

# FRESNO STATE

MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



IMAGINE THE **VALLEY** WITHOUT THE

# BULLDOGS

A look at the university's impact on:

**Education**  
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**Health Care**  
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**Ag**  
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**Engineering**  
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# The PRIDE OF THE VALLEY

## Runs Deep



### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we reflect on the value that Fresno State brings to the Central Valley, this issue of the magazine will tackle a compelling question: What would our region look like without Fresno State? The truth is, without this institution, the Central Valley would lose one of its most significant sources of talent, innovation and economic activity. As Fresno State's president, I see that one of my greatest responsibilities is to serve as a proud ambassador for our fertile region – to showcase our history and contributions to the world, and to highlight the dynamic voices of our talented students, our future leaders who will lead with integrity and unrelenting Bulldog spirit.

Our university is the essential leader in and source of education, research, art, culture and community engagement. Our graduates go on to make a significant impact in critical industries such as health care,

education, engineering and agriculture. Fresno State alumni improve health outcomes, drive innovation and contribute greatly to the local workforce.

As you read through this issue, you will see firsthand how the impact of Fresno State extends into the critical industries that uplift our community. Our alumni, faculty and staff work tirelessly to address issues such as air quality, water resources, social justice and higher education access. Without Fresno State, the tapestry of the region would lose so much of its color, vibrancy and economic vitality.

Your support of Fresno State directly elevates the quality of life in our Valley, as 80% of our graduates stay here after graduation. Hence, by supporting Fresno State, you are investing in the future of critical industries and the workforce that drives them. You can be certain that

your engagement and partnership with Fresno State is instrumental for the future of the Valley.

Thank you for being a champion of Fresno State – you directly contribute to enriching the energy and ecosystem of our great Central Valley and beyond!

**Go 'Dogs!**

**Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval**  
President, Fresno State

Fresno State's impact can be traced around the globe, but it starts in Fresno County, where 84,000-plus alumni live and work.

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**Cover:** Fresno State has served the Valley since 1911, and it is here to stay. But have you ever wondered what the region would look like without its flagship university and the tens of thousands of graduates it produces to fuel the economy? This illustration of TimeOut represents the health care heroes, the engineers, the farmers, the businesspeople, the military veterans and everyone who the university serves.

**Left:** TimeOut lifts up Fresno County – appropriately shaped like a dog bone – demonstrating Fresno State's commitment to educating and empowering future generations to lift up the region.

Illustrations by Todd Graves

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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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If you receive more than one copy, please pass it along to a friend of Fresno State. If you would like to support the university, visit [fresnostate.edu/givenow](https://fresnostate.edu/givenow) to make your contribution. Thank you.

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## What a Way to Cap It

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Fresno State celebrated more than 6,000 graduates at its 112th commencement, with various ceremonies on May 19 and 20 for all eight of the schools and colleges on campus, plus numerous affinity groups.

Among these alumni are future leaders and professionals who will go on to become successful alumni, contributing to their chosen fields and boosting the region – with about 80% on average staying to work in the Valley. About 62% of graduates are the first in their families to earn bachelor's degrees, while many others are second- and third-generation Bulldogs.

### Class of 2023 by the numbers:

- **5,176** students receiving baccalaureate degrees.
- **910** students receiving post-baccalaureate degrees.

### Doctoral degrees:

- **43** Doctor of Educational Leadership graduates.
- **42** Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates.
- **5** Doctor of Nursing Practice graduates.

### Top 5 majors of the Class of 2023:

- Business administration (626)
- Psychology (566)
- Liberal studies (488)
- Criminology (367)
- Kinesiology (295)



# It's Never Too Late

**Degree completion program helps students finish what they started**

By Douglas Hoagland ('74)

► *Christine Gromis graduated from Fresno State in 2022, 47 years after she first began college. After successful careers in show business and later at The Fresno Bee, Gromis read a magazine article about the Liberal Arts Degree program at Fresno State. The program allows former students of any age to take those final steps toward completing their degrees.*

Cary Edmondson



**C**hristine Gromis achieved professional success without a college degree, and yet she felt somehow incomplete. Then in her 60s, she found a path to a diploma through the Liberal Arts Degree program at Fresno State.

The program allows former Fresno State students of any age who left the university in good standing to complete their degrees.

Gromis worked in the movie and television industries in Hollywood and then forged a sales and marketing career in Fresno. "But in the back of my mind, my personal goal was always to finish my degree," she says.

In 2022, she did, walking in the graduation ceremony with tears of joy. Family members watched with their own tears of love and pride in a journey completed.

That journey began 47 years earlier in 1975. Gromis started college as a recent high school graduate but soon left to work full time. She moved from Sacramento to Los Angeles, where she started in the temporary secretarial pool at Universal Pictures and eventually became assistant to Universal's president. Gromis worked behind the scenes on such films as "Out of Africa" starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford, and "Back to the Future" with Michael J. Fox.

Then the legendary Dick Clark entered her life. He hired Gromis as a creative director for his television production company. "Dick gave you opportunities if you showed interest and were good at what you did," she says. Gromis worked on such Clark productions as "Friday Night Surprise" and "TV's Bloopers & Practical Jokes," and she also helped on "The Golden Globes," "MTV Video Music Awards," and the "American Music Awards."

Excitement came with the work, and the money was good. "But at that point, I was a single mom raising a daughter, and I was away from her more than I wanted to be," Gromis says.

So she moved to Fresno to be close to her sister and started a 26-year career in sales and marketing at The Fresno Bee.

***"I always had a sense of incompleteness. My degree was the last piece of my life's puzzle."***

– **Christine Gromis**  
Alumna, liberal arts

With a fresh start came the thought of finishing college. In 2000, she enrolled at Fresno State, fitting in a class or two each semester. Then, in 2005, work circumstances changed, and Gromis had no choice but to stop taking classes.

Fast forward more than a decade, and she read a magazine article about the Liberal Arts Degree program that was starting in the Division of Continuing and Global Education in cooperation with the College of Arts and Humanities. The program – also known as Reconnect – leads to a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. Geared to working professionals, the flexible online program is a set of specially designed interdisciplinary courses that focus on critical thinking, writing, communication, diversity and ethics.

Gromis started the program two and a half years away from retirement. "I said, 'I can do this. I can go back and finish my degree.'"

As she worked through courses, she would retreat with her laptop to her Fresno home's quiet second-floor study, its windows overlooking birch trees and its walls filled with family photos. "My professors were always accessible via email or Zoom during office hours. I really feel I walked away from every class having learned something." Her capstone project

was a PowerPoint and poster about teaching young people how to detect fake news.

Gromis finished the program in two years, also earning a minor in Deaf education and graduating summa cum laude. Her

journey touched something in friends who've made a good living but never earned a college degree.

"They've told me what an inspiration I am." But for Gromis, the greatest reward is self satisfaction. "I always had a sense of incompleteness. My degree was the last piece of my life's puzzle." 

– *Douglas Hoagland is a freelance writer for the Division of Continuing and Global Education.*



## **Did you leave Fresno State without graduating?**

With Reconnect, you can earn an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree, fully online, within two years, without sacrificing your work or family life.

See more online:  
[bit.ly/3Bxft2T](https://bit.ly/3Bxft2T)



FACULTY MATTERS

## Water Storage: Searching for Solutions

Record-breaking atmospheric rivers hit the state in January, and while that may cause some to rejoice and believe the drought is over, experts at the California Water Institute caution farmers and other water stakeholders about the impact of the storms.

“The way the water is coming, it’s like we’re taking huge gulps – like trying to put a pitcher of water through a straw,” says Laura Ramos, associate director for research and education at the California Water Institute. “There’s so much water in the pitcher and the straw is so thin that we’re not able to capture all the water. A lot of that water is running off to other areas and is not always percolating into the ground where we need it.”

Charles Hillyer, associate vice president for the California Water Institute, says surface water and groundwater can be seen as the state’s checking and savings accounts, respectively. The checking account is where water is withdrawn first, and when that gets too low, we dip into the savings account. How much money goes into that checking account depends largely on how much snow falls in the mountains, he says.

On Feb. 1, the Department of Water Resources conducted the second snow survey of the season at Phillips Station, which recorded 85.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 33.5 inches, which was 193% of average for this location and date. Statewide, the snowpack was 205% of average for that date.

*“We live in a different world now. In the last 20 years, the need for water operations to change has become dramatic. We’ve got to figure out better ways to do some of these things.”*

– Sargeant Green

Research scientist, California Water Institute and Center for Irrigation Technology



California, one of only five Mediterranean climate regions in the world, is characterized by mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. The state’s infrastructure was made for a climate that was getting more snow and longer winters.

Steve Blumenshine, interim executive director of CSU-WATER (Water Advocacy for Education and Research), says the infrastructure worked fine when the snowmelt was predominantly in May and June, because the climate during the summer is hot and dry – perfect growing conditions.

