

# FRESNO STATE

MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2017



## RESEARCH ENGINE

A University where  
high-tech thinking  
meets hands-on  
solutions

Research Across Campus  
PAGE 16

A Canvas for the Arts  
PAGE 20

Coach Jeff Tedford Q&A  
PAGE 28



# Opportunities Grow for Valley Students

**A**s we break barriers of access to an affordable college education at Fresno State, new opportunities arise for students in the Central Valley and beyond. The result is a more prosperous region.

While the California State University Board of Trustees announced a \$270 systemwide tuition increase starting next year, Fresno State continues to provide tremendous value with the lowest student fees in the 23-campus CSU system.

Revenue generated by the increase will be directed to student achievement efforts, including strategies that will allow for improved graduation rates and will help eliminate equity gaps for low-income and underserved students. By 2023, our goal at Fresno State is to assist our students in achieving a six-year graduation rate at or near 70 percent and a four-year rate at or near 50 percent, which would place Fresno State in the top 15 percent of public universities nationally.

We are focused on student success at Fresno State and on providing the support systems our students need to reach their fullest potential, earn good jobs and contribute to their communities. For many of our graduates, those community contributions start while they are students.

As you'll see in this issue of **Fresno State Magazine**, there are more opportunities than ever before for our students and distinguished faculty to engage in hands-on research that applies to some of the most pressing real-world issues in Central California — drought, air pollution, children's health and more. The research projects highlighted in this issue offer just a few examples of the hundreds of projects being driven right now by our faculty and students in conjunction with community partners.

The stories you're about to read show that when you support Fresno State, you're supporting our entire region. As we boldly expand student opportunities to learn by doing, the foundation is being set for future advances in our Valley.

So as you turn the pages, envision the possibilities when the community and the University work as one.



Dr. Joseph I. Castro  
President, Fresno State



# CONTENTS

FRESNO STATE NEWS	4
RESEARCH ENGINE	10
IN THE KNOW   ACADEMICS	20
DIFFERENCE MAKERS	26
SPORTS	28
ALUMNI NEWS	34

Cover illustration by Joel Beery

**On the cover:** Borrowing inspiration from da Vinci's famed "The Vitruvian Man," the cover illustration depicts an unmanned aircraft system like those being developed by Fresno State students and faculty to collect data for farming applications. The throwback style of the artwork represents the way modern technology is being used to enhance traditional practices. See story on Page 10.

**Inside photo** by Cary Edmondson

Fresno State engineering student Marc Hernandez places ground sensors in an almond orchard to measure soil moisture, humidity and temperature. The data will then be transmitted to an unmanned aircraft system flying overhead and used to help ensure water efficiency on the farm.

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**Phone: 559.278.2795 · Fax: 559.278.2436**

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*Fresno State serves the richly diverse region of Central California. We are proud to have the U.S. Department of Education designate our University as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.*

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## Oh, To Be Young Again

What do you remember most about college? For some, the answer is fun. Sure, there were late nights cramming for tests and finishing those term papers we procrastinated on. There was stress over homework assignments and keeping up that grade point average.

But in between all the hard work it took to earn that degree and prepare for the job market, college was the doorway to new friendships, new experiences and memories that last a lifetime.

Those are the types of memories about 500 students made on a Friday night, April 21, as they kicked off the 43rd annual Vintage Days festival with a new tradition — a powder paint party.

With the live music selections of DJ Burns, students danced on the lawn north of the Lab School late into the night with new friends and old alike, all the while being covered in a rainbow of neon powder paint.

Sounds like the perfect way to dive in to the three-day Vintage Days festival that attracted about 50,000 people from the community to celebrate Fresno State and enjoy food, games, crafts and more.





FRESNO STATE

# NEWS

by Tom Uribes

University President Joseph I. Castro dances with students in front of their families outside the Madden Library on Preview Day.



Cary Edmondson

## Millions of Reasons Fresno State is Good for the Economy

A study of the economic and fiscal impact of Fresno State on the Central Valley's economy showed the University is a powerful economic driver, pumping \$716.9 million in business sales into the region.

The study, conducted by Dr. Antonio Avalos, chair of the Department of Economics in the Craig School of Business, measured the economic ripple effect of the University and its auxiliaries and employee and student spending — averaged during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 fiscal years — on job creation, sales for local firms, and state and local taxes.

The research found the annual impact of Fresno State's expenses supported 9,904 jobs and created \$282.5 million in labor income for Valley residents. The report also shows a 6.75 percent return on investment from taxpayer funding to the University.

"Fresno State prepares a highly educated and skilled workforce to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving regional and state economy," says Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro. "The University is an outstanding investment of taxpayer dollars, giving back far more than it receives."

The study also showed the value of earning a college degree for both alumni and the community at large, finding that an increase of 10 percentage points in undergraduate degree attainment produces an increase of more than \$11,000 in the median household income across the state. "Higher education is the key to unlocking economic prosperity for our community," Castro says.

**\$716.9 million**  
in business sales  
into the region

**9,904 jobs**  
supported

**\$282.5 million**  
in labor income



▲ Juan Felipe Herrera

## From the Library of Congress to the Madden Library

Fresno State professor emeritus Juan Felipe Herrera completed an historic and rare two terms as the United States poet laureate April 25 with a music-laden closing ceremony themed “Speak the People/the Spark/el Poema” at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

Participating in the final event for Herrera, the former Chicano studies professor originally from Fowler, were four Fresno State faculty members and 20 students comprising the Fresno State Chamber Singers. Directed by Dr. Cari Earnhart, the chorale performance featured newly commissioned pieces developed by music professors Benjamin Boone and Kenneth Froelich in collaboration with the poet laureate.

The author of 30 books of poetry, novels for young adults and collections for children, Herrera has been one of the most active poets laureate in the history of the position. He worked with Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro to create a West Coast office located in the Henry Madden Library and christened the “Laureate Lab — Visual Wordist Studio.” With a soft opening in August, it is billed as a performance and classroom space that Herrera and student assistants are using to develop small-scale, dynamic programs and classes for the local community, mixing poetry with visual arts, song and movement. Located behind the main lobby counter, the lab will function as a legacy to Herrera’s tenure as poet laureate.



## How Sweet It Is

A modern citrus packing line valued at \$600,000 was donated to the Fresno State campus by Bee Sweet Citrus, one of the state’s industry leaders. The packing line can inspect, clean, wash, dry, sort, box and seal fruit harvested from the 1,000-acre campus farm. Sections of the equipment can process 10 oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, lemons, nectarines, peaches or pomegranates per second.

“The citrus industry continues to invest in new technologies, advanced automation, innovative research and modern infrastructure to compete in the world market,” says Jim Marderosian, Bee Sweet Citrus founder and president and a 1979 Fresno State graduate.

“Bee Sweet Citrus is proud to invest in Fresno State and the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology so their students are prepared to meet the challenges of the modern agricultural industry.”

The equipment, the first of its kind on a college campus, provides students with hands-on instruction for mechanical systems and industrial maintenance as applied to food processing and safety.

The line is composed of equipment from six specialized area equipment manufacturers: Aweta Americas, Decco U.S. Postharvest, Intelligrated, Mid Valley Packing and Supply, Valley Automation Solutions and Valley PackLine Solutions. J.M. Equipment Company also provided forklifts that were used in the delivery and construction process.

◀ Bee Sweet Citrus donated a modern citrus packing line to the University to help students get hands-on instruction related to food processing and safety.

**BOLD**  
*gives*  
**BACK**



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



*Touyee Thao,  
University Graduate  
Medalist*



*Alexandra Gallo,  
President's Medalist*

## Introducing the Medalists

Touyee Thao of Fresno was named the University Graduate Medalist and Alexandra Gallo of Hollister was named the President's Medalist — the University's top student honors — at the 106th commencement May 20.

Thao earned his master's in plant science with a 4.0 GPA. Growing up as one of 10 siblings from an immigrant family, Thao was fascinated by agriculture at an early age. At Fresno State, he researched how to optimize irrigation scheduling to address the challenge of water management in California. His goal is to share his knowledge with Southeast Asian farmers to help them improve soil and water conservation. Thao volunteers an average of 12 hours per week mentoring youth in the Hmong community.

Gallo earned her bachelor's degrees in political science and communication with a 3.81 GPA. The first-generation graduate studied abroad, was elected to student government, engaged in service-learning, was a Maddy intern with Congressman Jim Costa and served with the League of Women Voters. She is a three-time winner of the President's Volunteer Service Award for completing 200 hours of service each year at organizations like the Every Neighborhood Partnership and the Ronald McDonald House. She will intern with Costa in Washington, D.C., before applying to law school.



## Blake Zante Elected New Student Body President

Blake Zante, 21, a junior political science major with a minor in general business, was elected Associated Students, Inc. president for 2017-18. Zante, a graduate of Clovis West High School, is a member of the Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity and a student in the Smittcamp Family Honors College. Also elected were 15 senators and three other executive officers. Newly elected officials took office June 1.



## AROUND THE FOUNTAIN



### Academic All-American

Fresno State graduate Jacob Vazquez was named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Division I Football second-team, becoming the seventh Bulldog football player to earn such an honor. The former offensive lineman, who earned a bachelor's in agricultural business with a 4.0 GPA, joins Justin Northern and Derek Carr as the third Bulldog football player in five seasons to be named an Academic All-American. Vazquez started seven games for the Bulldogs this past season and 14 in his career.

### 200 Years of Deaf Education

Two hundred years after the first American School for the Deaf opened in Connecticut, Fresno State held a series of events drawing hundreds to the campus. "Our 200th Anniversary of Deaf Education event [was] the largest event on the West coast," says Dr. Janice Smith-Warshaw, director of the deaf education programs at Fresno State. "The goal is to recognize and show an appreciation for the history of deaf education and to build awareness about this wonderful community of deaf and hard of hearing individuals right here in the Valley. We want participants to see their heritage has a place in history."



**BOLD  
gives  
BACK**

## Volunteers Take to the Streets

Fresno State student, faculty and staff volunteers raised about \$47,000 on March 7 for Kids Day benefitting Valley Children's Hospital. Volunteers sold special edition newspapers from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at intersections across the Central Valley.

The majority of the volunteers were students, with more than 80 clubs and organizations represented. Many campus offices also contributed to the success of Kids Day, including enrollment services and University police.

"It is inspiring to see so many Fresno State students get up early to sell special edition newspapers in order to raise money for Valley Children's Hospital," says Taylan Bennett, special projects coordinator for the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning at Fresno State. "Their commitment to our community is displayed clearly through this event, and I am in awe of the amount of donations they collected."

Special recognition on campus went to the Fresno State Army ROTC Bulldog Battalion for raising the highest amount of any campus group at about \$6,000.



**LEARNING  
BY SERVING**

## Not the Traditional Spring Break

Three groups of Fresno State students engaged in Alternative Spring Break, a five-day community service project with RiverTree Fresno, Stone Soup Fresno and the Discovery Center. The 22 students participating volunteered more than 1,000 hours of service while working from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day.

Sponsored by the University Student Union, the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning and Friends for Civic Engagement, the students served while enhancing their personal and professional development through leadership, team building, communication and networking with other students and community benefit organizations.

### What's New on 90.7 KFSR?

There's a growing offering of new programs on 90.7 KFSR, a nonprofit, listener-supported public radio station housed on the Fresno State campus.

Each show can be streamed live or accessed via podcast on [www.kfsr.org](http://www.kfsr.org).

#### SATURDAYS

##### 8:30 a.m.: Fresno State Sports Report

Hosted by Jim Bartko, director of athletics, and Eddie Hughes, Fresno State Magazine editor

#### SUNDAYS

##### 10 a.m.: First Lady's Focus

Hosted by First Lady Mary Castro and Julie Logan, KFSR station manager

##### 10:30 a.m.: Fresno State Student Spotlight

Hosted by Dr. Frank Lamas, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management

##### 11 a.m.: Fresno State Service in Action

Hosted by Chris Fiorentino, director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning



### Opera Lives in the Central Valley

Fresno State Opera Theatre delivered two productions that shone a bright spotlight on the genre. "Opera Lucinda," a children's opera featuring Mexican folk melodies with traditional Christmas carols, was the result of a \$10,000 grant awarded by the Central Valley Community Foundation to reach rural communities that would benefit from seeing live opera theatre. For "Die Fledermaus," Fresno State Opera Theatre joined forces with the University's Symphony Orchestra to perform a full opera production involving more than 75 students.





