999), **Adam Longatti** (2002) and **Henry T. Perea** (2001). 🐾

**7** Fresno Advertising Federation directors who went to Fresno State: **Tricia Bowlby**, **Doug Broten** (1971), **Vince Coronado** (1994), **Cliff Davis** (1974), **Eric McCormick** (1994), **Tim Ritchey** (1975) and **Stephanie Wong** (1993).

**7** Alumni on staff at Sierra Pacific Orthopaedic Center in Fresno: **David E. Taylor** (1967), **Dawnlynn Suglian** (1984), **Greg Granato** (1995), **Greg Mellor** (1993), **Jeryl Wiens**, **R. Joe Clark** (1989) and **Rod S. Kraft** (1977).

**6** Alumni of Fresno State on the United Way of Fresno County staff: **Joseph Dominguez** (2003), **Arthur Enns** (1970), **Mari Hamilton** (1979), **Juan Hernandez** (2003), **Carol Hightower** (1972) and **Matthew Pendola** (2002).

### 2004-05 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Executive Committee:** President: John Gomes (BS 1979, MBA 1994); Past-President: Ken Campbell (BA 1969, MA 1974); Vice President, Finance/President-Elect: Valerie Vuicich (BS 1979); Vice President, Membership and Marketing: Warren Fortier (BS 1996, MBA 1998); Vice President, Alumni House: Scott Bell (BS 1982); Vice President, Alliances: Frances Pena-Olgin (BS 1977, MSW 1979); Vice President, Board and Volunteer Development: Judith C. Sharp.

**At-large members:** Arakel Arisian (BS 2001), Mark Barsotti (BS 1992), Caroline Cuadros Edwards (BA 1965, MA 1990), David Emerzian (BS 1999), Roberto Gomez (student, Craig School of Business), Susan Good (BA 1975), Mae Johnson (BA 1959), Maureen Lewis (BS 1995), Omel Nieves (BA 1983), Arthur A. Parham (BS 1971), R. Michael Patton (BA 1967, MBA 1972); Debbie Poochigian (BS 1974), Vinci Ricchuiti (BA 1981), Hon. Armando Rodriguez (BA 1959), Charles Small (BS 1979), Kevin Sweeney (BS 1988), Douglas A. Yavarian (BA 1965), Richard Whitten, M.D. (BS 1961), Susan Lyons Woods (BA 1974).

**Ex-officio members:** University President Dr. John D. Welty, Vice President for University Advancement Dr. Peter N. Smits, Executive Director Jacquelyn Glasener (MA 2002), Associated Students President Molly Fagundes.

**Fresno State Alumni Association staff:** Executive Director: Jacquelyn Glasener (MA 2002); Assistant Director, Alumni Programs: Leticia Reyna Cano (BS 1998, MA 2002); Manager, Membership and Marketing: Peter Robertson (BA 1992, MA 1995); Office Manager: Diana Sewell; Programs, Events and Membership Assistant: Liz Salvador (BA 2000); Smittcamp Alumni House Manager: Lois May; Membership Coordinator: Peggy Ramos.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Fresno State Alumni Association  
California State University, Fresno  
Smittcamp Alumni House  
2625 E. Matoian Way SH124  
Fresno, CA 93740-8000

Telephone: **559.278.ALUM**  
559.278.2586

Fax: 559.278.6790

Online: **www.fresnostatealumni.com**



Blasts from the past

The Alumni Association salutes the Class of 1955, which graduated 50 years ago.

The 1955 “Campus” yearbook includes these photos.

Do you know who they are? Check your memory against the answers on Page 29.



Bulldog Walkway

Three-time U.S. Olympic Gold Medalist

Laura Berg (1998) and Silver Medalist Stephen Abas display their personalized tiles for the Bulldog Walkway in front of the Save Mart Center.



Berg



Abas

Tiles priced at \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 each are available. Proceeds benefit the Alumni Association’s Student Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Special thanks to our sponsor Merrill Lynch.

Call Lois May at 559.278.2761.