“The old system was great because the natural reservoir was that snowpack on the mountains,” Blumenshine says. “When that melted, we built all these reservoirs in the state and federal water projects to receive that and distribute it.”

Now, however, that snow is melting earlier in February or March due to warmer temperatures, and the crops that need that water during

the summer aren’t able to get it, Blumenshine says.

Reservoirs do not just hold water for irrigation and cities, they are there to protect the Valley floor from flooding. Some experts are predicting that a greater proportion of mountain precipitation is going to be water, not snow, so holding water earlier in the year may be a risk.

“Do we want to store some of that water? Yes. Can we? Not always,” Ramos says. “Those reservoirs need to have that capacity and that empty space just in case there’s a huge melt.”

Water stakeholders from different sectors need to come together to figure out solutions, says Sargeant Green, a research scientist with the California Water Institute and Center for Irrigation Technology. “We live in a different world now. In the last 20 years, the need for water operations to change has become dramatic. We’ve got to figure out better ways to do some of these things.”

– Julissa Zavala (‘16)



## Bulldog Marching Band Goes Global

About two months after the Fresno State Bulldog Marching Band performed in the Rose Parade in Pasadena for the first time, about 100 members of the band were selected to perform at the annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland as part of the Mountain West Conference All Star Band.

“The Tournament of Roses Parade is the pinnacle of honor for a college marching band, and I am immensely proud of what our student musicians have achieved,” said Steve McKeithen, director of the Bulldog Marching Band, prior to the performance.

The 270-member Fresno State Bulldog Marching Band is the largest

student organization on campus, with members representing all eight of the various schools and colleges and consisting of a diverse group of students from all over California, the United States and the world.

In the past decade, the band has performed at six bowl games and two NFL games.

“This is truly a transformative experience for all of them, and we’re very proud of the band’s accomplishments and recognition far and wide,” says Dr. Honora Chapman, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at Fresno State, of the performance in Ireland.

– Benjamin Kirk (‘22)

Aimara Wootten

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

## Veterans Education Program: Serving Those Who Served

Chad-Michael Gilbuena partied his way through four community colleges before joining the U.S. Army in 2009. He enlisted to get a focus in life and prove himself worthy for the woman he loved.

What followed were four years as a mechanic attached to an infantry unit – including deployment to Afghanistan. He then served three years as a paratrooper with the famed 82nd Airborne Division.

In 2016, Gilbuena transitioned to the Army National Guard in Fresno and started to explore getting a college degree. He originally believed he'd have to return to community college and improve his grade point average before attending a university. Then he connected with the Veterans Education Program at Fresno State.



"It was surreal," Gilbuena says. "They said, 'You're automatically in the program. Here are your books. This is your classroom. All the instructors will come to you.' It was totally unexpected and very much appreciated. Having the opportunity to get into Fresno State – it was always a dream of mine."

Like all students, Gilbuena brought individual needs to the classroom.

▲ *Chad-Michael Gilbuena joined the U.S. Army in 2009, serving four years as a mechanic attached to an infantry unit that was deployed to Afghanistan. He then served three years as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. When he transitioned to the Army National Guard in Fresno in 2016, Gilbuena connected with the Veterans Education Program at Fresno State. He graduated in 2022 and said he'd "still be trying to get into the university" if it wasn't for the program tailored to veterans.*

He has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, which made concentrated reading difficult in high school and community college. "But the instructors in the veterans program helped me to cope by figuring out my best learning method."

The program also helped Gilbuena transition from his communication style with soldiers – forceful and

intense – to more low-key interaction with younger students at Fresno State. "They taught us how we needed to act and how to be successful in the college environment," he says.

Gilbuena finished the Veterans Education Program and pursued a bachelor's degree in recreation administration with an emphasis in adventure/tourism. One weekend

a month for 18 months, he went to Officer Candidate School, which led to his commissioning as a second lieutenant in August 2021.

After graduating in May 2022, his next step is a full-time position with the U.S. Forest Service, where he interned in the spring 2022 semester. Gilbuena remains active in the Army National Guard. And, no matter where his career takes him, he will draw from the speech class in the Veterans Education Program. "It was pretty profound for me. It helped me become a better communicator and more of a leader."

Gilbuena communicates clearly when asked if he would have accomplished so much without the Veterans Education Program. "Oh, absolutely not. I'd still be trying to get into the university."

– Douglas Hoagland ('74)

(excerpt from ACCESS Magazine, a publication of the Division of Continuing and Global Education)



**AROUND THE FOUNTAIN**



### President Saúl

Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval introduced a new meet-and-greet space on campus where he and other administrators spend time each week fielding questions from students and listening to ideas and concerns. The booth, constructed by three engineering students, stands on the main path that leads to the Fresno State Library.



### Summer Arts Tradition

For the 18th year, Fresno State is hosting CSU Summer Arts, a program offering students and advanced practitioners the opportunity to live and study with world-renowned artists and CSU faculty in the fields of art, creative writing, dance, media, music and theatre. For more information about public events, visit [CalState.edu/SummerArts](http://CalState.edu/SummerArts).



### Alternative Spring Break

Thirty Fresno State students partnered with local organizations to volunteer over 750 hours of service during spring break, through the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning. Overall during the 2021-22 academic year, students, faculty and staff provided over 1 million hours of service to the community – the 13th straight year Fresno State has surpassed 1 million hours.



### Addressing Global Food Insecurity

Leaders from Fresno State and the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and

Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize ongoing collaboration. For the past decade, the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology has helped educate military civil affairs officers to better understand local farming systems in regions of the world where they will deploy, better preparing them to identify and address global food insecurity challenges, thereby reducing regional instability.



### Welcome to New York

As storms pounded Central California in February, New York Times reporter Soumya Karlamangla contacted the Department of Media, Communications and Journalism at Fresno State for help reporting on the weather. An email and a phone call later, student Viviana Hinojos had her first assignment with the second-largest daily newspaper in the United States, and became part of a team covering the storms.



### Championship Belt

After beating Washington State 29-6 in the Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl on Dec. 17, Fresno State was presented with a championship belt. The unique bowl game "trophy" was created by TrophySmack, a company co-founded by Fresno State alumnus Matt Walsh, who was featured on ABC's "Shark Tank" in 2021.

## Peacocks Expand Generosity with \$7M Planned Gift

Gary and Marlene Peacock's time in Fresno was relatively brief. Both were born and raised in other places, and they left shortly after graduating from Fresno State to begin their respective careers in the Bay Area's technology industry.

But their time as Fresno State students holds great meaning and memory in their life story – so much so that they want to give back to the campus where their romance began and pay tribute to Marlene's father in the process.

"That is the seed of our origin," Gary Peacock says. "It's where I met my wife. It's where we got our college degrees. It provided a platform for us to be successful in the corporate world. And so we decided we wanted to make a significant difference."

The Peacocks, married 45 years, met during their time as students at Fresno State in the 1970s – Marlene was a health science major, Gary majored in social sciences. They married in 1977 just days after they both graduated.

Their first gift to Fresno State in 2021 was to establish a scholarship to support students majoring in plant science or animal science.

Meeting the students who have been the recipients of their scholarships had a huge impact on the two of them. After seeing firsthand what their generosity provided for, the Peacocks wanted to do even more.

The Peacocks recently made a \$7 million commitment through their estate to fund additional scholarships from their endowment. This planned gift serves as a tribute to Marlene's



▲ Gary and Marlene Peacock, who met during their time as Fresno State students in the 1970s, made a \$7 million commitment through their estate to fund student scholarships in plant science and animal science.

father, Robert Krahenbuhl, who spent most of his career in agribusiness.

Marlene was born in Madera, but considers Red Bluff, a rural agricultural town in Northern California, her hometown. Gary was born in Queens, New York, and moved around growing up, a self-described "military brat." His family ended up in Ridgecrest, where he attended high school and later came to Fresno State.

The couple now lives in Park City, Utah, with a second home in Portland, Oregon.

While Marlene didn't end up pursuing the field she studied as an undergraduate, she still credits her Fresno State degree with opening professional doors for her.

"It had nothing to do with health science, absolutely nothing to do with it," she says. "But they required a college degree and that started me on my path. I was in manufacturing from Day 1, and I stayed in manufacturing my entire career. But without that degree from Fresno State, I would not have gotten that job."

College life at Fresno State helped set the stage for their future professional success – Gary with KLA

Corporation and Marlene with Cisco Systems, Inc.

"I basically acquired independence at Fresno State and the environment there. We mostly spent our time on campus with our friends and the faculty and the facilities there. We spent a lot of time in the library and the student union going to all the events. And so I think it was helping us mature as individuals and then learning some life skills, learning critical thinking skills."

They want to share that experience with future generations of Fresno State students through the scholarships they are funding.

"We wanted to make an investment in these students. We believe that it's important that Fresno State continue to support the agricultural industry in the San Joaquin Valley," Gary Peacock says. "And it's best to have highly educated people coming out of Fresno State with a degree that can help the industry."