# Building Bulldog Pride One Post at a Time

Engage on social media and join us in spreading school spirit across the map



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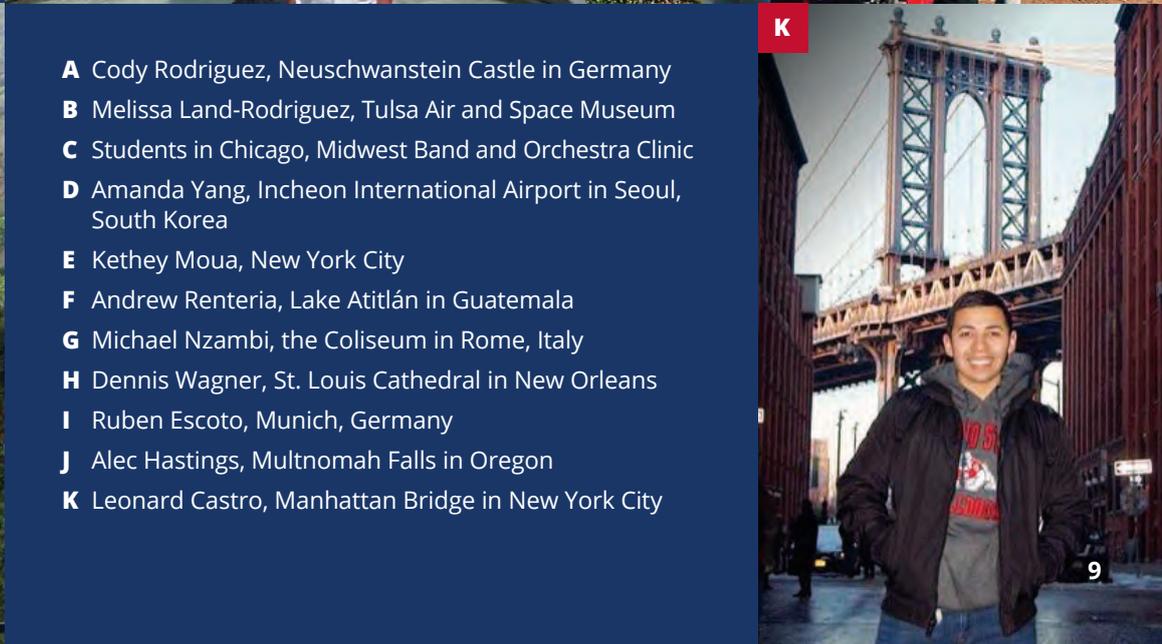


@fresno\_state



fresno\_state

Bulldogs fans and alumni are always representing — and we love them for it. People frequently send, post and tweet their travel photos showing Fresno State pride from fun and historic destinations — and we want to see more. This summer, use hashtag **#RepFresnoState** and let's see where our brand travels around the world. So share your photos, and let's boost Bulldog pride worldwide.



◀ After a presentation in the village of Ahwia, Ghana, craft experts show Frank Puccio how adinkra cloths were traditionally woven and imprinted with an indelible paste that takes three days to make. Puccio is the manager of finance and administration for Fresno State's Division of Continuing and Global Education.

- A** Cody Rodriguez, Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany
- B** Melissa Land-Rodriguez, Tulsa Air and Space Museum
- C** Students in Chicago, Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic
- D** Amanda Yang, Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea
- E** Kethey Moua, New York City
- F** Andrew Renteria, Lake Atitlán in Guatemala
- G** Michael Nzambi, the Coliseum in Rome, Italy
- H** Dennis Wagner, St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans
- I** Ruben Escoto, Munich, Germany
- J** Alec Hastings, Multnomah Falls in Oregon
- K** Leonard Castro, Manhattan Bridge in New York City

# RESEARCH ENGINE

A University where high-tech thinking meets hands-on solutions

by Eddie Hughes · Illustrations by Joel Beery

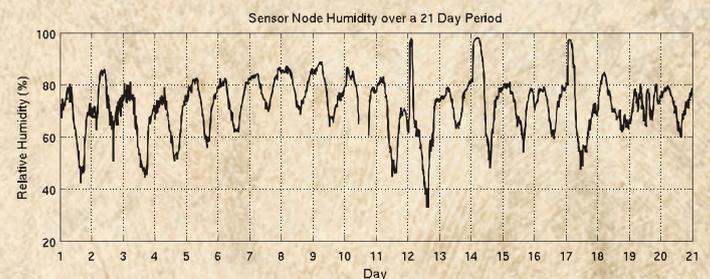
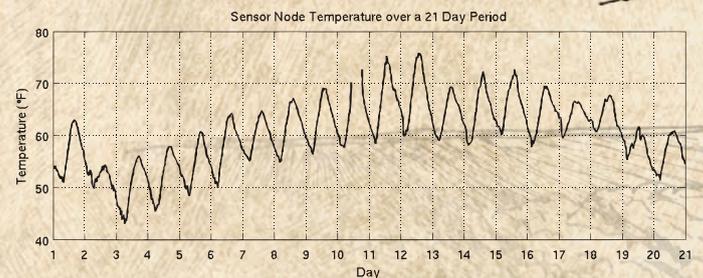
Off the beaten path in the 3,100-person Central California town of Riverdale, where paved roads merge into dirt roads and the fertile soil births well-manicured crops as if they were works of art, a vast almond orchard full of white-blossomed trees is ready to bloom into this year's harvest. Third-generation farmer Donny Rollin walks the land with a small group of engineering students researching how the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) can increase efficiency and production in agriculture.

It's right here, in this field of food, where high-tech thinking meets hands-on solutions.

Certainly farmers are already using technology in various ways, but as a traditionally blue-collar occupation, farming is perhaps one of the final industries to undergo a full technological overhaul. And if managing water usage, labor costs, production and profit margins are the challenges, student and faculty researchers at Fresno State want to be a part of the solution.

Unmanned aircraft systems research started at Fresno State 10 years ago and has accelerated with a five-year grant from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The grant helped researchers within Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering pivot their unmanned systems development from military applications to farming solutions specific to the Central Valley. Their work, though still in prototype testing stages, has piqued the interest of Rollin, president of the Executive Committee

*continued*



► Engineering students and faculty are in the prototype testing stage for the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) in farming. Specifically designed for almond and pistachio orchards, the system collects soil moisture, humidity and temperature data via ground sensors, relays the information wirelessly to the drone flying overhead and stores the data over time to produce actionable intelligence for the farmer, who can then pinpoint areas to maximize water efficiency and production.



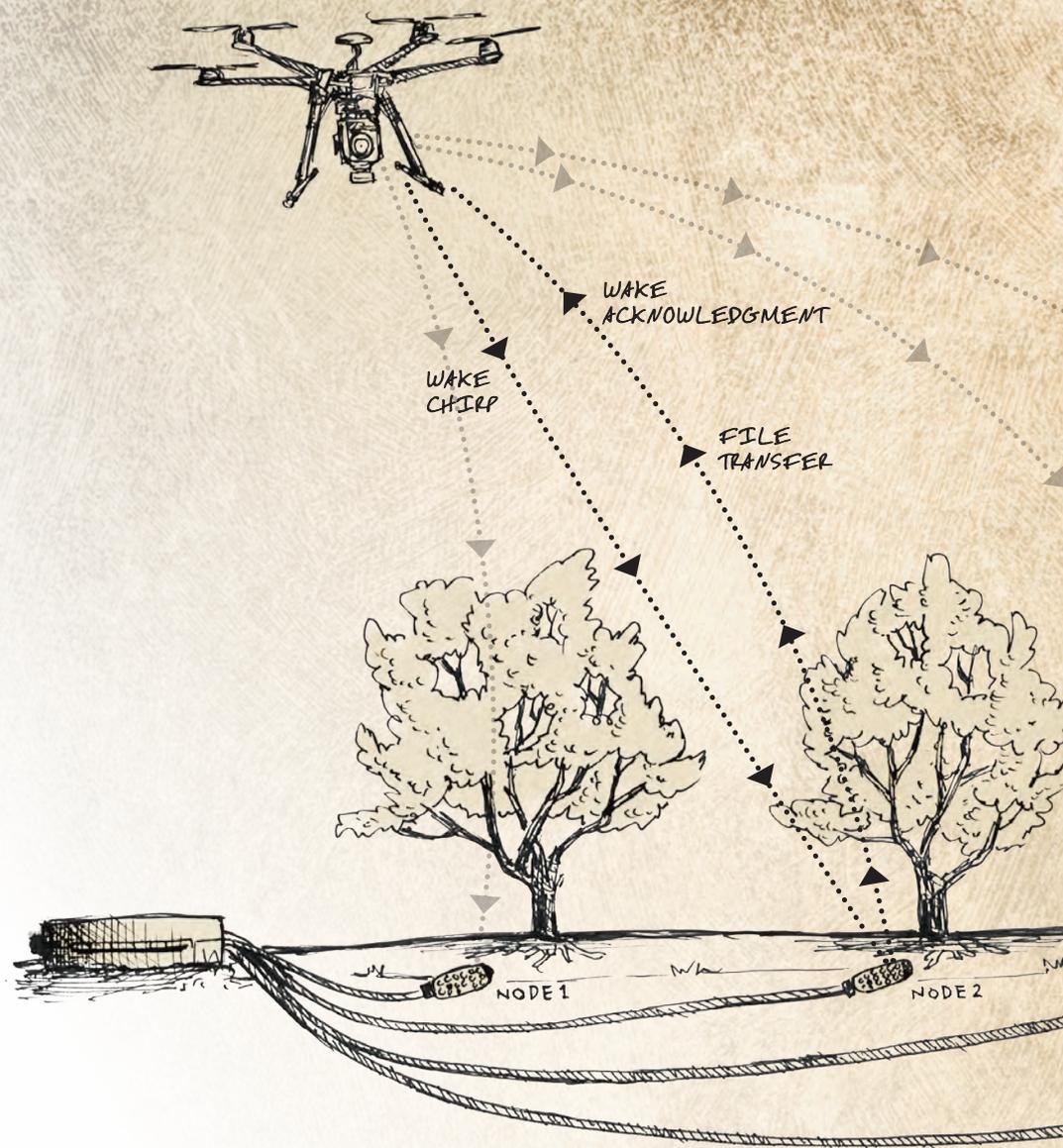
for the Fresno County Farm Bureau, and other key players in Valley agriculture. And it has led to additional collaboration with Fresno State's Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology and AeroVironment, Inc., a global leader in unmanned aircraft systems.

## Testing, Testing

In the spring, Fresno State engineering professor Dr. Gregory Kriehn led a group of students in a field test on Rollin's Riverdale almond orchard. The students strategically placed throughout the orchard the embedded ground sensor systems they developed in the lab to measure temperature, humidity and soil moisture. With Kriehn at the flight controls, the group launched a series of unmanned aircraft systems — both fixed wing and rotary wing — that flew over the orchard taking video and still photos while signaling the ground nodes to wirelessly transmit data to the motherboard on the aircraft above (see diagram). Throughout the process, students watched in real time as data was collected and displayed on monitors they positioned on a tabletop near the field.

“The end goal for this particular grant is taking a look at stress in almond and pistachio orchards,” Kriehn says. “With the drought that’s been hitting California hard, growers are trying to determine how much stress a tree can be under from a water perspective before it starts to affect the tree’s nutting capabilities. There’s a direct correlation between how much water the tree pulls to how much nutting occurs.”

Historically, the only other way to determine water stress and the potential production of almond and pistachio trees was to place a leaf in a pressure chamber to measure the amount of pressure it takes to cause water to appear at the stem. The more pressure it takes, the higher the degree of water stress on the tree.



For almonds, the highest grossing crop in Fresno County at \$1.2 billion in production in 2015, measuring water stress helps ensure proper irrigation in growing season and avoid over-irrigation during hull split, which can lead to disease.

## Discovery

Kriehn and his students, engineers by trade, hope they’ve found a better way to measure crop stress and predict yield. They have done their homework on agricultural quality and efficiency to fully understand industry needs.

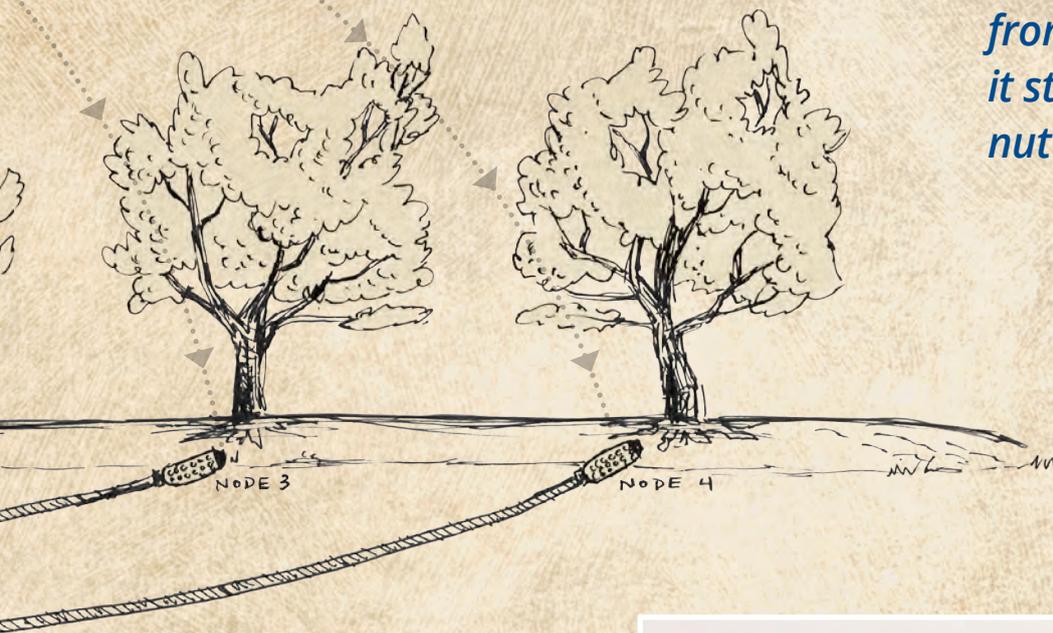
This research project was a natural fit for Freddy Lopez, a student pursuing a master’s degree in computer engineering.