Marriages

**Kenneth Bliss** (1995) and Linda Roberts on Nov. 8, 2003.

**Michelle Christine Brown** (1999) and **Scott Alan Blackburn** (1992) on Sept. 11, 2004.

**Kristin Duerig** (2003) and **Domenick Bomben** (2003) on Sept. 25, 2004, in San Jose.

**Adrian Fierro** (1989) and Gabriela Gallentine in December 2004, in Coalinga.

**Timothy Jones** (1998) and **Nelina Patino** (2005) on Jan. 12, 2005, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

**Enica Jordan** (1996) and Mark Ungerbiller on Oct. 9, 2004, in Las Vegas.

**Genelle Taylor** (1995) and **Matthew Kump** on Aug. 20, 2004, in Santa Barbara.

**Shannon Spann** (1998, 2004) and Brian Puphal on Sept. 5, 2004, in Fish Camp.

**Tessa Ramirez** (2002) and Stephen Lovato on Nov. 13, 2004.

**Gregory Richburg** and **Jeanine Emerzian** on Nov. 13, 2004.

**Bertha Gonzalez Romero** (1988) and Peter Andrew Drake on June 26, 2004.

**Lindsey Sanchez** (2000) and Joshua Radcliff on July 12, 2003, in Monterey.

**Heather Seibert** (1999) and Scott Silva on Oct. 23, 2004.

**Shelly Syvertsen** (1999) and Timothy Bone on Nov. 27, 2004, in Fresno.

**Julie Wakefield** (1996) and Timothy Hulse on Jan. 15, 2005.

**Jeremy Lane** (1997) and Flannery Montaña Good on Nov. 5, 2004.

**Jennifer Vaughn** (1994, 1997) and **Robert Saroyan** on Sept. 4, 2004, in Napa Valley.

**Courtney Lauren Voita** (2003) and Benjamin James Fritz on Jan. 8, 2005.

Engagements

**Emmeline “Emmi” Martin** and **Jake Jennings**.

**Caty Massey** and **Alex Perez** (2000).

Bulldog Alumni of Tomorrow

**Ruth (Aleman) Falcon** (1995) and Juan Falcon gave birth to a girl, Lauren Michelle, on Jan. 5, 2005.

**Tony** and **Frances Garduque** are grandparents of Priscilla Frances Ponce, born Nov. 14, 2003, in Clovis.

**Shelley (Cousineau) McKenry** (1996) and Sean McKenry gave birth to a girl, Haley Ryane, on June 26, 2004.

**Janine (Sanwo)** (1987) and Thomas Nakazawa gave birth to a girl, Kellie Aiko, on Oct. 12, 2004.

**Jason Shoup** (1999) and Brandy Ramos Nikaido gave birth to a boy, Zachary Michael, on Feb. 12, 2004, in Clovis.

**Wendy Wood** (2000) adopted a boy, Lukas, from Nepal.

Retirements

**Robert Berger** (1971), after 20 years as controller of The McClatchy Company in Sacramento.

**Dr. Richard Rees** (1965), after 26 years operating a pediatrics practice in Oakhurst.

**Mark Tracy** (1972), the Santa Cruz County sheriff, after a 33-year law-enforcement career.

In Memoriam

**Shirley Abbott** (1955) on Oct. 28, 2004.

**Thelma Ambrose** (1926) on Oct. 4, 2004.

**Walter “Tic” Aufderheide** (1950) on Nov. 27, 2004.

**Wilbur Beasley** (1949) on Nov. 5, 2004.

**Wayne Beiderwell** (1967) on Oct. 17, 2004.

**Sara Bender** (1954) on Nov. 25, 2004.

**Gerald W. Berryhill** on Oct. 8, 2004.

**Donn Beedle, Sr.** (1949) on Nov. 2, 2004.

**Betty Jean Bray** on Dec. 4, 2004.

**William Briam** on Nov. 2, 2004.

**Louise Britten** (1934) on Jan. 2, 2005.

**Nelle Budd** on Dec. 4, 2004.

**Max Caldwell** on Dec. 20, 2004.

**Marjorie Cardell** (1934) on Nov. 23, 2004.

**Fred Claggett** (1950) on Oct. 1, 2004.

**Lois Cover** on Oct. 3, 2004.

**Paul Comparan** (1992) on Jan. 26, 2005.

**Joy Ann Defendis** (1954) on Oct. 31, 2004.

**Valentine De La Rosa** (1977) on Dec. 3, 2004.

**Nancy Melchior Diltz** (1945) on Nov. 11, 2004.

**Barbara Dougherty** (1937) on Oct. 17, 2004.

**James Fairless** (1951) on Jan. 18, 2005.

**Mary Jane Folkers** (1957) on Dec. 10, 2004.

**James W. Ford** (1942) on Nov. 26, 2004.

**Marion Forrest** (1952) on Nov. 25, 2004.

**Matthew Fries** (1983) on Jan. 22, 2005.