– Lisa Bell ('95)

Online video:  
[bit.ly/3LSYQmK](https://bit.ly/3LSYQmK)



## Legacy of Giving Fuels Big Dreams

London native Harriet Lynch was just 4 years old when her father took her to the driving range and let her hit her first bucket of golf balls. Since then, there have been very few days when Lynch hasn't had a golf club in her hand.

"My dad and I share a love of the game," says Lynch, now in her senior year as a business major at Fresno State. She earned a bid to represent Fresno State at the NCAA tournament after averaging a score of 73.27 in 11 tournaments this season, including a third-place finish in the Mountain West championship.

One day, she hopes to join her idol, English professional golfer Georgia Hall, on the LPGA Tour. "The big dream is the LPGA," Lynch says.

Lynch would be the first to tell you she comes from a modest upbringing where "big dreams" tend to be elusive. "We weren't struggling," she says, "but my parents worked long, hard hours to give me and my brother everything we needed." Lynch's mother works as a personal assistant at a London bank. Her father, a retired detective, still drives a black cab part-time in the city.

"If I wanted to play collegiate golf," she says, "I knew I had to get a full-ride scholarship somewhere."

That somewhere turned out to be Fresno State, and the scholarship came from Herb and Melinda Depp, benefactors who recently eclipsed \$1 million in philanthropic giving to the university.

"Without them," Lynch says, "I wouldn't have been able to come."

Giving to Fresno State "probably started 30 or so years ago," according to Herb Depp, who says it was a cold call from then-Fresno State President John Welty that got him started in philanthropy.



Herb and Melinda Depp

Both Herb (a Vietnam veteran and retired pilot) and Melinda (a retired schoolteacher)

gave a \$150,000 scholarship endowment to support students in the College of Science and Mathematics and the Kremen School of Education and Human Development (specifically in the area of teacher preparation).

"We still get letters from the recipients," says Herb, a 2006 Top Dog Distinguished Alumni award winner from the College of Science and Mathematics.

The couple, now full-time Montana residents, first met on the Friday before classes started at Fresno State in fall 1962. Back then, tuition was \$50 a semester, "whether you took one unit or 20 units," Herb says. "I never knew anybody who had a student loan."

"That's because there were no student loans," Melinda says.

After successful careers in aerospace and teaching, the Depps settled in Montana in 2010, where they met and befriended then University of Montana women's golf coach Emily Loftin (née Milberger), whom the couple admired. She was hired to coach the Bulldogs women's golf team in 2013 and the Depps started providing scholarships to help the golf team.

"Fresno State means everything to me," says Herb Depp. "I met my wife of 55 years there. I had a glorious four years there."

Herb hopes that one day, those who have been impacted by their gifts will pay it forward if they have the means to do so.

"You really can change lives and make a difference," Melinda says.

– Charles Radke ('96)

**"If I wanted to play collegiate golf, I knew I had to get a full-ride scholarship somewhere ... Without them, I wouldn't have been able to come."**

– Harriet Lynch  
Recent graduate



# IMAGINE THE VALLEY WITHOUT THE BULLDOGS



Todd Graves

◀ Fresno State has served the Valley since 1911, and it is here to stay. But have you ever wondered what the region would look like without its flagship university and the tens of thousands of graduates it produces to fuel the economy? This illustration of TimeOut represents the health care heroes, the engineers, the farmers, the businesspeople, the military veterans and everyone who the university serves.

## An illustrative look at the extent of the university's impact in Central California and beyond

By Eddie Hughes ('05)

**E**ver thought about what the Valley would look like without Fresno State?

Where would the teachers come from? The nurses? The businesspeople? What about law enforcement, elected officials and media? Who would educate and prepare the engineers? Where would the food come from that you ate for breakfast, lunch and dinner?

What would the entertainment scene be like without Fresno State athletics? Would there still be pride in the Valley without the "Pride of the Valley?"

It's easy to talk about the impressive stats – 80% of Fresno State graduates stay and work in the Valley – but have you ever truly thought about what the region would look like without its flagship university?

In this special issue of Fresno State Magazine, we'll present a fun, imaginative glimpse into a Valley without Fresno State – and more specifically, a Valley without the talented people, professionals and future leaders the university produces.

Fresno State is here to stay. And that's why the community's support is more important than ever as the university prepares to fuel the economy for future generations.

So as you're flipping from page to page, let your mind wander. Consider the what ifs. Think about the 6,000 or so graduates per year that Fresno State is ushering into the job market, the 24,000-plus students each year who will become the next generation of leaders, the 242,000-plus living alumni and their many contributions locally, statewide and across the globe. Consider the first-generation graduates changing the trajectories of their families and elevating their communities, large and small. It is often said that Fresno State is an economic engine – and this issue highlights the reasons why.

**6,000**  
graduates per year

**24,000+**  
students each year

For every dollar that California invests in Fresno State, \$7.35 in statewide spending is generated. In the 2018-19 academic year, Fresno State-related activity supported 11,142 jobs, \$438.9 million in labor income and \$1.3 billion in industry activity, and contributed \$81.2 million in state and local tax revenue, according to the report, "The Impact of the California State University."

So, what is Fresno State's true impact? On the following pages, we take a look at various industries and aspects of society and how they would be affected without the university's presence in Central California.

– Eddie Hughes is the senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.

## Education: Training the Valley's future educators for 112 years

By BoNhia Lee

When C.L. McLane was superintendent of Fresno city schools in the early 1900s, he experienced firsthand the difficulty of recruiting teachers from other cities and keeping them from leaving.

That reality led to Fresno State's founding in 1911 as a teacher's college to attract students from the San Joaquin Valley who would be

more likely to stay and put down roots in the region. McLane served as the university's first president.

The university started with 150 students and offered only a teaching certificate that could be completed in two years. Now, the Kremen School of Education and Human Development at Fresno State offers a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, advanced certificates of study, teaching credential programs, several masters programs and a doctoral degree in educational leadership.

More than 1,500 students enroll in the liberal studies program every year, making it one of the top majors at the university, and more than 400 students graduate from the college each year.

Fresno State has consistently been among the top three public universities preparing the most K-12 school teachers in California.

Bulldog pride runs strong and has a deep presence in schools across the Valley, from teachers in classrooms to support staff and principals. About 60% of the school administrators across the region are Fresno State alumni, leading Valley schools and shaping the future of local youth.

Fresno County's newest superintendent of schools is a two-time alumna who has spent her career serving the Fresno and Clovis areas. Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, who replaced longtime superintendent and Fresno State alumnus Jim Yovino, was

**60%**

of school administrators across the region are Fresno State alumni

**1,500+**

students enrolled in the liberal studies program

**400+**

students graduate from Kremen School each year

*“Fresno State was local. It was accessible and, frankly, there was something about having it featured prominently in my consciousness as a child and as a teenager and as a high schooler. I even remember when I was in middle school and high school attending different student events at Fresno State’s campus — it always felt like a north star to me.”*

– Michele Cantwell-Copher

Fresno County Superintendent of Schools



Fresno State is consistently among the **top 3** public universities preparing the most K-12 school teachers in California.



raised in Riverdale and remembers taking trips to Fresno State as a child, which helped solidify her dream to study at the university.

“Fresno State was local. It was accessible and, frankly, there was something about having it featured prominently in my consciousness as a child and as a teenager and as a high schooler,” Copher says. “I even remember when I was in middle school and high school attending different student events at Fresno State’s campus – it always felt like a north star to me.”

Copher, whose father was a teacher, graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's in educational leadership and supervision. She also earned a language development specialist certificate in what was then the early iteration of multicultural and cross cultural education.

“Fresno State has been my higher ed home and it’s interesting how many times I circle back to further my education whether it’s formally with degrees or even just weekend coursework to gain more skills or expand my own experience base both personally or professionally,” Copher says. “I’ve returned home to Fresno State many times over the last 32 or so years.”

She pointed to the John D. Welty Center for Educational Policy and Leadership as a program that brings hundreds of educators from around the region back to Fresno State again and again to stay on top of today's best practices. The center works to bring best leadership practices to the education system in the San Joaquin Valley with a goal to eliminate the achievement gap and raise the performance of all learning. It does this through conferences, training, coaching and consulting activities in collaboration with school districts.

“Not only is Fresno State the source of placing teachers and administrators in roles in our community,” Copher says, “but it is the source that continues to refine the teaching skill set, to inspire, to continue personal growth and development.”

– BoNhia Lee is a communications specialist at Fresno State.

### Can you imagine the Valley without Fresno State?

Neither can we. And that's why, with continued support from alumni and the community, Fresno State is committed to educating and enhancing support for the future generation of teachers, principals and other educators who will impact the youth in our region.



**Health Care:  
Alumni bring life  
to Valley's health  
care desert**

By Lauren Nickerson ('10)

Todd Graves

**D**r. Danielle Campagne can't help but become emotional when asked about the health care shortage in the Central Valley. Born and raised in Sanger, a small rural community 16 miles southeast of Fresno, her family knows firsthand the pain of lacking access to quality care.