Lopez lived in Selma on 20 acres of grapes until age 10 before moving to Clovis, where his family works as farm labor contractors and produce brokers. Lopez himself started a well water monitoring business named WaterMap Tech in 2016, taking advantage of a Fresno State program called Innoventures that was started by Lyles College Dean Dr. Ram Nunna to help students receive funding and mentoring for innovative ideas.

Lopez understands he and his fellow students and faculty will need to demonstrate a return on investment for their work to become viable. “The farmers are smart, they’ve been in business a long time and know what their margins are,” Lopez says. “We’re

*“The end goal for this particular grant is taking a look at stress in almond and pistachio orchards. With the drought that’s been hitting California hard, growers are trying to determine how much stress a tree can be under from a water perspective before it starts to affect the tree’s nutting capabilities.”*

**DR. GREGORY KRIEHN**  
PROFESSOR, LYLES COLLEGE  
OF ENGINEERING



talking about people who plant trees and wait up to 10 years to get their money back. They’ll use technology, but you have to convince them first.”

While increasing water efficiency and yield is the main draw for the project, the technology also has the potential to identify other nutrient deficiencies or diseased trees. Aerial imaging over a two-week period has been proven to pinpoint specific trees that have pest infestation — a useful tool for farmers managing dozens or even hundreds of acres of trees that would otherwise be inspected row by row on foot or by tractor.

*continued*



▲ Dr. Gregory Kriehn, the engineering professor who heads the unmanned systems research project at Fresno State, helped pivot engineering research from military to agricultural applications.

*"If we're going to generate a profit so we can stay in business, we've got to figure out those little things that we can do to be more efficient."*

**DONNY ROLLIN**  
FARMER



*Riverdale almond and dairy farmer Donny Rollin (left) discusses the capabilities of unmanned systems technology being developed by Fresno State students like Freddy Lopez, who's pursuing his master's in computer engineering.*

**\$42 MILLION**

Grant and contract money generated in fiscal year 2015-16 for University research projects, a Fresno State record

**\$65,000**

Average starting salary earned by Fresno State engineering graduates who have hands-on research experience

**245 RESEARCH PROJECTS**

by Fresno State students presented at this year's Central California Research Symposium

“If you can get a few bucks an acre, and you’re farming enough acres, all of the sudden it’s a big chunk of money,” says Rollin, who has been a partner and owner of his family’s dairy and farming operation for 22 years and grew up working the land with his father. “If we’re going to generate a profit so we can stay in business, we’ve got to figure out those little things that we can do to be more efficient. If we can get an extra 100 pounds per acre this year because we did something with the technology of the drone, maybe it’s paid for in one year.”

## Preparing for Takeoff

Right now, the use of unmanned aircraft systems such as those Kriehn and his students are developing is rare in agriculture and limited mostly to very large farming corporations. It’s the “early adopter phase,” says Ryan Jacobsen, the CEO and executive director for the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

“We’re in the infancy side of things,” says Jacobsen, a fourth-generation farmer who earned his M.B.A. from Fresno State in 2004 and formerly served as student body president. “In a short number of years, most farmers and ranchers will be taking advantage of some aspect of the technology as it becomes more affordable and usable. These tools don’t become optional, they become part of your operation.”

Jacobsen is eager to see how the collective wisdom of faculty and students can merge with the needs of farmers and ranchers to develop technology-based solutions for agriculture. He echoes Rollin’s sentiment that water usage and labor costs present critical challenges for the industry’s future.

While a year of heavy rainfall throughout the state led to California Gov. Jerry Brown declaring an end to the drought in most counties in April, several Valley counties — Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Tuolumne — remain on alert



Cary Edmondson

► *Rahul Nunna is part of a group of 15 or more engineering students who hold weekly meetings with Dr. Gregory Kriehn to share updates on their developments of unmanned systems technology.*

after one of the driest five-year periods in recorded history.

Without enough water allocated to farmers, Rollin cautions, there would be empty shelves in the store pretty quickly.

“They say whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting, and that’s the truth,” Rollin says. “We’ve got to have water to do everything from have a nice, green lawn to have enough water for people to drink and to grow food.”

Solving issues so large and complex will surely require government involvement. And the economic success of the Central Valley may depend on it. At Fresno State, expanding water-related majors, creating stronger industry partnerships and building cross-college opportunities for applied research such as unmanned systems are part of the mission outlined by the President’s Commission for the Future of Agriculture set in motion by University President Joseph I. Castro in 2013 to position Fresno State as a front-runner in ag leadership and innovation.

For engineering and agriculture students and faculty at Fresno State, that means ramping up research and collaboration

to an all-time high inside the labs of the Jordan Agricultural Research Center in hopes of sparking an idea that resonates worldwide and helps farmers conserve water and control costs like never before.

They’ll develop these ideas, build something in the lab, take it to the farm to test it, bring it back for refinement and continue that cycle.

“We’re right here on the back doorstep of the most productive agricultural region of the world,” Rollin says, “and to have Fresno State grasp on and partner with us, that’s a tremendous benefit to both us as farmers and to students, giving them something exciting and new to look at, something cutting edge, something that can change the world.”

— *Eddie Hughes is senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.*



### ONLINE EXTRA

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to see an exclusive video and a photo gallery.



# A Peek Inside the Campus Labs

Research studies  
across campus apply  
to real-world issues

**R**esearch — it's science. Or, in some cases, maybe it's not. But scientific theories and hypotheses are being investigated, revised and applied across all eight schools and colleges at Fresno State.

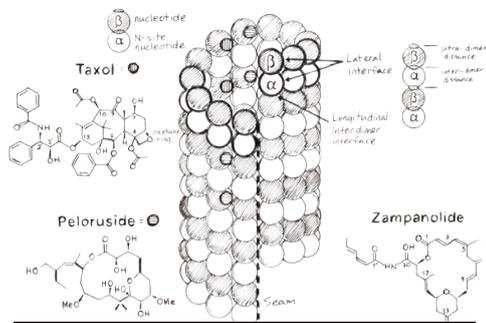
From drone research in the Lyles College of Engineering, to air pollution research in the College of Health and Human Services, to preserving Native languages in the College of Arts and Humanities, Fresno State faculty and students are tackling some of the region's most pressing issues and developing new ideas and solutions every day.

For students, this focus on applied research offers opportunities to take classroom learning out into the field and gain valuable experience that will help provide solutions for the region or boost job skills needed after graduation.

While many research studies are underway on campus — 245 projects were presented at the annual Central California Research Symposium — the following pages will highlight a study from each of the schools and colleges on campus.

Cary Edmondson

▲  
*Dr. Qiao-Hong Chen and her Fresno State chemistry students have developed new derivatives of dietary substances common in Asian cuisine in an effort to find an effective treatment for prostate cancer. The compounds are in preclinical studies.*

**STUDY:**

## Treating Prostate Cancer

**College of Science and Mathematics**

*by Eddie Hughes*

Dr. Qiao-Hong Chen and her chemistry students at Fresno State are working on engineering improved derivatives of natural dietary products for the treatment of advanced metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.

About 300,000 men worldwide (28,000 in the United States) die each year of the disease because there is no effective treatment. There is a large discrepancy between the incidence of prostate cancer in North America (120 cases per 100,000 men) and in East Asian countries (10 cases per 100,000 men), as well as an increased risk for Asian men who immigrated to the U.S.

The data suggests a preventative effect of traditional Asian foods. With that in mind, Chen and her students developed more than 350 new derivatives of dietary substances common in Asian cuisine, such as curcumin, genistein, quercetin, fisetin and silibinin. Several curcumin mimics have been confirmed to possess high potency as anticancer agents.

These compounds are in preclinical studies in collaboration with researchers at Xavier University of Louisiana and Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science. Chen secured a U.S. patent titled “Therapeutic Uses of Curcumin Analogs for Treatment of Prostate Cancer” and has filed three provisional patent applications. More than 50 Fresno State students have been involved with the studies.

**STUDY:**

## How an Athlete’s Passion Relates to Academic Success

**Kremen School of Education and Human Development** *by Kathleen R. Schock*

Is there a connection between student athletes’ passion for their sports and success in the classroom? According to research by Fresno State assistant professor Dr. Mariya A. Yukhymenko, the answer is yes.

Yukhymenko compared student-athletes who have a “harmonious” passion for the sport to those with an “obsessive” passion. She found those with harmonious passion tend to work harder in classes and find more value in the academic experience compared with their more obsessive counterparts.

She also found that compared to males, female student-athletes perceive their classes as more useful and valuable and say they put more effort into studying for classes. The findings from this and other studies she has conducted contribute to an enhanced understanding of what kind of coaching, academic support and administrative staff best helps student-athletes achieve success on and off the field.

**STUDY:**

## Reconnecting the Valley’s Most Vulnerable Youth

**College of Social Sciences**

*by Kathleen R. Schock*

“Disengaged youth” is a term Fresno State anthropology professor Dr. James Mullooly uses to describe people between 16 to 24 years of age who do not have jobs and are not going to school — a situation that could have a lasting negative impact. Research shows disconnected youth are more likely to experience negative social and economic outcomes as adults, including persistent poverty, long-term unemployment, poor health and substance abuse.

Working with Dr. Anne Visser from UC Davis, Mullooly discovered that as many as 17 percent of San Joaquin Valley youth fall into this category — compared to 8 percent statewide. That staggering finding in 2015 led Mullooly and Visser to investigate how to close the gap. According to their findings, African-American/non-Hispanic black youth experience the highest rates of disconnection from school and work in the Valley at more than 22 percent. Next is Latino/a youth at 12 percent and American Indian/Alaskan native youth at nearly 12 percent. A follow-up study in 2016 found that community organizations are key to helping this population reconnect to school or employment.

*continued*

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**STUDY:**

## Preserving Native Language

College of Arts and Humanities

by Lisa Maria Boyles

Professors and students at Fresno State are working with Native American communities, both locally and in other parts of the U.S., to preserve endangered native languages. Many tribes are in danger of losing their native language because only a few fluent speakers remain.

Every 14 days a language is lost forever, according to The Language Conservancy. Only 12 speakers of the Chukchansi language remain. Dr. Niken Adisasmito-Smith meets twice a week with native speaker Holly Wyatt of the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi, translating myths back into the Chukchansi language.

“Language is the defining characteristic of the human species; without language, there would be no civilization, no culture, no art, none of the achievements and capabilities distinctive to the human species,” says Dr. Brian Agbayani, chair of the Linguistics Department.

“The study of the nature of language is fundamental to the understanding of what it means to be human.”

Since 2009, faculty members Dr. Chris Golston, Adisasmito-Smith and Agbayani have worked to revitalize the language, devise a writing system, start the process of developing a Chukchansi dictionary and grammar and preserve traditional stories and myths.

This past summer, several faculty members and students went to North Dakota and Montana to do fieldwork documenting and revitalizing the Crow and Hidatsa languages with the Language Conservancy, a national organization that works to develop teaching materials for indigenous languages.

▼  
*Chukchansi word leele'hiy,  
meaning research*



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**STUDY:**

## How Social Media Influences Ethics

Craig School of Business

by Kathleen R. Schock

Many things shape one's understanding of ethics and acceptable behavior, including what happens on social media. A study led by Dr. Zhanna Bagdasarov at Fresno State set out to investigate whether interactions on social media influence ethical judgements, attitudes and behavior.

More than 180 undergraduate students took part in the study, completing an online survey and responding to a series of ethical

scenarios. What Bagdasarov and her fellow researchers found is a relationship between social media exposure and perceptions of ethics.

Among the findings was that people who reported seeing ethical wrongdoing on social media found those situations to be less acceptable

and more unethical compared to others. People who see repeated ethical violations on social media were more perceptive to unethical behavior.

The findings could have important implications for business, management and leadership. As social media plays an increasingly important role in day-to-day lives, Bagdasarov says those interactions may be influencing both individual and collective understanding of ethics.