**Russell W. Gash** (1964) on Oct. 9, 2004.

**Ruth Gonzalez** (1973) on Oct. 2, 2004.

**Stanley Griffin** (1966) on Jan. 18, 2005.

**Alice Henry** (1972) on Jan. 13, 2005.

**Robert R. Hill** (1957) on Sept. 25, 2004.

**Evelyn Keedy** (1939) on Oct. 17, 2004.

**Jack Krieger** (1959) on Dec. 23, 2004.

**Carol Ann (Kratt) Larson** (1952).

**Nancy Leest** (1954) on Jan. 13, 2005.

**Jewell Schoonover LeRoux** on Jan. 30, 2005

**James Luppino** (1960) on Jan. 17, 2005.

**Kevin Maekawa** (1984) on Dec. 5, 2004.

**Edith Majors** (1973) on Dec. 5, 2004.

**Linda Meachum** (1988) on Jan. 18, 2005.

**Lisa Mendoza** on Jan. 22, 2005.

**Jose Luis Moralez** (1981) on Nov. 29, 2004.

**Patricia Ann Murray** on Dec. 14, 2004.

**Nelda Newcomb** on Nov. 16, 2004.

**Norine Oliver** (1983, 1990) on Nov. 17, 2004.

**Marie Paul** (1975) on Oct. 5, 2004.

**Richard Rogers** (1965) on Oct. 26, 2004.

**Eileen Jane Seed** (1941) on Oct. 21, 2004.

**Kenneth Swor** (1959) on Nov. 10, 2004.

**Mary Jo Spenhoff** (1950) on Jan. 4, 2005.

**Robert Tomerlin** (1985) on Oct. 6, 2004.

**Stanford Watson** (1948) on Nov. 24, 2004.

**Francis White** (1926, 1930) on Nov. 3, 2004.

**Joel Wiebe** (1953) on Dec. 16, 2004.

**John Woltz** (1970) on Oct. 5, 2004.

**Thelma Wood** (1945) on Oct. 10, 2004.

**Nadine Zigenman** (1949) on Jan. 6, 2005.

**Jerome Zulfa** (1966) on Nov. 11, 2004.

Alma Mater

Let us in song, our voices raise  
In Cloistered Courts, to sound thy praise.  
Each voice and heart that sings is true  
To thee, oh, Cardinal and Blue.  
For thee, our hopes and memories;  
For thee, our hearts and loyalties.  
Thy sons and daughters hail thee great,  
Our Alma Mater, Fresno State!

**BLASTS FROM THE PAST answers:**  
*Majorettes: Mary Leach and Maureen Wright.*

*High Priests of Howl: Tom Stears, Pat Reed, Jim Jorgenson and Gordon Peak.*

Alumni Chapters

The Fresno State Alumni Association has 12 alumni chapters.

Each sponsors programs, workshops, tailgate parties and networking events focused on academic, geographic or special interest.

One of these chapters, Alumni and Friends of the Kremen School of Education, is establishing a \$100,000 endowment for student scholarships. The chapter hosts several events throughout the year, including a wine and cheese reception, a Noted Alumni Dinner and an entertainment event.

The Engineering Alumni Chapter and the Alumni and Friends of the Craig School of Business sponsor spring golf tournaments and Noche Habanera is presented each spring by the Chicano Alumni Chapter.

To learn more about these events and to join any alumni chapter, visit [www.fresnostatealumni.com](http://www.fresnostatealumni.com).

Membership benefits

Fresno State Alumni Association members enjoy 87 special benefits.

On-campus these include discounts at the Bulldog Shop and the Kennel Bookstore, as well as reduced rates for admission to Music Department, the USU Recreation Center and University Theatre events.

For a complete listing of membership benefits, go to [www.fresnostatealumni.com](http://www.fresnostatealumni.com).



Stories by Jorene Barut-Phillips



Courtesy Conrad Labandeira

Conrad Labandeira at a Paleocene site in the Western United States.

### Examining prehistoric life

He might like spiders and snakes, but that's not what it takes to thrill Fresno State alumnus Conrad Labandeira (1980).

In 1988, this bug expert discovered the world's then-oldest insect, a 388-million-year-old bristletail from Quebec, Canada. Labandeira found the silverfish-like creature, *Gaspea palaeoentognathae*, in a fossil record.