"My grandfather was injured in an accident on our family farm and was taken to a rural medical center where there wasn't a doctor on duty," says Campagne, her voice catching in her throat. "I never got to meet him, and maybe he would have lived had a doctor been there."

It was that family tragedy that convinced Campagne, interim chief of emergency medicine for UCSF Fresno and Community Regional Medical Center, that she would someday become a doctor. She recalls telling herself as a little girl, "I am going to be a doctor, I am going to work in this community and take care of people."

Campagne's experience is emblematic of a region plagued by barriers to health care. According to a study by the California Future Health Workforce Commission, California will experience a projected shortage of 4,100 primary care physicians by 2030.

Fresno State, with over 24,000 enrolled students, is at the forefront of ensuring the Valley has highly-skilled professionals entering the health care workforce. Each year, over 5,500 Fresno State students major in health care related fields.

Campagne, who was named this year's Top Dog Distinguished Alumna (page 34), was a pre-med honors student at Fresno State and credits the university for her later successes in medical school at USC and UCSF Fresno.

"I don't think I would be as successful if I had not gone to Fresno State," Campagne says. "I was really well-prepared, and my education was amazing compared to many of my peers."

**University support fuels future health providers**

Campagne's experience at Fresno State is one shared by many students looking to enter the health care field. Anber Choudhry, a third-year biology major, is in the Academic Research Program, a joint partnership between UCSF Fresno and Fresno State that allows undergraduate students to participate in research studies and provides hands-on learning opportunities in the emergency room at Community Regional Medical Center in downtown Fresno.

Choudhry says the experience of interacting with nurses, physicians and advanced practice providers in the clinical setting helped to inspire her to go to medical school. "I have a foundational experience in medicine, which helps me understand the 'why' behind what we are trying to do in health care."

The Academic Research Program is one of many resources available to students looking to enter the field. The Health Careers Opportunity Program helps undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds prepare for careers in medicine through advising, internship opportunities, tutorials, summer programs and professional development seminars.

Nearly 60% of all doctoral degrees awarded at Fresno State are in a health care related field, including the prestigious doctoral program for



***"I don't think I would be as successful if I had not gone to Fresno State. I was really well-prepared, and my education was amazing compared to many of my peers."***



**– Dr. Danielle Campagne**  
Interim chief of emergency medicine, UCSF Fresno and Community Regional Medical Center

Online video:  
<https://magazine.fresnostate.edu/health-care>



**5,500+**

Fresno State students major in health care-related fields each year



**4,000**

nurses have graduated from the bachelor of nursing program, and **90%** have stayed in the region

**18,500+**

people at 280 sites around Fresno County have received free health care services through the Mobile Health Unit



**1,500+**

nurses have graduated from the master's degree program, which was founded in 1968

physical therapy, which is one of 14 accredited programs in the state and the only one of its kind in the region.

"Fresno State produces more than just graduates; it produces healers. Without the nurses, therapists and future health care leaders that come from this institution, the Central Valley would be facing a medical crisis of unprecedented proportions," says Dr. Denise Seabert, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

**Training nurses, addressing community needs**

The Mobile Health Unit, a hallmark of Fresno State's commitment to community health, has provided free services to over 18,500 community members at more than 280 sites around Fresno County. This outreach has not only benefited community members but is another way for students to develop experience in a clinical setting.

Nursing remains one of the most impactful and highly competitive programs at Fresno State, representing the direct impact the pipeline of skilled Fresno State graduates entering the workforce has on the community.

Fresno State houses the largest nursing program in the Central Valley, graduating 150 nursing students each year – 100% of whom find employment or job placements before graduating. The master's degree in speech-language pathology, an in-demand field that supports patients in both clinical and educational settings, also has very high career placement rates, with many students finding jobs prior to graduation.

The master's degree nursing program, which was founded in 1968, has graduated over 1,500 students. Since the establishment of the nursing program in 1957, nearly 4,000 nurses have graduated from the bachelor of nursing program and entered the workforce, with 90% of nursing graduates staying local each year.

Jon Flores, who graduated from the nursing program in 2022 and gained experience working in the Mobile Health Unit, now works in the intensive care unit at Community Regional, the only Level 1 trauma center between Los Angeles and Sacramento.

"Fresno State's nursing program taught us to focus on the Valley's patients," Flores says. "I have a deeper understanding of my patients' needs because of my time at Fresno State."

Likewise, Fresno State is focused on the Valley's needs – addressing the Valley's health care shortage by producing thousands of skilled nurses, therapists and doctors each year to care for the region.

– *Lauren Nickerson is the associate vice president for University Communications at Fresno State.*

**Can you imagine the Valley without Fresno State?**

Neither can we. And that's why, with continued support from alumni and the community, Fresno State is committed to educating and enhancing support for the future generation of doctors, nurses and other providers who will increase the health of our region.

**Agriculture: Valley's leading industry backed by region's leading ag college**

By Esra Hashem ('13, '16, '21)



**300+**

different crops are grown in the Valley, with an estimated value of **\$17 billion per year**

Todd Graves

**A**fter a days-long March storm passes the Central Valley, the sun finally shines bright atop the Sierra Nevada mountain range. Its rays highlight the lush, green agriculture settled in this region – the crop rows glistening in the morning light.

This is the region that feeds the world. More than 300 different crops are grown in the Valley, with an estimated value of \$17 billion per year. Though the region encompasses fewer than 1% of U.S. farmland, the Valley

supplies 8% of U.S. agricultural output – producing a quarter of the nation's food, including 40% of the nation's fruits, nuts and other table foods.

Its people, many who have been rooted on this rich soil for generations, exude dedication and grit when growing the food that ends up in refrigerators and pantries around the world.

Many of these people got their start at Fresno State.

"Getting an education at Fresno State broadened my life and made me a stronger person," says alumnus Joe Gambini. The Valley native is a local farmer who graduated from the university in 1956. "I had the chance to go to [UC] Davis and Cal Poly, but I chose to go to Fresno State because it was the best for studying row crops. There's so much opportunity for young people interested in agriculture at Fresno State."



Fresno State is one of the top agricultural schools in California. Faculty take a leadership role in researching water management, and institutes like Fresno State's California Water Institute are pivotal in advancing agricultural solutions.

The university's Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology houses 20 undergraduate and graduate degrees and educates about 2,000 students each year. Its majors span from the science of food, plants and animals, to the business operations and industrial technology side of agriculture.

This disciplinary breadth is crucial in the region. According to the Fresno County Farm Bureau, farmers support 20% of all jobs in the Fresno area. Fresno State ag graduates hold positions in management, sales, animal care, production, communications, research, education, quality assurance and more.

"The relevancy of our students' training has resulted in them being embedded at all levels of the California agricultural industry," says Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire, dean of the Jordan College.

The first agricultural courses were taught at Fresno State in 1914, with an official agricultural academic program

**22,000+**

graduates from the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

**80%**

Jordan College undergraduates engage in hands-on experiences like internships or research

launching in 1922. Since then, over 22,000 Bulldog alumni have graduated with agricultural degrees.

Fresno State students gain hands-on skills they wouldn't elsewhere. The university houses a 1,000-acre campus farm – the University Agricultural Laboratory – which contains 18 enterprises, including a vineyard, vegetable crops and beef, sheep and swine units, among others. Students operate the units, growing products that are sold at the university's Gibson Farm Market, the Fresno State Creamery and the Fresno State Winery (the nation's first and largest commercial winery on a college campus).

**"Science is something that you can't just learn with a textbook. It's something you have to be able to practice, and I am able to do that at Fresno State. There are a lot of opportunities at Fresno State to connect with local growers and be involved with the community."**

– Margaret Fernando  
Student, plant science



Even before graduation, students use their skills to impact the agricultural industry. Recent data showed nearly 80% of undergraduates in the Jordan College participated in internships, field experiences, clinical experiences, service learning, study abroad internship/practicum and/or research. More than half of undergraduate interns participated in at least two internships, and 49.2% of students said their internships led to full-time employment.

"Students from Jordan College comment that they feel prepared for careers in the agricultural industry because the classroom curriculum was supported with the real-world experiences at the University Agricultural Laboratory," St. Hilaire says.

Margaret Fernando, a student studying plant science, is working on research with professor Dr. Anil Shrestha. She is studying cover crops, which are used to improve soil health and enhance water availability. Despite a year of promising rain in the Valley, what she is studying is critical for sustainable agriculture. The research is in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Science is something that you can't just learn with a textbook. It's something you have to be able to practice, and I am able to do that at Fresno State," Fernando says. "There are a lot of opportunities at Fresno State to connect with local growers and be involved with the community."

Fernando will soon graduate and join Gambini – and the thousands of fellow Fresno State alumni – who work together to make Valley agriculture a growing success.

– Esra Hashem is the associate director of Brand Strategy and Marketing at Fresno State.