## STUDY:

## Brand Value in the Wine Market

Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

by Eddie Hughes

Dr. Todd Lone and his agricultural business students are studying the value of the Fresno State brand in the local wine market. They analyzed whether student involvement in production and sales makes consumers more likely to purchase, and looked at attributes like price, varietal and brand awareness on customers' willingness to pay.

The research included 500 online and store-front surveys at two locations offering Fresno State wine. Preliminary research results indicated brand, color and student participation in winemaking all have a significant, positive impact on wine choice. Consumers were 31 percent more likely to purchase Fresno State wine because its production and marketing involved students.

Those who purchase Fresno State wine cited good taste, good value for the money, premium quality, reasonable price and special occasion as the top five attributes they value when purchasing wine.

Findings will help the nation's first commercially bonded winery on a college campus enhance the learning experience of Fresno State students and measure the degree of alumni and community support for its product.



Public health students use structured social observation instruments to collect data from every zip code in Fresno and Clovis.

## STUDY:

## Children's Health and Air Pollution

College of Health and Human Services

by Melissa Tav

San Joaquin Valley air pollution concentration levels are well above federal clean air standards, which has resulted in unhealthy and polluted air.

For children in the Valley, this can cause a number of issues for their health and well-being. A team of researchers from Fresno State aims to understand and reduce the risks of air pollution exposure to children in the region.

One project focused on transit exposure during pregnancy, looking at the impact of neighborhood assets (bus stops, sidewalks, food outlets) and liabilities (foreclosure rates, density of condemned properties, high-speed surface street traffic) on daily activities and physical movement around the Valley among pregnant women and new mothers.

The study is in partnership with UC Berkeley, Stanford University,

Sonoma Technology, Inc. and UC San Francisco-Fresno, and is jointly funded by the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Also, over the past two years, about 200 public health students conducted structured social observations in each zip code in Fresno and Clovis. The students collected observations and photographs exploring how neighborhood features influence transit use and exposure patterns.

This study allowed students to receive hands-on experience with data collection. The data is being analyzed, with results expected in the fall. Dr. John Capitman, Dr. Kara Zografos, Dr. Jaymin Kwon and Emanuel Alcala with the Central Valley Health Policy Institute and the Department of Public Health at Fresno State are leading the research.

# A Canvas for the Arts

Renowned artists flock to the community to teach and to engage

by Lisa Maria Boyles • Illustrations by Joel Beery



Cary Edmondson

**P**ick an art, any art. There's a good chance it will be taught, performed or shared during two special programs offered this summer to provide community access to some of the world's most accomplished artists.

The Fresno Opera and Orchestra Summer Academy (FOOSA) auditions young musicians from around the globe to work side by side with professionals and to perform for the community from June 11 to 25. As that winds down, the California State University Summer Arts program offers public performances, readings, lectures and courses in June and July covering various artistic specialties.

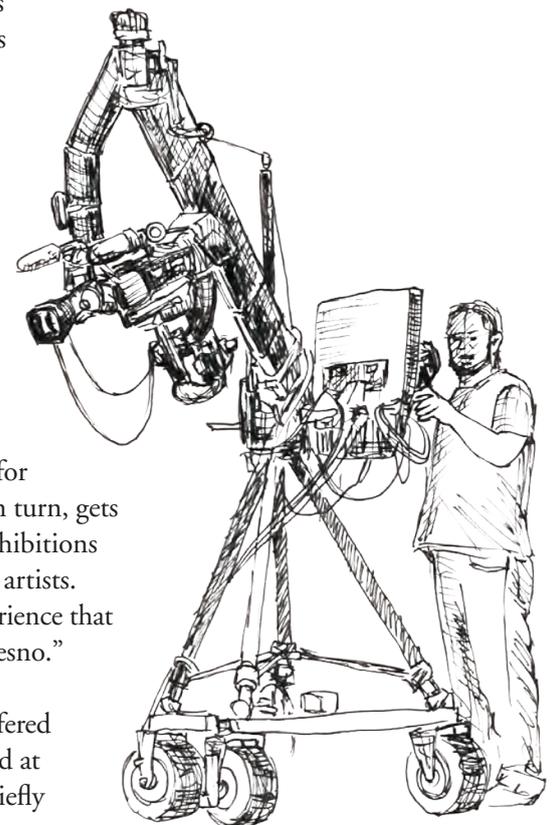
## Summer Arts Returns to the Valley

Long a staple at Fresno State, Summer Arts is back on the campus for the first time since 2011. More than 400 students and community members are expected to hone their abilities through Summer Arts' diverse course offering that includes experiential, academic classes in dance, media arts, music, literary arts, theatre, visual arts and design, as well as a month-long public arts festival (see sidebar).

"It isn't often that students and the general public alike get access to so many world-class artists in one place," says Rachel Nardo, director of the program. "Summer Arts is a transformative experience for students. The Fresno community, in turn, gets low-cost access to performances, exhibitions and lectures from the visiting guest artists. This program is a truly unique experience that we are honored to bring back to Fresno."

The 23-campus CSU system has offered Summer Arts since 1985. It was held at Fresno State from 1999 to 2011, briefly

▲ The CSU Summer Arts program returns to Fresno State for the first time since 2011, as more than 400 students and community members will hone their abilities in everything from visual arts and design to music and theatre.



moving to CSU Monterey Bay. The event returns to Fresno State this year.

Fresno author and Summer Arts alumna Armen Bacon, the 2015 Fresno State Alumni Association Top Dog Outstanding Alumna, honed her writing skills in Summer Arts courses from 2008 to 2011.

“Summer Arts was the most inspiring, imaginative, intense two weeks of my life, taking me from aspiring writer status to published author. The opportunities to grow, stretch, risk and triumph are endless, bold and life-changing,” says Bacon, who is on the Summer Arts community board.

## Musicians Converge for Two-Week Festival

FOOSA enters its fifth season on the Fresno State campus. Musicians nationwide, as well as some international students, audition to be part of the intensive 100-student program in which they work with professionals to improve their musical talent and to enhance performance skills.

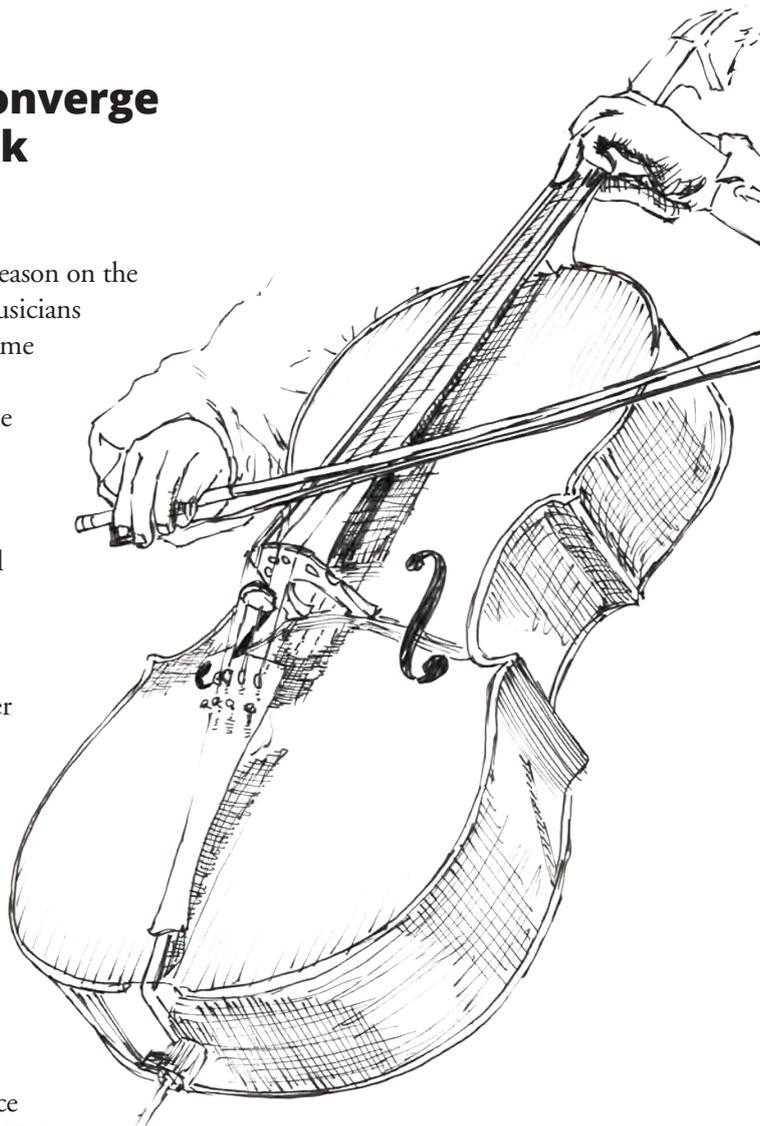
“FOOSA brings together internationally and locally significant teaching artists, Fresno State music students and young musicians from throughout the Central Valley in a uniquely fertile confluence of teaching, learning and performance intended to increase the Valley’s international cultural footprint,” says Dr. Thomas Loewenheim, FOOSA artistic director.

Arts critic Donald Munro calls FOOSA one of the “hidden cultural gems available in the central San Joaquin Valley.”

The two-week festival culminates with an opportunity for the student musicians to perform at the 2,265-seat Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, one of the most acoustically sophisticated concert halls in the world.

This year’s FOOSA faculty will include renowned violinist Felix Olschofka of the University of North Texas and cellist Lynn Harrell, a two-time Grammy winner for Best Chamber Music Performance. 

— Lisa Maria Boyles is a communications specialist for the College of Arts and Humanities at Fresno State.



## Public Events Schedule



(events are at 7 p.m. at John Wright Theatre at Fresno State unless otherwise noted)

**June 25** (4 p.m.)  
FOOSA Festival (free)  
**Roosevelt High Performing Arts Auditorium**

**July 10**  
Urban Bush Women Dance Performance

**June 26**  
Contra-Tiempo Urban Latin Dance Theatre

**July 12**  
Rad Sechrist Graphic Novels

**June 27**  
Byron Wolfe Photography

**July 13**  
Yannick Jacquet Video Projection Mapping

**June 28**  
Bruce Logan Cinematography

**July 14**  
Hal Masonberg Documentary Film Presentation (free)

**June 29**  
Ricardo Cortez Cruz, Joshua Edwards and Janice Lee Readings

**July 15**  
John Santos, Mario Pam and Umi Vaughan Percussion Discussion

**June 30**  
Chamber Music Ensemble **Concert Hall**

**July 17**  
Li-Young Lee and Eileen Myles Readings

**July 1**  
Vicki Lewis *One-Woman Show*

**July 18**  
Dennis McNett *Printmaking*

**July 3**  
Mattie Brice *Video Game Development*

**July 19**  
Rex Grignon, Jason Schleifer and Jennifer Dahlman *Nimble Collective, Animation*

**July 5**  
David Sanchez and Friends Latin Jazz Concert **Concert Hall**

**July 7-8, 21-22**  
Student Showcases



### ONLINE EXTRAS

For information on FOOSA performances, visit [www.foosamusic.org](http://www.foosamusic.org)

Visit [csusummerarts.org](http://csusummerarts.org) or call 559.278.2216 for tickets or information.

# Encountering the **O**ther

Music and journalism project  
focuses on understanding  
*other* cultures

By Kathleen R. Schock



**G**rowing up in Stockton, Chris Carreon watched a lot of movies. Big blockbusters like Star Wars, Jurassic Park and Back to the Future. He was drawn to the films not by the action or plot, but by the music. “It’s the job of the composer to convince the audience to believe in the world the director created. And I thought, ‘That’s such a cool job.’”

Carreon isn’t scoring blockbusters yet. But the Fresno State music composition student is taking part in a cross-departmental service-learning project designed to bring to life the cultural experiences of many of the ethnic groups that call the Central Valley home.

“Coming Home” is the brainchild of Dr. Benjamin Boone, a music composition professor, and his wife Alice Daniel, a veteran journalist who also teaches reporting at Fresno State. Boone tasked four music composition students with selecting a culture other than their own and composing a piece of music inspired by that culture. As the composition students were researching and composing their works, journalism students in Daniel’s class also selected cultures they were unfamiliar with and interviewed people about their experiences living in the Valley.

◀ *Dr. Benjamin Boone (right), a Fresno State music composition professor, worked with students like Chris Carreon to compose pieces of music inspired by a culture other than their own. The musicians collaborated with journalism students who interviewed people from different ethnic groups about their experiences living in the Valley. The compositions were performed by the 300-member Fresno Youth Orchestra.*

The project culminated in May when the 300-piece Fresno Youth Orchestra performed the compositions at the William Saroyan Theatre in downtown Fresno. As the music played, the stories gathered by the journalism students were woven into the performance.