While most of us might consider that the achievement of a career, Labandeira begs to differ. Just five years later, he provided an exhaustive review of the fossil insect record, concluding that major adaptations of plant-related features of insects appeared long before the appearance of flowering plants. His article appeared in the prestigious journal *Science*, and, he says, the results are still current.

Today, the renowned paleobiologist — one who studies fossils as once-living organisms — is the curator of fossil arthropods at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of

Natural History in Washington, D.C. As a paleoentomologist, Labandeira studies prehistoric insects.

It was a long crawl for the grandson of Portuguese immigrants. He triple majored at Fresno State, earning a bachelor's degree in biology, geology and anthropology in 1980, followed by master's and doctoral degrees from Wisconsin and Chicago, respectively.

His future was written in soil years earlier, he says. "I picked cotton at my parents' farm in Riverdale and because of my predilection for examining soil for insects, I wasn't averse to picking less-than-pristine cotton."

Not only was the flawed cotton unfit for ginning, Labandeira's mother worried about the amount of time he spent with creepy-crawlers.

Still, Labandeira inched his way to success. "I spent 25 years doing drywall," he says, "but the thrill of discovering new suites of plant-insect associations that are hundreds of millions of years old is more exciting."

develop collaborative partnerships with individuals in various communities to serve as the university's emissaries.

"These ambassador volunteers will assist the university by serving as liaisons in promoting Fresno State programs and identifying community needs and resources," says

Frances Peña-Olgin (1977, 1979), the Alumni Association's vice president for alliances.

The program strives to remove large-campus barriers and provide a friendly way to assist and recruit potential students.

"It's about getting connected — about bringing a bit of

Fresno State to these communities," says Leticia Reyna (1998, 2002), assistant director of alumni programs. "The ambassadors will act as point people, accessing information quickly by contacting us."

For information or to volunteer, call Reyna at **559.278.ALUM**.



Courtesy Jackson Maleke

Jackson Maleke and his wife, Cherry.

I was magnetized," the father of three said. "My professors at Fresno State were unbelievably good to me."

One month after graduating and returning to his home village of Kanye in 1991, Maleke's former employer, Rural Industries Innovation Centre, promoted him to senior information officer.

After earning a master's degree in South Africa, Maleke advanced to his current chief information officer position, managing and coordinating public relations. The center helps develop technologies geared toward improving living standards for Botswana's people.

Maleke has contributed to Botswana's growth from one of the world's 20 poorest countries into Africa's richest non-oil-producing nation, and he has broadened Fresno State's international connections and influence.

Accepted to several colleges, he selected Fresno State because "the curriculum for the journalism program was very comprehensive and attractive.

By Doug Hansen

When Dr. Gina Strumwasser, a professor in the Fresno State Department of Art and Design since 1971, sees the Conley Art Building courtyard olive tree, she remembers a special trip to Italy.



## Olea europaea

The olive tree in the Conley Art Building courtyard was painted from life in opaque water color on colored mat board.

Olives are green when young and ripen to deep purple, then black before dropping. Narrow, tapering leaves are aptly described as "lanceolate."



Randy Vaughn-Dotta

**"While driving to the northern Tuscan village of Vinci, groves of olive trees greeted my husband and me at each successive bend of the road. High above the town, from the ramparts of the Vinci Castle, gardens of olives stretched beyond the curvilinear pattern of the path. Later we trekked through an olive orchard that enveloped an antiquated building: the house of the Renaissance painter, Leonardo da Vinci. Thousands of years old, the venerable olive tree characterizes familial occupation, transcends generations and defies time. The small gray-green leaves cast a silvery hue at dawn and glow in the evening's light, transforming the grove's demeanor from earthy to otherworldly."**

Tree Portraits appears regularly in *FresnoState Magazine*. Illustrator Doug Hansen teaches in the university's Department of Art and Design.

The Fresno State campus, which has 4,000 trees, was officially designated an arboretum in 1978. If you'd like to write about a favorite tree at the university and have it illustrated for Tree Portraits, contact Hansen at [dhansen@csufresno.edu](mailto:dhansen@csufresno.edu) or 559.278.2817.





## WINNING IN ACADEMICS

Student-athletes surround Provost Jeri Echeverria, the university's chief academic officer, as they celebrate excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. *Page 23*



## PINNACLE OF GIVING

The generosity of alumni, friends, parents, businesses and foundations is vital to programs all across the campus. *Page 19*



## ENGAGED IN LEARNING

At a Fresno elementary school, a dedicated student-teacher captivates her small charges and inspires them to achieve. *Page 12*