**Can you imagine the Valley without Fresno State?**

Neither can we. And that's why, with continued support from alumni and the community, Fresno State is committed to educating and enhancing the future of agriculture locally, nationally and globally, from food and animal products, to wine and water research and sustainability.

**40%**

of the nation's fruits, nuts and other table foods are grown in the Valley



Joel Beery

# Alumni make nationwide impact

As you can see, no matter where you are in the United States, you won't have to travel far to find a fellow Bulldog. So wear your Fresno State shirts and hats, fly your flag or slap that Bulldogs sticker on your car.

With more than 242,000 living alumni, Fresno State's impact starts in the Central Valley and expands throughout California and the entire United States. Out of 184,922 alumni in California, over 84,500 live in Fresno County. There are also significant pockets of alumni in and around other major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, Sacramento, Seattle, Dallas, Chicago and Washington, D.C. About 18,000 alumni live abroad, making the university's impact truly global.



**184,922**

Fresno State alumni statewide

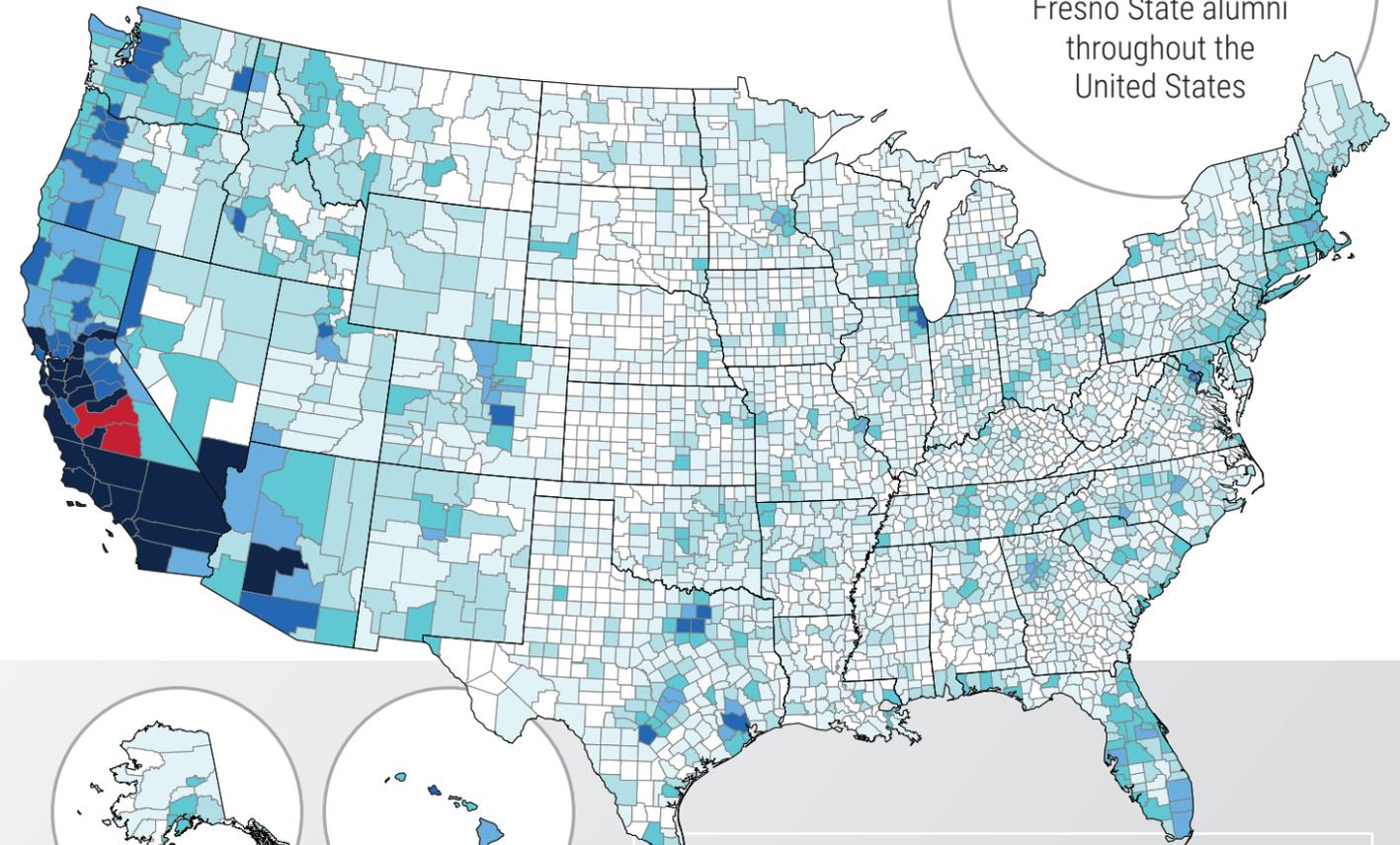
## Alumni by County

- 19,040 - 84,576
- 1,001 - 7,630
- 251 - 1,000
- 101 - 250
- 26 - 100
- 6 - 25
- 1 - 5

## Top 10 Counties

|        |             |        |             |
|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| 84,576 | Fresno      | 4,306  | Sacramento  |
| 19,040 | Tulare      | 3,696  | Merced      |
| 7,630  | Madera      | 3,654  | Stanislaus  |
| 6,361  | Los Angeles | 3,571  | Santa Clara |
| 5,305  | Kern        | 42,184 | Others      |
| 4,599  | Kings       |        |             |

## Alumni across the Nation



**224,597**

Fresno State alumni throughout the United States

**Have a cool story about running into fellow Bulldogs while traveling?**

We'd love to hear it! Email [magazine@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:magazine@mail.fresnostate.edu).



# Engineering: Graduates fuel forward-thinking workforce

By Victoria Cisneros ('19, '21)



**60%**

of Lyles College students were offered full-time employment as a result of an internship with **over 90%** securing employment in California

Joel Beery

"I got into engineering because I want to make a difference, and with Cruise, we're saving lives by eliminating the human error that leads to most accidents," Torres says. "So, being part of that makes me feel fulfilled and kind of astonished at where we are in terms of technology."

At Fresno State, nearly 66% of students are the first in their families to graduate with a college degree and nearly 90% are from the San Joaquin Valley. With deep Valley roots and a desire to serve their communities, an average of nearly 1,600 Fresno State students enroll in engineering majors each year. As graduates, students are propelled to job placements in construction, project management, software development, transportation, research and more, offering them and their families a unique opportunity for upward mobility. In Fresno County, engineers see an annual average salary of \$104,720.

In the coming years, the Lyles College aims to grow its student population by almost 40%, empowering even more students to leave their mark on the industry and uplift the quality of life in our region and beyond.

– Victoria Cisneros is a marketing strategist in Brand Strategy and Marketing at Fresno State.

Fresno State engineering graduates have gone on to lead some of the world's most iconic technological developments – including the B1-B bomber, deployed during the Cold War, and Bluetooth, the wireless data technology still widely used today.

With an average of 300 engineering graduates per year, many of whom remain in the Valley to live, work and serve, the Lyles College of Engineering at Fresno State educates the region's workforce. Most recently, alumni have played significant roles in regional projects like the California High Speed Rail and technologies that support agricultural operations and local infrastructure.

California is home to the largest number of engineers in the country, employing over 27,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. When it comes to preparing the next generation of California engineers, especially in the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno State is at the forefront.

Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering is the Valley's oldest

publicly-supported engineering college with 100 years of innovation and nearly 10,000 alumni. Since its beginning, the Lyles College has expanded its degree offerings to include seven undergraduate and five graduate programs ranging from architectural studies and construction management to civil, electrical, computer, mechanical and geomatics engineering. In 1979, the college's geomatics program became the first of its kind in the United States and continues to be the only four-year, nationally-accredited program in California.

"Engineers solve complex societal problems, and they need an educational foundation that prepares them [for success,]" says Dr. Ram Nunna, dean of the Lyles College. [The Lyles College] has allowed students from this region, especially those who are first generation or underrepresented in the engineering professions, to attain a quality degree."

With such an influential impact on the industry and region, the

college places particular emphasis on ensuring students' educational experience directly aligns with employer needs and promotes career readiness.

Since 1999, Fresno State engineering students have been gaining unique, hands-on learning experiences in a real-world environment through the Valley Industry Partnership for Cooperative Education – a formalized paid internship program that connects students with industry partners throughout the Valley.

**\$104k**

Annual average salary for engineers in Fresno County

For many students, the opportunity to complete two paid internships through the program is invaluable and allows them to enter the job market with one full year of work experience in

their chosen field. For recent computer engineering alum Jose Manuel Maciel Torres, the chance to build his resume and develop industry-level skills was instrumental to his success.

"The most valuable thing you can get out of the VIP program is... getting to work with others on an actual engineering project in the actual industry... You get to take on problems and be creative on how you find that solution," Torres says.