Boone credits author Saroyan for inspiring the project. In his writings about the multitude of cultures that intersect in the Valley, Saroyan explored what it means to call a place home. Boone wanted his students to confront the concept of home from a different perspective. “The idea is that you grow personally and professionally when you encounter ‘the other,’” he says.

Carreon found himself drawn to the Armenian-American people, a culture he admits he knew little about going into the project. He started by talking with people of Armenian descent and reading historical accounts of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman empire from 1915 to 1923.

He also immersed himself in traditional Armenian music, a style he describes as “a haunting and beautiful sound” that reflects the experience of the Armenian people. “When you hear traditional post-genocide Armenian music,” he says, “you hear a sense of both struggle and hope.”

## Out of the Comfort Zone

Talking to someone from a different culture isn’t rare, especially in this diverse Valley. But talking to someone from a different culture about their culture, is both rare and fraught with potential landmines. “I was not called a racist but it was suggested that I’m being racist,” said Vanessa Romo of her interview with an African-American woman.

Romo asked what she thought was an innocent question, inquiring into what contributions African-Americans had made in the Central Valley. “She replied back that by asking such a question I was assuming they haven’t contributed, and that’s racism.” Romo says she was nervous going into the interview because of the sensitivity around race and culture in today’s world. “When she came back with that response I didn’t know what to say. I was shocked,” she said. “I’m not a racist at all. It scared me.”

While the other journalism students avoided this level of volatility, many expressed feeling nervous about engaging in such personal conversations with strangers. According to Daniel, the discomfort they experienced was central to the project.

“The more students interview people who come from different perspectives and cultures, the more they learn about life,” Daniel says. “Our preconceived notions about others are usually way off base, and good journalism teaches us to step out of our comfort zone. That in itself is a gift.”

*continued*



*"I tried to stay consistent in the mood and the feeling I was attempting to convey. That's how I believed I achieved a sense of respect and honor."*

**CHRIS CARREON**

Looking back on the interview, Romo says it was a positive experience, both for her and the person she interviewed. "She educated me. She told her story, and I got my facts straight and grew as a reporter as far as learning how to ask questions."

## Drawing Connections

Carreon went into the project expecting to learn about Armenian culture, but he discovered that he also learned about himself. "As a person from Mexican-American background, we're culturally very different when it comes to our food, our music and our history in the United States." But in comparing the two cultures' traditional music, he realized that while rhythmically different, harmonically they are similar.

Boone says the goal of each composition was to describe the original homeland of the culture and express how it came to call the Valley home. While the students were tasked with composing in the traditional style, they also had to remain true to their own musical tradition. The idea of drawing inspiration from another culture, without parodying it, was a concern of the students.

"That was very hard. That was in my mind at all times. My question was, how can I present this as a gift to the Armenian people?" Carreon says. "I tried to stay consistent in the mood and the feeling I was attempting to convey. That's how I believed I achieved a sense of respect and honor."

The performance of the composition by the Fresno Youth Orchestra was only the second time Carreon heard his work performed live. It's an experience he describes as surreal. "When people hear the music I hope they hear the Armenian people and how they made the Central Valley their home."

When he looks at current conflicts in the world in places like Syria, Carreon says his understanding of the Armenian experience gives him hope each person can play a role to support the peaceful conclusion of conflict. "It teaches me that instead of just sitting around and watching the news go by, we as a people can do something about issues in the world."

Boone believes the strength of the project is its ability to help students grow academically and personally, cultivating more compassion for their neighbors. "We all call this Valley home, so we can learn from each other and grow by understanding each other rather than vilifying each other" he says. "This is music and voice, coming together as one artistic expression to demonstrate inclusion, acceptance and how we are all stronger united." 

— Kathleen R. Schock is the director for strategic communications at Fresno State.

# 100

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# A Pioneer, a Professor and Pistachios

How one alumnus ensured future ag research  
and student scholarships

by Esra Hashem

Cary Edmondson

▲ Rodger Jensen is credited with being the first to grow pistachios in Madera County more than 50 years ago. At 96 years old, Jensen continues to lend a hand to the pistachio industry and student success at Fresno State.

**F**rom the time a pistachio tree is planted, it takes seven years to produce a viable product.

Seven years may seem like a long commitment to some, but for Rodger Jensen — who's grown the Central Valley pistachio industry from the ground up in 50 years — it's a blink of an eye.

"It's been unique to have an industry produce such a dominant product in this Valley in such a short period of time," Jensen says. "Well," the 96-year-old adds, laughing, "50 years is a short amount of time in some respects."

Before California produced pistachios, most of the world's supply came from Iran. It was Jensen who began growing pistachios in Madera County more than 50 years ago.

Jensen, who graduated from Fresno State in 1941, established a farm management company that became one of the largest tree crop operations in California, the largest olive producer and the largest independent almond and pistachio processor.



Rodger and Margaret Jensen

He and his wife, Margaret — to whom he's been married for 75 years — have enriched the Central Valley's history.

In 2010, they donated \$1.5 million so as many as 10 Fresno State agriculture students receive full scholarships each year and can participate in activities and focus on academics, minimizing their need for outside work.

"When I was going to Fresno State, we were still in the Depression ages, and there were no scholarships except to athletes," Jensen says. "It was difficult to be able to get support of any kind outside of your own family. It was a struggle to both work and be a student at that time. It meant that there were some activities that I wasn't able to participate in because I had to work."

Though Jensen humbly denies himself as the founder of the Central Valley pistachio industry, others recognize his vast contributions to the field. In 2013, the California Pistachio Research Board pledged \$1.5 million to establish a faculty position at Fresno State, named the Rodger B. Jensen Endowed Professorship in Pistachio Physiology and Pomology in his honor.

Last year, Dr. Gurreet Brar joined the Fresno State faculty as the second to hold the position. His focus is on applied research in pistachio physiology, teaching courses in pomology (the science and practice of growing fruit) and in solving industry challenges.

"We are very close to being the top producers of pistachios in the world," Brar says of California. "We have a lot of advantages over other Mediterranean climates in the world, and one of those advantages is the big support in technology and research."

Brar is researching salinity's effects on pistachio growth and the way trees are reacting to changing climatic conditions and warming winters. He is also hiring and mentoring graduate students to work on pistachio research projects.

"I meet a lot of students who are interested in pistachio work," he says. "And if it was not for this position, that hands-on component and dedicated research would be missing for them. That's a reason to be excited — that right now, our students can pursue this work right here on campus."

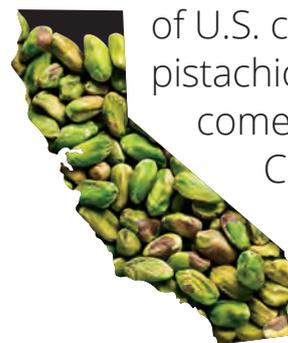
## Did you know?

**190 ACRES**

of fruit and nut orchards on the University Farm

**99 PERCENT**

of U.S. commercial pistachio production comes from California



**\$1.6 BILLION**

generated to California economy by pistachio production

Jensen says he is humbled and honored the professorship is named for him, adding that he is looking forward to the research under Brar's leadership that will continue to transform the pistachio industry and Central Valley agriculture.

— *Esra Hashem is a marketing specialist in the Division of University Advancement at Fresno State.* 🐾



### ONLINE EXTRA

For more information on how to support agriculture research and student scholarships, visit [bit.ly/FresnoStateAgOne](http://bit.ly/FresnoStateAgOne).



Photo illustration: Todd Graves  
Original photo: Kiel Maddox

# RALLY THE VALLEY

## Q&A with new Bulldogs football coach, former quarterback **Jeff Tedford**

by Eddie Hughes

Just four years removed from rising as high as No. 13 in the national rankings, the Fresno State football program is rebounding from an unheard of 1-11 season. New head coach Jeff Tedford — who played quarterback for the Bulldogs in the early 1980s before later serving as offensive coordinator under coaches Jim Sweeney and Pat Hill — will lead the next chapter of Bulldog football.

Fresno State coach  
Jeff Tedford

Tedford also was head coach at California from 2002 to 2012, becoming the winningest coach in the school's history and mentoring NFL greats like Aaron Rodgers and Marshawn Lynch. When he was hired at Cal, the Bears were coming off a 1-10 season, and Tedford led the program to a 7-5 record in his first year — the biggest turnaround in the nation that season.

Can he lead a similar turnaround for his alma mater Fresno State in the coming seasons? Tedford sat down on the red sofa in his on-campus office on the second floor of the Duncan Building to discuss just that and the foundation he has outlined for the program.

**Fresno State Magazine:**  
*What inspired you to come back and be a Bulldog?*

**Jeff Tedford:**

Having played here, graduating from here, coaching here, I have a true passion for Fresno State and the Valley and the people of this community. When the opportunity came, I felt it was a great fit for me and my family to come back and revitalize the football program because I know it means a lot to a lot of people. And then of course making a difference in the student-athletes' lives, making sure that we can have them reach their growth and development and full potential in all areas — academically, athletically, socially and spiritually. This feels like home. It is home.

*So it was important to you, seeing what happened in the past couple years with the program to rectify that?*

Unfortunately, the past couple years have not been what this place is all about. I know what the tradition is here, I know what the pride is here and to get it back means a lot. I know what needs to happen here, and I felt like I wanted to do my part to help get it back on track so everybody can be proud of it.

*What's your vision for Bulldog football?*

The vision is that we provide a positive experience for the student-athlete. Not all these guys are going to go play pro football, so life skills is first and foremost. To obtain their degree is No. 1, and then that we win games with integrity and class, and we have school spirit and understand who we're playing for and take pride in that.

*Do you talk about how important it is to get that degree?*

Absolutely, and I'm a good example of that. I can speak from the heart because I did not do that. I was a junior college player who came here and left and didn't get my degree and had to come back. So take advantage of the opportunity you have right now to get it done.

*So did you get your degree while you were an assistant here?*

I was a volunteer assistant and came back and took classes after I played in the Canadian Football League for six years. I came back and helped coach here and didn't make a dime while I was doing it, at first. I was totally broke. I had a wife and a kid and had zero money. At that point, you realize, 'Why didn't I do this while I was here? Why didn't I focus on academics when I was here?' So I can speak to them from the heart on that experience and how important it is.

*Do you expect to win this year, and should fans expect that?*

We should always expect to win. That's why we're doing this. If we take care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves. I'm not going to say how many games we're going to win, we're just going to go out there each and every day and prepare, and the big things will take care of themselves.

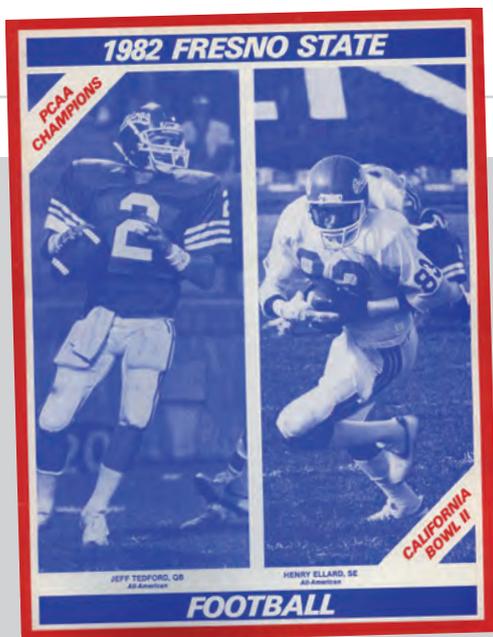
*How do you turn it around?*

Some of it has to do with forgetting about the past because we can't carry that burden with us. You can use some of that as motivation, but I want these kids to look forward. For some of these kids it may be hard to forget about that because it's not easy to go through a 1-11 season in any way, shape or form. But that's behind us. It's all about the future.

*What do you want the community to know about how important their support is in getting the program back on track?*

Their support is critical. This can be such a tough place to play. Home-field advantage is a big deal in college football with the environment that's created. It's as important as anything for our kids to feed off the motivation and the energy level that's in our stadium. Our fans can play as much of a role in helping us get back on track as anything.

*continued*



**THE TEDFORD TIMELINE:** 

**1979-80**  
QB at Cerritos College

**1981-82**  
QB at Fresno State

**1983-88**  
QB, Canadian Football League (Hamilton, Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg)

**1987-88**  
volunteer assistant coach at Fresno State

**1989-91**  
Calgary (CFL) assistant coach

**1992-97**  
QB coach/offensive coordinator at Fresno State

**1998-2001**  
Oregon offensive coordinator

**2002-12**  
Cal head coach

**2014**  
Tampa Bay (NFL) offensive coordinator

**2015**  
B.C. Lions (CFL) head coach

**2016**  
Washington offensive consultant

**Present**  
Fresno State head coach

*We've heard a lot since you were hired about a renewed focus on the community and the call to rally the Valley. To you, what does that mean?*

It's getting the support back for the student-athletes and bringing the pride and tradition back to the program. Recruiting, keeping kids from the Valley home where their family can be a part of what they're doing. The bottom line is reestablishing the pride and tradition of what's gone on for many, many years.

*When Fresno State proves itself against big-name schools, is there a chip-on-the-shoulder mentality that makes the community identify with that?*

I don't know if it's a chip on our shoulder, but I think it is a pride factor to be able to compete with anyone. That's what I've been accustomed to from the time that I was playing here, the time I was coaching here both under Jim Sweeney and Pat Hill and then watching some of the big victories over big programs throughout time. It's something I think everyone gets juiced about.

*How important is it to you to rally the guys from the Sweeney era, the Hill era, the Tim DeRuyter era and make sure they all still feel a part of the program going forward?*

It's critical. There are a lot of people who I knew of and a lot of people I interacted with both as a player and then as a coach, so it's a broad network. It's really important for people to understand we are building and bringing back the pride and tradition that all those people understand and know. It's one of them who's here doing it and they have a home here. We want them to come back and be a part of it.

*It's important, too, to keep traditions. You brought 'No 'Dogs Down' back from the Sweeney era and 'Bulldog Born, Bulldog Bred' has carried on through each coach.*

Exactly, like the 'Bulldog Spirit' song. To me, Coach Sweeney is the foundation of this place. He's a legend. He should be in the College Football Hall of Fame. And then Coach Hill did a phenomenal job of continuing that and even growing it. Coach Hill has already talked to our staff. I wanted him to tell us stories about how he did it here and what was important to him in recruiting and everything about the program because he takes a lot of pride in this place.

*Who's the best Bulldog you ever played with?*

Oh that would have to be Henry Ellard. He was a guy who obviously had a great NFL career and he was a difference maker for sure. He made my job a lot easier. He was just a tough player, competitive player. As a quarterback, throwing the ball to him and Stephone Paige was awesome.

*Who's the best you've ever coached at Fresno State?*

Oh shoot. You'll get me in trouble asking that question. Over the years I coached here we had a lot of success. If you just took a team, the team that beat USC in the Freedom Bowl was loaded with players from Lorenzo Neal and Trent Dilfer to Charlie Jones and Malcolm Seabron, Anthony Daigle, Ron Rivers, Tydus Winans and just so many people. We had a great team. It was no surprise to us to beat USC. I think it was to everybody else, but we were legitimately better than they were.

*Is your favorite part of coaching to be on the field with the guys or do you love the recruiting and all the behind-the-scenes stuff?*

I love all of it. I had a chance to really reflect a couple years ago when I had my heart issue, and I had to take a leave of absence with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. It gave me time to reflect as I was recovering from that because I never really had time to reflect before, and so I could ask myself the question, 'Why am I doing this? What do I want to do?' And it became so evident to me that it's college football and being around the kids, recruiting, being with them on and off the field, creating relationships with them that last a lot longer than just while they're here four or five years. Those are the things that make this profession worthwhile to me.

## THE TEDFORD FILE:

**19TH HEAD COACH**  
in Fresno State history

**11 YEARS**  
head coaching experience  
at Cal

**NO. 2 NATIONAL RANKING**  
at Cal during 2007

**7 STRAIGHT BOWL APPEARANCES**  
at Cal 2003-09

**82 WINS FROM 2002-12**  
to become winningest coach  
in Cal history

**40 NFL DRAFT PICKS**  
(8 first-rounders) as head coach



# JUST THE TICKET



to Build Our Community

*“Our No. 1 goal is to obtain that degree and get educated, not just stay eligible. We’re thinking about life after football, we’re doing things in the community, we’re networking, we’re building a resume and we’re reaching our full potential in everything we do. The habits we build every day, the work ethics, are going to go much further on after football is over. One of the best things about college athletics is the discipline, the sacrifice, teamwork, dedication, time management, all the things our kids have to do. If they master it here, it’s going to make them a much more productive person in the community.”*



**JEFF TEDFORD**  
FRESNO STATE  
FOOTBALL COACH

▲ A newly released rendering of the planned Bulldog Stadium renovation shows the view from the southeast corner. The design features a new tower with a press box and club level, a tunnel for easier access to seating and more open space for movement, concessions and restrooms.

*You were the quarterback the first full year that Bulldog Stadium was open. It’s coming up on 40 years old in 2020, but plans are underway to renovate it. How important is that?*

There are some things that need to be renovated for fans. There are plans to get all that done, which will help us big time in recruiting. It’ll help all the other sports as well. When we look at something like that, the revenue-producing piece of it is for everybody, not just for football. It’s important that fans are comfortable there, that it’s safe for fans and that it’s a great place to watch a game.

*You’ve been down that ramp as an assistant and as a player, but come Sept. 2 what emotion are you going to feel walking down it as the head coach of the Fresno State Bulldogs?*

It’ll be emotional, but it’ll be more energy than anything. I have an obligation to a lot of people, and we have an obligation to the people who came before us. There’s a reason why Coach Sweeney’s picture is right over there (pointing to wall facing his desk next to the doorway). He looks over me every day as I walk out that door. Every time I go down that ramp, it’s the players who were here, the coaches who were here, it’s everyone who has invested in this place is what it’s all about. Going down that ramp for me means a lot. It’s much more than playing a football game.



Q&A

**ONLINE EXTRA**  
For the full Q&A, including details on the team’s new style of defense, visit [FresnoStateMagazine.com](http://FresnoStateMagazine.com)

# DIAMOND DIPLOMACY

From internment camp to the record books,  
Fibber Hirayama etches his name  
in Japanese-American baseball lore

*by Paul Loeffler*



**T**he man labeled by many as the greatest athlete, pound for pound, in Fresno State history could amble through a sold-out Bulldog Stadium these days without turning a single head. Follow him on his annual trek to Hiroshima, Japan, however, and you'll watch his right hand go numb from scribbling endless autographs for awestruck admirers.

Even at age 87, Satoshi "Fibber" Hirayama is a walking contradiction, his heroics surpassed only by his humility. Hirayama has been raising eyebrows for decades, manifesting magical moments on the diamond and the gridiron that defied his diminutive stature.

On the opening weekend of the college baseball season, Fibber — so dubbed because his Japanese immigrant father struggled to pronounce Hirayama's birth month, February — learned his jersey No. 3 would be retired later in the season, marking Fresno's unique role in Japanese-American baseball history.

"I'm speechless," Hirayama deadpanned, true to form for a man whose athletic exploits always spoke louder than any words, and someone who still remembers what it was like to have no voice and no freedom.

He was two days past his 12th birthday when Executive Order 9066 deemed this bicycle-riding boy from the Tulare County hamlet of Exeter an "enemy alien," soon sending Hirayama and 120,000 other Americans of Japanese ancestry into internment camps further inland. Locked behind barbed wire in Poston, Arizona, for the next three years, Hirayama was playing a game of dry desert baseball when the atomic bomb devastated Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

Little did that sun-soaked 15-year-old prisoner know that only a decade later, he would become a critical instrument of diamond diplomacy, greeted by 10,000 people when he arrived in that still-recovering city to launch an all-star career for the Hiroshima Carp.

◀ Satoshi "Fibber" Hirayama, regarded as arguably the greatest pound-for-pound athlete in Fresno State history, greets the 2017 Diamond 'Dogs on the day his jersey No. 3 was retired.



Hirayama's Fresno State records for steals in a:

**GAME - 5 | SEASON - 36 | CAREER - 71**

Baseball wasn't part of the plan when he initially landed a football scholarship. As Hirayama tells it, his decision to don a baseball uniform for former Bulldogs coach Pete Beiden was based solely on his disdain for spring football practice.

He became the first Bulldog ever to earn first-team all-league honors three times and helped secure Beiden's first conference championship as a sophomore in 1950. The following year, his play in center field pushed Fresno State to another title with the best record in school history, 36-4. Somehow left out of the NCAA playoffs, the Bulldogs instead capped their season with a trip to Hawaii, where Hirayama's 360-foot throw to home captured the attention of a local sportswriter. "Other than Joe DiMaggio," Wallace Hirai wrote, "no player has come through with such a perfect strike from the outfield in the 25-year history of Honolulu Stadium."

His senior season saw the pint-sized dynamo extend his career record for stolen bases to 71 and propel the Bulldogs to the first of their 34 NCAA Tournament appearances. It would be nearly four decades before Tom Goodwin broke his record for steals, but Hirayama's mark of five thefts in a single game still stands.

His Major League Baseball dreams were dashed when the Army drafted him away from the St. Louis Browns' farm system in 1953, and after two years in the military, he joined former Bulldog teammates Harvey and Howie Zenimura in Japan. Hirayama tallied 160 career

steals, clubbed 45 home runs, and even delivered a clutch hit off of Hall of Famer Whitey Ford in an exhibition against the New York Yankees.

Wanting to raise their family in the U.S., Hirayama and wife Jean moved back to the Valley, with decades as an educator, coach and baseball scout punctuated by regular returns to Hiroshima.

On April 30, 2017 he stepped between the lines once more at his alma mater. In a stadium named for his onetime teammate Bob Bennett, on a field bearing the name of their Bulldog coach, the accidental all-star had no choice but to let it all sink in. Ten Bulldog legends previously honored were joined by an eleventh name on the press box façade, with "FIBBER" displayed prominently above the retired No. 3.

Seventy-five years after an American-born 12-year-old was branded an "enemy alien" and assigned the number 39621D as he was exiled to an internment camp, that number of shame was replaced with a number of honor. 

— Paul Loeffler is the play-by-play voice of the Bulldogs, broadcasting Fresno State baseball, football and basketball on 940 ESPN.



#### ONLINE EXTRA

See the poem written by legendary former Fresno State baseball coach Bob Bennett in honor of Fibber Hirayama.

[FresnoStateMagazine.com](http://FresnoStateMagazine.com)

## Powered by **Bulldog Spirit**

Marvin Meyers, a proud 1956 Fresno State graduate, is taking his Bulldog spirit to new heights — literally. He got a Fresno State-inspired paint job on his King Air 300 TurboProp aircraft, complete with Bulldog red and blue striping and the Bulldog four-paw logo on each wing tip. Meyers, a Mendota-area farmer and pioneering water conservationist, was named the Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus in 2012 — the highest honor given by the Fresno State Alumni Association. His family's generosity has long benefitted the University and its students. In 2013, the Meyers Family Sports Medicine Center opened to provide nutritional counseling, physical examinations, injury treatments, on-site X-ray and rehabilitation services for Fresno State student-athletes.

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*“Fresno State is dear to me, and at this stage of my life it is a pleasure to be involved with Fresno State athletics and the University. The Bulldog colors will be flying throughout the country.”*

**MARVIN MEYERS**  
ALUMNUS (1956)

---



Cary Edmondson

**Do you have that  
Bulldog spirit?**

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[magazine@csufresno.edu](mailto:magazine@csufresno.edu)



# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s

**John Graffigna** (1967) was inducted into the San Joaquin County Agricultural Hall Fame for his contributions to agriculture and to the community.

**Paulette Janian** (1968) was presented with the Justice Pauline Davis Hanson award by the Fresno County Women Lawyers in recognition of her leadership, mentorship and support for the advancement of women in the legal profession.

**Betty Miller** (1968) taught French and drama in Sacramento for 38 years. She founded the Readers Theatre program at Rio Americano High School and wrote "The Readers Theatre Experience."

## 1970s

**Lynne Ayers Ashbeck** (1976, '77) was reappointed to the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. She is now senior vice president for community engagement at Valley Children's Hospital.

**Joseph Audelo** (1979) was named the first vice president, commercial relationship manager at Heritage Oaks Bank for Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and is the newest board member at Maritime Museum.

**Robert Beltran** (1978) is director of the play "Mariela in the Desert," which ran for five weeks in Los Angeles and was presented by CASA 0101 Theatre and Angel City Theatre Ensemble.

**Jim Boren** (1972) served as a juror for the 2016 Pulitzer Prize awards in the editorial writing category. He has been inducted into Fresno State's Media, Communication and Journalism Hall of Fame, and is the executive editor and senior vice president at The Fresno Bee.

**Jeffrey Bowman** (1975) and Ben Deutscher created a short film for the holidays, "The Fare Before Christmas," which played at Maya Cinemas, Campus Pointe, in November.

**Lee Brand** (1973) is now mayor of Fresno. He previously served on the Fresno City Council, representing District 6.

**Harry C. Carinio** (1971), an engineer, retired after 44 years from the Department of the Navy serving as a supervisory mechanical engineer, most recently at the NAVAIR Weapons Division in Point Mugu.

**Jean Fuller** (1972) was re-elected Senate Republican leader for the 16th Senate District.

**David Heitz** (1974) and his Heitz Cellars family winery were featured in the Napa Valley Register as a wine that helped create Napa Valley.

**Bob Kampf** (1978, '79, '88), director of supplemental services for Clovis Unified School District, was named Fresno County Office of Administration's Administrator of the Year.