Such programs not only offer students opportunities to gain technical skills, they also provide

opportunities to strengthen valuable soft skills such as communication, time management and critical thinking, making Lyles College students exceptionally attractive to employers. According to recent data, over 60% of students surveyed were offered full-time employment as a result of an internship with over 90% of students securing employment in California.

After completing the program, Torres' internship with Cruise, a California-based, self-driving vehicle manufacturer, led to his full-time job with the company as a systems engineer.

**"The most valuable thing you can get out of the Valley Industry Partnership program is... getting to work with others on an actual engineering project in the actual industry... You get to take on problems and be creative on how you find that solution."**

– Jose Manuel Maciel Torres  
Computer engineering alumnus



## Can you imagine the Valley without Fresno State?

Neither can we. And that's why, with continued support from alumni and the community, Fresno State is committed to educating and enhancing support for the engineers who will drive the innovation and modern infrastructure necessary to help our communities thrive.

# Talented alumni shape key industries throughout Valley and beyond

By BoNhia Lee

## Politics

The road to a career in politics can start with almost any degree at Fresno State. While some people have political science degrees, others bring their expertise in agriculture, business, criminology and communications to the dais.

The Valley is full of Bulldog alums serving in public office, from Mayor Pro-Tem Salvador Solorio-Ruiz in Delano to Fresno City Mayor Jerry Dyer and longtime Assemblyman Jim Patterson.

Six of the past 10 mayors of the City of Fresno earned their degrees at Fresno State. Dyer, who served 40 years in the Fresno Police Department, graduated with a bachelor's degree in law enforcement. He succeeded Lee Brand, who earned a bachelor's in agriculture. Before Brand, the mayor was Ashley Swearengin, who is a two-time alumna with a bachelor's and master's in business administration and management.

Patterson, Fresno's 22nd mayor, earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Fresno State. He was later elected to the California State Assembly where he has served since 2012. His term ends in 2024.

Perhaps one of Fresno State's biggest supporters is Representative Jim Costa, who returns to campus

frequently for events and ceremonies and by video to offer support for new grants and programs. He graduated with a degree in political science. New House of Representative freshman Lori Chavez-DeRemer from Oregon also earned her degree from Fresno State in management.

## Media, Communications and Journalism

In a climate where clear, accurate and trustworthy information is as important as ever, many of the journalists and communications professionals the region relies on were trained at Fresno State.

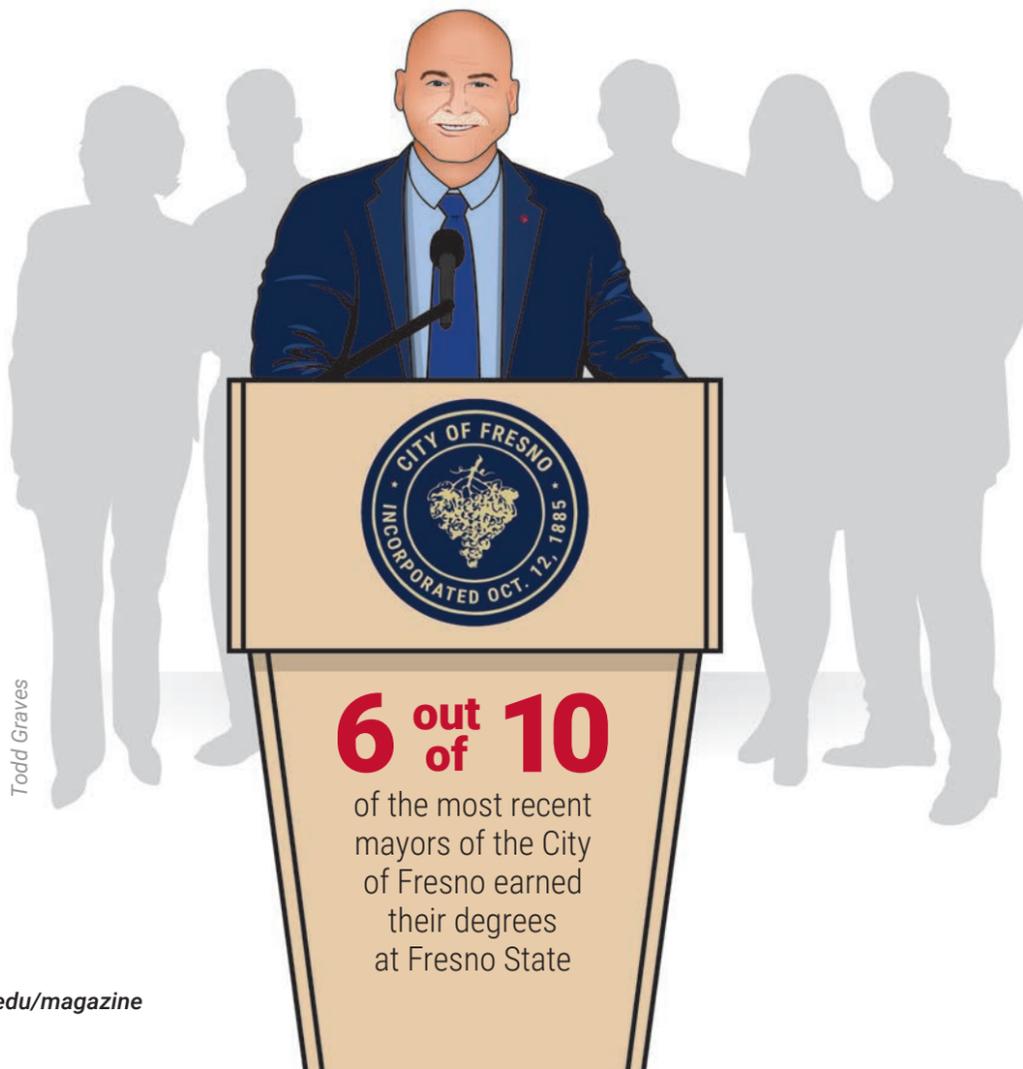
The Media, Communications and Journalism Department has prepared thousands of students for professional media careers since 1928. It offers

courses in advertising, broadcast and digital journalism, photography, public relations and video production.

Advertising and public relations graduates have gone on to work for J. Walter Thompson; Foote, Cone, and Belding; Chiat/Day; Publicis, Google, Facebook, American Airlines and local agencies like JP Marketing and Jeffrey Scott Agency.

Fresno State broadcast graduates have moved on to work for major news networks, including CNN, Fox and ESPN, while print and digital journalists have gone to the New York Times, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle and local companies like The Fresno Bee and new, nonprofit newsrooms.

The Valley has grown to rely on many of the local journalists who have stayed to serve the region.



Todd Graves

News anchors Stefani Booroojian, Alexan Balekian and meteorologist A.J. Fox lead a strong showing of alumni at KSEE24/CBS47. The same is true at ABC30, where anchor Jessica Harrington and meteorologist Kevin Musso are familiar names and faces as is Liz Gonzalez at KMPH Fox 26. Many other Bulldog alumni work behind the scenes as producers, production assistants, editors, photographers/videographers and operations techs.

Radio alums include longtime sports broadcaster Tony D'addato, 90.7 KFSR director Julie Logan, and Soreath Hok, who studied English at Fresno State and minored in mass communication and journalism. She worked at the campus radio station, which launched her career into broadcast news as a producer at KMPH and KSEE24.

## Entrepreneurs

Business education started at Fresno State in 1928 and soared into the early Depression era as interest grew in accounting, business organization, marketing, money, banking and labor. Entrepreneurs have come and gone through the Craig School of Business, named in honor of Sid Craig, a Fresno State alumnus and co-founder of Jenny Craig International, who gave the school a \$10 million endowment in 1992.

The school was ranked among the top 10 entrepreneurship programs in the nation by Entrepreneurship Magazine in 2005. Other notable institutes and programs within the college include the Human Resource Management program, the Masters of Business Administration program and an Executive MBA program, tailored to those already in leadership roles. The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, created by the family of Fresno businessman William Lyles,

helps people with business ideas realize their dream.

Next-Gen Escape owner Calvin Kammer and partner Kiara Hill are both Fresno State alumni. Kammer, who majored in entrepreneurship, won the Student Entrepreneur Award 2020 from the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, the Lyles Center and the Craig School. Hill was a biology major.

Like politics, Fresno State's entrepreneur alumni come from all majors across campus who studied their respective subjects of interest before pursuing their business passion projects.

Artist Rae Dunn studied industrial design and found a love for ceramic pottery later in life turning it into a popular line of imperfect houseware with simple, elongated lettering. Former Bulldog basketball player Demetrius Porter created and developed Center Cork wine.