**Jon Kawamoto** (1978), former editor of the Los Angeles Times, the Contra Costa Times and the Oakland Tribune, is editor for the Alameda Journal, The Montclarion and the Piedmonter.

**Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff** (1979), a well-known author and memoirist, visited Saratoga and Gilroy libraries for book signings in October.

**John Leal** (1974) is now board president for the State Center Community College District.

**Larry Oda** (1972, '75), is now superintendent of maintenance services for the City of Salinas Public Works Department.

**Col. Janet Setnor** (1976), an authority on anesthesia providers in combat zones and a Nurse Corps veteran with 25 years as a U.S. Air Force reservist, is now chief anesthetist and director of nursing at the Austin-Weston Center in Reston, Virginia.

## 1980s

**Tony Cantu** (1985) was posthumously awarded the Leadership and Cultural Excellence Award. He served as president for Fresno City College.

**Henry de la Torre** (1989) is now postmaster for the City of Madera.

**Lance Hairabedian** (1987) is now a physical therapist at Alliance Health.

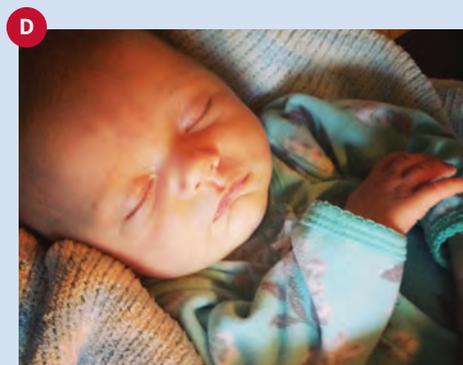
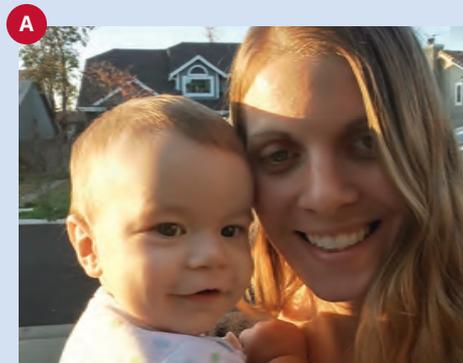
**Lynn Kovach** (1981), owner and surveyor for Polaris Consulting in Carmel Valley, was featured in the Point of Beginning Online Magazine.

**J. Michael Leonardo** (1981) is now executive director for the Fresno County Transportation Authority, overseeing projects funded by the county's Measure C transportation sales tax.

**Brad Lewis** (1980) is executive producer of "Storks," a Warner Bros. animated movie that was released in September.

**Dana Lucka** (1981, 2000, '15) is now coordinator of the Graduate Medical Education Residency Program at Saint Agnes Medical Center.

**Irene B. Mendes** (1982), a nurse of 42 years who served as school nurse at the Corcoran Joint Unified School District, will join the International Nurses Association with a publication in the Worldwide Leaders in Healthcare.



La Bella Vita Photography

Me + 3 Photography

**A** **Brittany (Nielsen) Avila** (2009) and Scott Avila welcomed their first child, Lucas Joseph, on June 17, 2016.

**B** **Katie (Adamo) Bewarder** (2009, '12) married Shane Bewarder on Oct. 22 in Madera. Also pictured are Tobias and Sophia Bewarder.

**C** **Tom Brandstater** (2007, '09) and Haley Brandstater welcomed their first child, Dallas Lively on Feb. 10 in Nashville.

**D** **Amanda Bunch** (2005) and **Kyle Bunch** (2005) welcomed their second child, Kylie Grace on March 31.

E



F



Photogenix

G



H



Delia Medrano Photography

E

**Heather (Halsey) Martinez** (2008) and Benny Martinez welcomed their first child, Harrison Grant, on Oct. 24 in Clovis.

F

**Robert Medina** (2004) and **Jessica Medina** (2008, '12) welcomed their second child, Alexander James, on Oct. 13.

G

**Jenna (Nielsen) Mills** (2005) and Matt Mills welcomed their second child, Brandon Dennis, on Nov. 20.

H

**Adriana Salazar** (2015) and Angel Ledesma announced their engagement and are planning an August wedding.

**Karl Merten** (1986) is owner of Café 225 restaurant, a unique epicurean delight in downtown Visalia.

**David Munksgard** (1980), is winemaker for the Iron House Vineyards. He created special edition cuvee wines for the winter and summer seasons.

**Warren R. Paboojian** (1980) was selected by the CAL-ABOTA board of directors as the 2017 Trial Lawyer of the Year, the highest honor.

**Fran Pomaville** (1982, '84) presented on pediatric traumatic brain injury at the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association annual conference in March in Pasadena.

**Leslie Richelle Scott** (1985) authored the memoir "Outside-In, Inside-Out: A Transgender Journey," about her gender transition from man to woman at 61 years of age.

**Luke Serpa** (1985) is now interim public utilities director for the City of Clovis. Before coming to Clovis, Serpa previously worked at the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and at Cal Fire.

**Jill Silva** (1986), retired chief probation officer for Stanislaus County, was named 12th Assembly District's Woman of the Year for 2017.

**Rick Stark** (1980), a growers relations manager at Sun-Maid Growers of California, was appointed to the Fresno County Farm Bureau board of directors.

**Mariam Stephanian** (1975, '77) was featured in the The Fresno Bee. She is president and general manager for Valley Public Radio, KVPR 89.3 FM and KVPR Bakersfield.

**Penelope Tamm** (1984), was promoted to lieutenant by Pleasanton Police Chief David Spiller.

**Patrick Warrick** (1985) is a forensic scientist for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

**Maryellen Willis** (1984) is co-owner of Nonnie's House, a women's boutique and day spa in Old Town Clovis with a second location in Fresno.

## 1990s

**Pedro Avila** (1999) is now vice president of student services and assistant superintendent at Santa Rosa Junior College.

**Jamie Christian** (1992), a former Bulldogs fullback, was named Fresno State's running backs coach and special teams coordinator.

**Ben Drati** (1997, 2010) is now superintendent for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

**Tamara Epperson** (1999), accounting and business administration professor at the Madera Community College Center, was inducted onto the Wall of Honor at the State Center Community College District.

**Shonna Halterman** (1991) is now general services director for the City of Clovis.

**Mike Hamasaki** (1993) is now Stanislaus County chief probation officer.

**Dave Kreske** (1990) is now vice president of construction at Meridian, a full-service real estate developer that specializes in acquiring and developing real estate facilities.

**Pao Lee** (1999) is now a counselor at Western Nevada College. He previously served for two years as an adviser at Oklahoma City Community College.

**Kristan Lundquist** (1995) was featured on the Californian, City Snapshot. She works for the City of Salinas Library and Community Services as the recreation and community services superintendent.

**Lisa Manes-James** (1997) hosted her first solo expressionism exhibition at Arts Visalia in October.

**Sam Mann** (1993) is now president of the Public Agency Risk Management Association overseeing California.

**Daniel Martinez** (1998) was elected to the Sanger City Council, representing District 3.

**Jack T. Patton** (1993), family medicine consultant, was included in the Marquis Who's Who, a publisher of directories containing short biographies.

**Jerry Pearson** (1990), attorney, was featured in a Bakersfield.com profile. He manages the Young Wooldridge LLP business law department and practices in labor and employment matters.

**Barbara Perkins** (1999) is now leading small business administrator lender for Santa Cruz County Bank.

**Debra Russell** (1992) was promoted to vice president for community relations and real estate operations for Signal Hill Petroleum, Inc.

**Jay Schengel** (1996) is now finance director for the City of Clovis.

**Mary Lourdes Silva** (1999, 2003), retired writing professor, was granted emeritus status at Ithaca College.

**Scott Thompson** (1999), a former standout tight end for the Fresno State football team, is now the Bulldogs' tight ends coach.

**Billy Volek** (1999), a standout Fresno State quarterback and 13-year NFL veteran, was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in November.

**J.D. Williams** (1997), a former All-American defensive back at Fresno State and the school's first-ever first-round NFL draft pick in 1990, was hired as the football program's defensive backs coach. He previously served in the same role in 2000-2001 after seven years in the NFL, including four straight Super Bowl appearances with the Buffalo Bills.

**Danny Yeo** (1996), author, child actor, theatre director, media lecturer and emcee, was featured on Straits Times Lifestyle in an interview as the founder of Pure Talents Agency and wearing many hats as part of his job.

## 2000s

**Paul Amador** (2004) was elected Idaho legislator for District 4, Seat B.

**Brittany (Nielsen) Avila** (2009) earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology in May from the University of Mississippi.

**Tina Beddall** (2004), an administrator in admissions and records, retired after 31 years of service at Fresno State.

**Britt Beene** (2003), a certified crop and pest control adviser, is now a crop vitality specialist for Tessengerlo Kerley's Crop Vitality in the Pacific Northwest region.

**Daniel R. Bernard** (2003, '05), was named to "40 under 40" by Business Street Online, recognizing 40 accomplished area professionals under age 40.

**Zachry Boswell** (2007) is now principal at West High School in Tracy.

**Jenny Chang** (2005) coauthored a journal article titled "The Hmong in the United States: From Preiterate to College Success" that was published in the American International Journal of Humanities and Social Science. She is now a licensed marriage and family therapist.

**Jed Chernabaeff** (2004, '15) is now a public information officer for the Ventura County Harbor Department.

**Jessica (Henley) Chernabaeff** (2004) is now a registered nurse at Community Memorial Hospital Ventura. She previously worked at Fresno Heart and Surgical Hospital for 10 years.

**Kuyler Crocker** (2009) was sworn into the Tulare County Board of Supervisors for District 1.

**Sebastian Donoso** (2007) is now organic winemaker for Fetzer Vineyards.

**Devon Goossen** (2013) is in the first residency program at Valley Children's Hospital, a partnership with Stanford University.

**Scott Graham** (2005) and Lereena Patidar created Coin Up, a secure mobile donation app that allows users to round-up transactions from the debit or credit card for a charity of the user's choice.

**Jose Guzman** (2012) was sworn in as a California Highway Patrol officer and assigned to the San Diego area.

**Desiree Heckman** (2008, '10) opened Old Town Yoga in Clovis.

**Brenna (Wylie) Hughes** (2006) presented on pediatric traumatic brain injury at the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association annual conference in March in Pasadena.

**Tim Lutz** (2003, '05), with 12 years of Tulare County government experience, was selected as Calaveras County administrative officer.

**Paul Melikian** (2001, '03) is now Reedley assistant city manager.

**Samuel Molina** (2010) is now state director of Mi Familia Vota.

**Joey Myers** (2003), a former outfielder at Fresno State, authored two books, titled "The Catapult Loading System: How to Teach 100-Pound Pitchers to Consistently Drive the Ball 300 Feet" and "The Science of Sticky Coaching: How to Turn Ordinary Athletes into Extraordinary."

**Frankie C. Olivares** (2016) is now administrative analyst for City of Selma.

**Yvette Roberts-Haynes** (2006, '16), a star Bulldogs basketball and track and field athlete from 1986-1989, was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame. As a social work supervisor in Fresno, she was also honored as a Fresno State Alumni Association Top Dog in 2011.

**Eunice Rosas** (2008) and husband Cesar Rodriguez established Run for All, Inc., a nonprofit organization bringing awareness to and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

**Benjamin Ruiz** (2000) is now director of Tulare County Resource Management Agency after serving as interim director for nine months.

**Demitrius Snaer** (2005), professor and men's cross country coach for Modesto Junior College, spoke for the Modesto Junior College's Positive People Speaker Series in February.

**Chad Stock** (2006) is winemaker at Minimus Winery in Carlton, Oregon.

**Angie Taylor** (2003), certified accountant, now works for Novogradac & Company LLP in San Francisco. She is pursuing her master's degree at Golden Gate University.

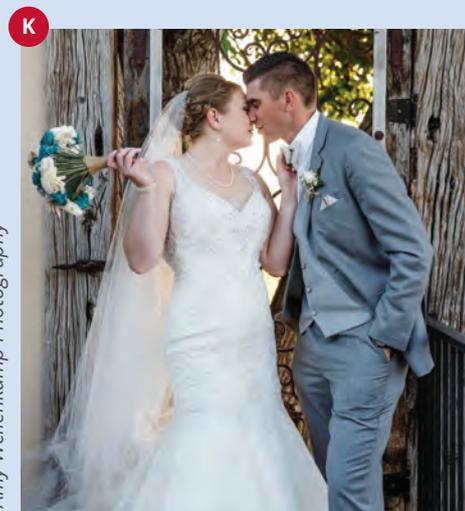
**Nini Thomas** joined the Mount Nittany Physician Group. She is a member of the American Thyroid Association, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and the Endocrine Society.

**Kasie West** (2000) published her new novel "La Distancia Entre tú y yo." She is also author of "On the Fence," "The Fill-In Boyfriend," the biography of "Pivot Point" and "P.S. I Like You."