## Law Enforcement

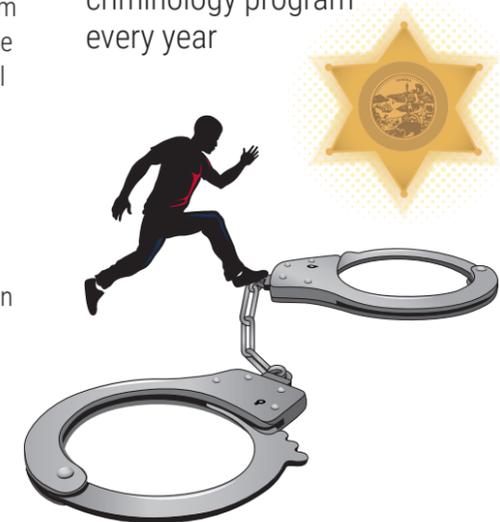
Criminology is consistently among the two most popular majors at Fresno State with more than 1,500 students enrolled each year.

Six peace officers and four instructors began teaching a criminology investigation course in 1936 to train men and women in law enforcement. It was one of the few criminology programs available in California.

Today, the bachelor of science degree in criminology is diverse, covering a wide range of opportunities in direct service and administration in corrections, law enforcement and victimology. A program in forensic behavioral sciences was also created for students interested in applying behavioral sciences, such as psychology and anthropology, to the criminal justice system.

**1,500+**

students enroll in the criminology program every year



In a unique partnership with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office, a program known as Criminology 108 helps train and recruit new deputies to serve the region. No other university in the California State University system offers a program like it, and it is believed to be the only program of its kind in the nation. The Fresno County Sheriff's Office counts Crim 108 alumni all throughout its ranks.

Newly elected Fresno County Sheriff John Zanoni is a criminology alumnus who minored in agricultural business. He began his career as a 108 Reserve Deputy Sheriff training through the program at Fresno State.

The Criminology Department has also trained many Valley lawyers who have participated in the successful Mock Trial Team Program. Many have come back to serve as coaches, including Lyndsie Russell, attorney with Miles, Sears, & Eanni in Fresno, and adjunct faculty and attorney coach Christopher M. Irwin.

## Pride of the Valley: Athletics unites alumni and fans like nothing else can

By Eddie Hughes ('05)

Brandon Eachus remembers exactly when he started going to Fresno State football games. It was 1993 and the Bulldogs were coming off an unforgettable season capped by a dominant Freedom Bowl win over USC in Anaheim.

Eachus' grandparents, Ken and Kay Scheidt, were avid Red Wavers who attended football and basketball games. That season, they took Brandon and his brother Randy with them to a football game. An older man sitting next to the Scheidts gave the boys his extra tickets so they could sit next to their grandparents week after week, Brandon recalls.

"We went to every single game. My grandparents never bought extra tickets because the man continued to give tickets to them," Brandon says.

The Eachus brothers enjoyed it so much that eventually their grandmother started buying them a family four-pack of season tickets each year for Christmas. Eachus remembers sitting a few rows behind the Carr family in the early 2000s when David Carr was the starting quarterback.

When the boys turned 16 years old, they organized a tailgating group for family and friends – and it has become a family tradition through generations.

Now, every fall gameday, Brandon Eachus and his wife, Nicole, pull into their picnic tailgating spot in the Red Lot with their sleek black trailer meticulously stocked with food and drink. The Eachus family – who are part of Fresno State's Meyers Champions Circle that recognizes major philanthropic giving – set up an inflatable white castle bounce house for the children, including their own – Ellery, Goldie and Easton. Though Kay Scheidt has since passed away, Ken still attends every tailgate, as do Eachus' parents, his sister and plenty of other family and friends.

"My parents go to every single game with me now," Eachus says. "They come to every tailgate. My grandpa still goes—he walks from his house over to the tailgate. It's a new tradition now for my kids."

Such is the power of Fresno State athletics. As the porchlight of the university, Bulldogs sporting events are oftentimes the first touchpoint connecting Central Valley youth to Fresno State. It's a way to engage people of all ages and make them feel like they're part of the university. There is potential that every fan who grows up rooting for the Bulldogs and wearing the gear will also explore the university's academic offerings for themselves or their loved ones.

There is perhaps nothing else in the Valley that unites people quite like Fresno State athletics. Fresno State football is the only event in the region that can attract more than 40,000 people from all backgrounds six times per year and rally them behind one common cause – regardless of race, religion or socio-economic status.

"You know what a melting pot we are ethnically and politically. We're also in a position where, when you look at sports loyalty, Fresno State is the single commonality that goes all the way from Modesto to Bakersfield and

# 4.3 million

combined TV viewers for Fresno State's past two football games, including 2.3 million viewers for the Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl and nearly 2 million viewers for the Mountain West championship

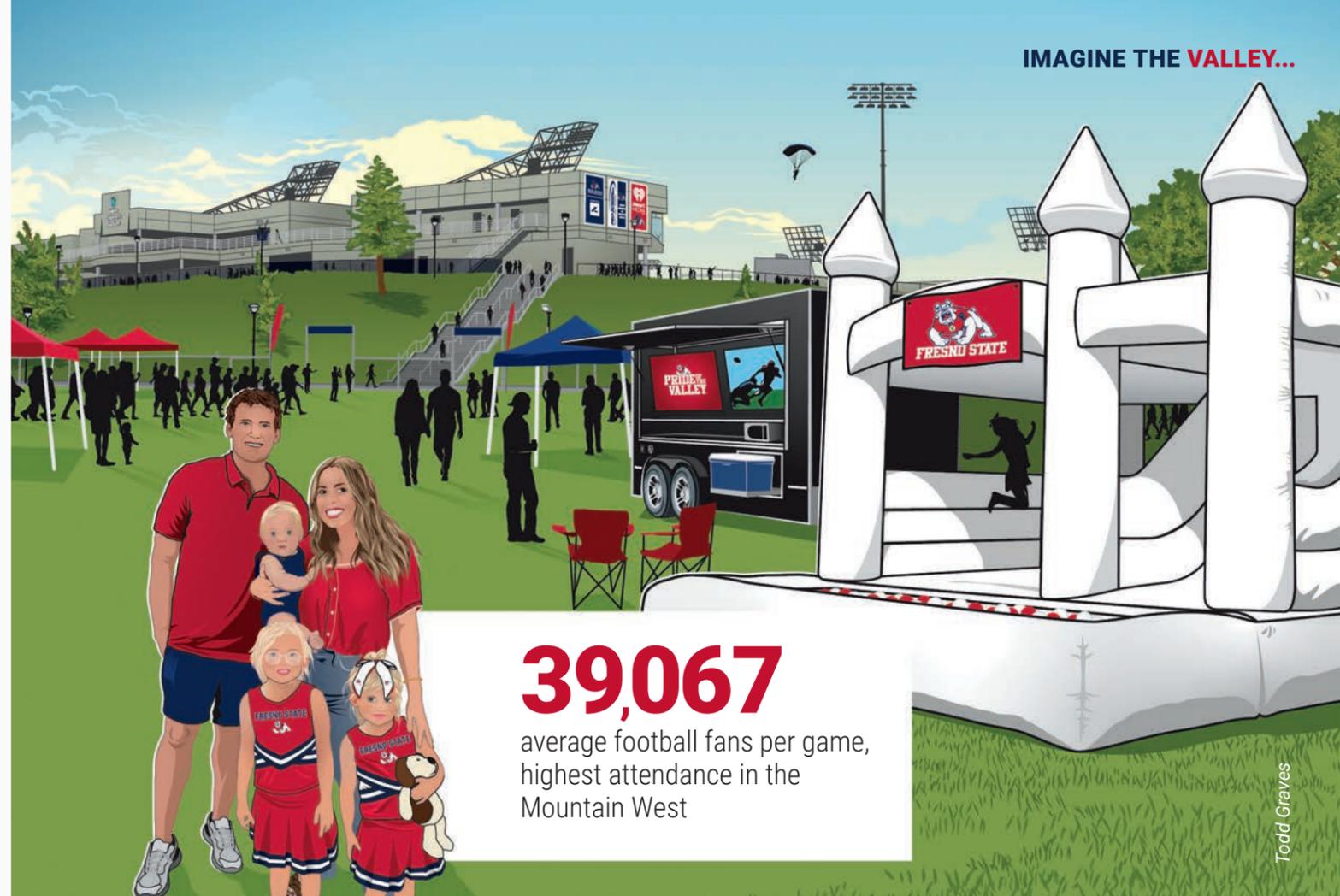
# 1 of 5

Fresno State was one of just five universities to appear in both the **college football AP top 25** poll and the **Washington Monthly top 40 national universities** ranking, alongside Michigan, Washington, Notre Dame and UCLA

*"My parents go to every single game with me now. They come to every tailgate. My grandpa still goes—he walks from his house over to the tailgate. It's a new tradition now for my kids."*

– **Brandon Eachus**

Alumnus, entrepreneur



# 39,067

average football fans per game, highest attendance in the Mountain West

Todd Graves

it might make inroads in Sacramento," says longtime Valley broadcaster Tony D'addato. "You tell me what else other than Fresno State athletics unites the Valley like that."