**Justin Wilson**, the College World Series-winning pitcher for Fresno State in 2008, is now the closer for the Detroit Tigers.



Kellie Munro



Amy Wellenkamp Photography

**I Blair Smittcamp** and Nathan Martin will be married Nov. 4 in Clovis.

**J Beth Wilkinson** (2006) and Colin Wilkinson welcomed their first child, Wren Ariadne, on Aug. 25.

**K Andrew Worth** (2015) married **Dana Wilhite** (2010) on April 15 in Sanger.

## Do you have news to share?

Submit an alumni Class Note and high-resolution photo to:  
[magazine@csufresno.edu](mailto:magazine@csufresno.edu)

# 2010s

**Davante Adams**, wide receiver for the Green Bay Packers, had a breakout year with 75 catches for 997 yards and 12 touchdowns.

**Monique Bienvenue** (2015) was elected president of the California Women for Agriculture Fresno Chapter.

**Rodney Bosch** (2016) is editor for Security Sales and Integration magazine.

**Hannah Brown** (2013) was named UC Merced's second head women's soccer coach.

**Derek Carr** (2013), the Oakland Raiders quarterback named to his second straight Pro Bowl, was selected to receive the 2016 Commitment to Excellence Award by teammates.

**Christopher Davidson** (2015) won his first Yosemite Scratch 6-Gamer bowling tournament, earning a \$398 prize.

**Julio Garibay** (2012) is now providing care as a family nurse practitioner at Adventist Health/Community Care in Kerman. He previously served as a medic in the U.S. Air Force.

**Paul George** of the Indiana Pacers earned his fourth straight NBA All-Star appearance just months after winning an Olympic gold medal with Team USA basketball.

**Tyler Johnson** (2014), a guard for the NBA's Miami Heat, was featured in an ESPN the Magazine story titled "Mad Money."

**Aaron Judge** appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated as a rookie with the New York Yankees after he tied the Major League record for most home runs ever by a rookie in April.

**Justin Kamimoto**, founder of My LGBT Plus, visited Washington D.C. for the White House Convening on Advancing LGBT Progress in Rural America in December.

**Kevin Loewen** (2010, '12) was named director of parks and planning for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.

**Gilbert Magallon** (2015) joined the NBC Right Now News team in Washington state.

**Leslie Abasta McGowan** (2010) was honored by Assemblymember Adam Gary at the state capitol as the 21st Assembly District's Woman of the Year.

**Matthew Mendoza** (2010), a respiratory therapist at Valley Children's Hospital, was recently featured in the Career Advice section of the American Association for Respiratory Care.

**Jim Nakamura** (2016) is co-founder of Space Bar Technologies, which developed a new app to curb texting while driving. The app rewards drivers who refrain and awards points that can be redeemed for discounts at local businesses.

**Jasmine Orozco** (2016) graduated from Tulare-Kings Counties Law Enforcement Training Academy and was sworn as a deputy for the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.

**Micolette Peña** (2016) is now manager of community relations for the Visalia Rawhide.

**Fabiola Ramirez** (2016) is now a multimedia journalist for the KSBY news in San Luis Obispo.

**Pedro Ramirez** (2011), former ASI president, is head of voter outreach for the Visalia-based Community Water Center.

**Cody Stacy** (2010) was appointed assistant winemaker for the King Estate Winery.

## Affinity Partners privacy notice

### Important privacy choice

You have the right to control whether we share your name, address and electronic mail address with our affinity partners (companies that we partner with to offer products or services to our alumni). Please read the following information carefully before you make your choice below.

### Your rights

You have the following rights to restrict the sharing of your name, address and electronic mail address with our affinity partners. This form does not prohibit us from sharing your information when we are required to do so by law.

This includes sending you information about the alumni association, the university or other products or services.

### Your choice *Restrict Information Sharing With Affinity Partners:*

Unless you say "NO," we may share your name, address and electronic mail address with our affinity partners. Our affinity partners may send you offers to purchase various products or services that we may have agreed they can offer in partnership with us.

### Time-sensitive reply

You may decide at any time that you do not want us to share your information with our affinity partners. Your choice marked here will remain unless you state otherwise. However, if we do not hear from you, we may share your name, address and electronic mail address with our affinity partners.

If you decide that you do not want to receive information from our partners, you may do one of the following:

1. Reply electronically by visiting [www.fresnostatealumni.com](http://www.fresnostatealumni.com) and clicking on the "SB 569" graphic.
2. Fill out, sign and fax the form to 559.278.7925.

3. Call 559.278.4036 or call toll-free 866.414.8136.
4. Fill out, sign and send back this form to us at the following address (you may want to make a copy for your records).

**Fresno State  
ATTN: SB 569  
5244 N. Jackson Ave. KC45  
Fresno, CA 93740**



**Please print clearly and complete this information below to ensure accurate processing of your request.**

NO, Please do not share my name, address and electronic mail address with your affinity partners.

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current email address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## IN MEMORIAM

# 'For thee, our hopes and memories'

**Benjamin V. Amirkhanian** (1937), Dec. 24 in Fresno.

**Leon Baradat** (1965), Aug. 22 in Tulare.

**Dominic Louis Barile** (1950), Oct. 27 in Fresno.

**Peggy Joanne Pogon Barns** (1971, 2001), Dec. 9 in Fullerton.

**Shirley Jane Bowden** (1968), March 9 in Hanford.

**Susan Linda (Walker) Brase**, Oct. 24 in Fresno.

**Carol Brown** (1996, 2001), Dec. 29 in Easton.

**Frank Carbajal** (1978), Sept. 29 in Fresno.

**Luca Carbone** (1948), Sept. 14 in Fresno.

**Trini Salgado Castanon** (1985), Oct. 6 in Fresno.

**Ramón D. Chacón** (1968), Feb. 7 in Roseville.

**Robert L. "Bob" Clovis** (1972), Dec. 28 in Salinas.

**Samuel Ronald Comp** (1974, '76), Oct. 28 in Hanford.

**Eleanor Emily Copeland** (1996), Dec. 8.

**Ralston Lercara Courtney** (1993), Sept. 13 in Coarsegold.

**Lana Cribbs** (1977), Aug. 4 in Torrance.

**William C. Cutting** (1951), March 4 in Morro Bay.

**Claire Marie DeBoer** (1972), Sept. 28 in Ivanhoe.

**Carole Kay Doddspaden** (1982), Dec. 29 in Fresno.

**Ryan Paul Dorrance** (2004), Oct. 2 in Fresno.

**Gertrude Salontay Duggan** (1989), Nov. 26 in Fresno.

**Daena Lynette Eberle** (2003), Oct. 8 in Yucca Valley.

**Patricia Reardon Fallis** (1972), March 27 in Fresno.

**William Richard Frolli** (1994), Jan. 8 in Visalia.

**Duane Furman** (1951), Nov. 12 in Madera.

**Joseph "Joey" Michael Furtado** (2008), March 23 in San Jose.

**Leo Gallegos Jr.** (1973, '74), Oct. 30 in Clovis.

**Kenneth Harvey Green** (1951), Sept. 12 in Fresno.

**Dennis Karnig Hamamjian** (1973), Nov. 7 in Fresno.

**Thomas Jackson "Jack" Harper** (1958), Oct. 3 in Morro Bay.

**Joe E. Haynes** (1960), Sept. 18 in Clovis.

**Stephen R. Heinrich** (1968), Sept. 4.

**Stella Helghatian** (1944), Oct. 17.

**Marian Herick** (1978), Sept. 22 in Palo Alto.

**Aldon L. Holder, Jr.** (1971), Oct. 21.

**Paul Raymond Hollar** (1987), Nov. 7.

**E.W. "Bill" Hunke Jr.** (1950), Oct. 31 in Sun Lakes, Arizona.

**William Shozo Inouye** (1950), Oct. 31.

**Paul Kent Johnson** (1973), Jan. 17 in Tulare.

**Henry C. Jones Sr.** (1979), Dec. 23 in Clovis.

**Steven E. Kemper** (1983, '89), March 19 in Fresno.

**Justin Thomas Kulikov** (1994), Oct. 11.

**Harry James Larsen** (1948), Sept. 27 in Fresno.

**Burton Ray Lindquist** (1967), Oct. 30 in Modesto.

**Julie D. Lockwood** (2009), Jan. 17 in Wilton.

**Dolores Machado** (1959), Dec. 5 in Fresno.

**Anthony Marquez** (1985), Feb. 9.

**Billy B. Martin** (1986), Dec. 23 in Oakland.

**James Douglas Martin** (1968), Oct. 3 in Fresno.

**Jennifer Marie Mathis** (1974), March 20 in Clovis.

**Laurie Anne Hills McFeeters** (1956), March 15 in Fresno.

**George D. McKean II** (1970), Oct. 23.

**Kent Richard Millar** (1967), Nov. 30.

**Margie Wong Moradian** (1970, '72), in Fresno.

**Thurman Edward Mullen** (1974), Oct. 4.

**Gary Y. Nakashima** (1970), March 4 in Sacramento.

**Loren LeRoy Nyman** (1965), March 25 in Turlock.

**Leonard O. Pagel** (1972), March 7 in Fresno.

**Richard John Perez** (1974), Sept. 18 in Fresno.

**Lori Ann Pond**, Oct. 24 in Firebaugh.

**Jerrold "Ken" Ramage** (1969), Jan. 12 in Visalia.

**Bobby Roberts** (1964), Oct. 18.

**Armando Rodriguez** (1959), April 5 in Fresno.

**Tony San Juan** (2000), March 4 in Santa Maria.

**Sheri Shintaku** (1981), Dec. 14 in Clovis.

**Elizabeth Silvani** (1957), March 4 in Clovis.

**Lois Gabriel Sinclair** (1951), Aug. 29 in La Palma.

**Edward Brian Sinnott** (1965), Dec. 30 in Felton.

**Bill Sobkow** (1968), Sept. 14 in Yorkton, Canada.

**Carmen Stahl** (2001), March 12 in Fresno.

**Richard "Dick" Calvin Stoner** (1949), Nov. 29.

**Wanda Joy (Walker) Sweeney** (1957), Oct. 24 in Woodlake.

**Marilyn Kathleen Thornton** (1965), March 28.

**Christine L. Van Steyn** (1971), March 17.

**June Voth**, Jan. 13 in Fresno.

**Harry Edward White Jr.** (1970), Oct. 22.

**Jacquelyn Kay (Doran) White** (2004, '06), Feb. 7 in Laton.

**Glenna Virginia Wilson** (1981), March 20 in Fresno.

**Calvin F. "Cal" Wise** (1955), Jan. 3 in Clovis.

**Micheal Woods** (1989), Dec. 17 in 2016

**Donnalee Foy Zimmerman** (1983), Oct. 15.

## FACULTY/STAFF

**Sidney H. Chang**, Oct. 3 in Fresno.

**Paul Joseph DeRuosi** (1972, '85), Feb. 4 in San Francisco.

**Ronald Lubin Evans**, Dec. 28.

**Raymond R. Fisher**, Aug. 12.

**Kenneth Fugelsang**, Feb. 20 in Fresno.

**Brad Hufft**, April 13 in Coarsegold.

**Phillip Dale Kimble**, Oct. 22 in Arizona.

**Seymour Mack**, Sept. 15.

**William Louis "Bill" Olson** (1972), March 5.

**Vincent E. Petrucci** (1994), Dec. 27 in Fresno.

**Diamond Moosios Savaros**, Jan. 11 in Fresno.

**Floyd Skaggs**, Oct. 30 in Fresno.

**Harold "Hal" Tokmakian**, Sept. 20.

**Keith Harris Woodwick**, Nov. 1 in Fresno.

## FRIENDS

**John Wallace Franzman**, March 27 in Clovis.

**Lajpat Rai Munger** (Honorary Degree 2003), Aug. 22 in Fresno.

# Students First



In front of one of the largest student section crowds of the season, men's basketball players honored the importance of academics in an athlete's life by wearing special black Nike uniforms with "STUDENT" across the back of the jerseys instead of their last names.

The Student Night celebration highlighted the University's commitment to academics and athletics rising together. The Bulldogs beat New Mexico 71-61 in the nationally televised game.

"It was really cool to see everybody out there," says senior forward Paul Watson, who's close to completing his degree in Africana Studies. "It was nice to have the whole student body behind us, being loud and bringing us energy. They make a huge difference whether they know it or not."

*Freshman forward Bryson Williams, a communication major, led the Bulldogs by making 60 percent of his shots.*



**FRESNO STATE**

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**Congrats Class of 2017!**

**View graduation photos at:**

[www.FresnoStateNews.com/106th-commencement](http://www.FresnoStateNews.com/106th-commencement)

*Kat Nijmeddin on stage during a Fresno State Commencement ceremony.*



Cary Edmondson