Think about the rising tide that was the Red Wave after the 1983 NIT men's basketball championship at Madison Square Garden. Remember the 1998 parade when Fresno State softball won the school's first Division I team national championship? How about baseball's "Underdogs to Wonderdogs" 2008 College World Series win that captured hearts all over the country? And there's the football program that's won 10 or more games in four of the past five seasons (excluding the pandemic-shortened 2020), and just beat Boise State in the Mountain West championship in dominating fashion.

Moments like those – and so many others – brought pride to a Valley that all too often fights an inferiority complex. It's those moments when the Red Wave swells and the people of the Valley can puff out their chests knowing they settled it on the field.

From the pride it instills in the community, to the superstar athletes like Aaron Judge, Davante Adams, Paul George and Derek Carr, to the alumni who go pro in something other than sports, Fresno State athletics is woven into the tapestry of what makes our region special.

Can you imagine the Valley without the Bulldogs? What a void it would be.

– Eddie Hughes is the senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.

### Can you imagine the Valley without Fresno State?

Neither can we. And that's why, with continued support from alumni and the community, Fresno State is committed to bringing pride to the Valley, competing at a national level and creating championship experiences for about 400 student-athletes who represent the university in competition each year.





It's Time to

# ELEVATE



**FRESNO STATE**  
VALLEY CHILDREN'S STADIUM



# Introducing the “Elevate” campaign, a visionary master plan to position Fresno State athletics facilities for the future

By Eddie Hughes ('05)



University officials announced a transformational, multi-year vision for the modernization of Fresno State’s athletic facilities, including Valley Children’s Stadium and other venues. The aspirational master plan provides a roadmap to help position Fresno State athletics for sustained success while the Bulldogs continue to compete and win at a national level.

“The time is now,” says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. “For over a century, Fresno State athletics has rallied the Valley, uniting people from all walks of life behind a common cause and generating excitement about our university. Just as our winning teams fuel passion and pride in our fan base, they also fuel interest in future students near and far, giving them a pathway to become

familiar with the university. In addition, our teams are the gateway to national and international brand recognition.”

With an estimated goal of over \$250 million to implement this master plan, Fresno State is exploring several innovative sources of funding for the numerous projects outlined – most importantly, private support.

“The extent of our facilities upgrades is dependent upon securing the necessary funding,” Jiménez-Sandoval says. “This type of investment in Fresno State’s future opens the doors to limitless opportunities for the university, on and off the court, as well as our entire region.”

Terry Tumey, Fresno State’s director of athletics, says this is a critical time for the future of Fresno State, and with

community support, the Bulldogs can ascend to new heights.

“Ascension to the level we envision requires regional investment. To complete all of the much-needed facilities enhancements identified in this master plan, it will take a significant investment from everyone associated with our university,” Tumey says. “This campaign will not only enhance our ability to provide championship experiences for our dedicated student-athletes and the Red Wave – but, perhaps most importantly, it will ensure that Fresno State, with our storied tradition of athletic success, is positioned to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics nationally while further shining a bright light on the entire Central Valley region we so proudly serve.”



Ricchiuti Academic Center



Duncan Building – Training Table



Softball Clubhouse

The master plan outlines a vision to elevate all 18 of Fresno State’s sports programs and further helps to advance gender-equity efforts on campus. The vision identifies areas of facility renovation as well as new construction, including:

- Significant renovations to Valley Children’s Stadium, home of Bulldog football, including: a new press box and premium club tower, improved accessibility to the stadium, multiple new premium seating and social gathering spaces, renovated suites, new video boards, new bathrooms and concessions offerings, and many other structural and brand enhancements throughout the venue.
- A fully renovated and expanded Duncan Athletic Building, including new locker rooms, meeting spaces and coaches’ offices, plus a nutrition center for all student-athletes.
- A renovated Ricchiuti Academic Center to enhance and expand the academic support provided to student-athletes, allowing them to excel in the classroom and as future leaders.
- The expansion of the Ricchiuti Strength and Conditioning Center.
- The build-out of new team offices for both the men’s and women’s basketball programs and a new sports performance center inside the Save Mart Center.
- A new clubhouse for the baseball program, including a new locker room, team meeting spaces and a hospitality deck for fans.
- A hospitality deck at Margie Wright Diamond with modernized amenities for Bulldogs softball fans.



- The construction of a new stadium to house both the soccer program and the track and field and cross country programs, located at Warmerdam Field. The relocation of the soccer stadium also allows for enhanced pregame festivities and expanded tailgating opportunities for Bulldog football games.
- The construction of a dive tower and enhanced seating at the Fresno State Aquatics Center.
- The construction of a new clubhouse for the tennis program and a new scoreboard at the Spalding G. Wathen Tennis Center.
- Enhancements to team facilities for the volleyball program.
- The construction of a new covered arena for the equestrian program.



Track and Soccer Stadium



Aquatics Center Dive Tower

With the master plan unveiled, Fresno State will launch significant fundraising efforts to move the plan forward. Future construction will take place in phases as the approval and funding for each phase is secured.

The university's announcement of its plan to elevate athletics facilities follows a banner football season in which Fresno State won its fourth Mountain West championship, won the Jimmy Kimmel LA Bowl and ranked No. 24 in the Associated Press top 25 poll. Average attendance during the 2022 season spiked to 39,067 per game, representing one of the largest home crowds in all of "Group of Five" football and Fresno State's highest season average since 2005.

The university continues to elevate academically and athletically. Fresno State ranked No. 36 in Washington Monthly's 2022 National University Rankings of colleges and universities

that best serve the country in the areas of social mobility, research and public service. This is the seventh straight year Fresno State has been the highest-ranked California State University campus.

Fresno State was one of just five universities to appear in both the college football AP top 25 poll and the Washington Monthly top 40 national universities ranking, alongside Michigan, Washington, Notre Dame and UCLA.

More information, including the full master plan, can be found at [gobulldogs.com/elevate](http://gobulldogs.com/elevate).



**Do you have Pride in the Valley?**

You can help "Elevate" Fresno State athletics today! Visit [gobulldogs.com/elevate](http://gobulldogs.com/elevate) and fill out the contact form to learn more about how you can help support the campaign.



**BULLDOG SPIRIT**

**Keep on Truckin'**

Shannon Bros. Company makes it abundantly clear which university it supports. The branding is all over the 18-wheeler, from the "Pride of the Valley" emblazoned across the back of the trailer to the "Fresno State" repeated all along the chrome lining down the side.

This fall will mark the 10th year the company has partnered with Fresno State football to haul the team's equipment all across the United States to make sure the Bulldogs have everything they need on game day. From Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Oxford, Mississippi, to the snowy roads of Boise, Idaho and dozens of other sites, driver Michael O'Leary (*right*) often departs days ahead of the team to make sure the gear arrives on time. And no money changes hands, says Chris Shannon (*left*), one of the owners of the company and an avid Bulldogs supporter.



**"We just do it for the school. We don't do it for us. It helps the kids out and that's what it's all about."**

– **Chris Shannon**  
Shannon Bros. Company

Cary Edmondson



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 TOP DOG HONOREES

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD



**Danielle Campagne**  
2000  
College of Science and Mathematics

## ARTHUR SAFSTROM SERVICE AWARD



**John Gomes**  
1979, '94  
Craig School of Business

## OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD



**College of Arts and Humanities**  
**James A. Ardaiz**  
1970



**Department of Athletics**  
**S. Scott Barnes**  
1986, '93



**College of Health and Human Services**  
**Cheryl Lady Vines**  
1976



**Division of Research and Graduate Studies**  
**John Anthony Flores**  
1990, '93



**College of Science and Mathematics**  
**Don Cameron**  
1975



**Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology**  
**Rohan L. Fernando**  
1978



**College of Social Sciences**  
**Minnie Santillan**  
2018



**Kremen School of Education and Human Development**  
**Marcy Masumoto**  
2006



**Craig School of Business**  
**Timothy Jones**  
1981



**Lyles College of Engineering**  
**Edward D. Dunkel, Jr.**  
2001

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

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## VISIONARY SPONSORS



**Fresno State Division of Continuing and Global Education**



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- Orloff Jewelers - Since 1955
- State Center Community College District
- Terranova Ranch
- Valley Children's Healthcare
- Wawona Frozen Foods

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Cary Edmondson

# CLASS NOTES

'For thee, our hopes and memories'

▲ The 49th annual Vintage Days was held in April near the newly opened Lynda and Stewart Resnick Student Union at Fresno State.

## 1960s

**Jerry Luper** (1963) was featured in the Napa Valley Register about his historic career in the wine industry. He now lives in France, where he retired in 2008.

**Lupe Valdez** (1968), a producer, actor, screenwriter and costume designer, received the Icon Award at the Poppy Jasper International Film Festival. As one of the founding members of El Teatro Campesino, Valdez has worked in Chicano film and theatre for over 50 years.

Los Angeles Times. For 30 years, the Jimenez's have used the garden to mentor teens in the area who volunteer to help maintain the 13 acres.

**Beverly A. Moore-Amons** (1975) was featured in a CalMatters story about eminent domain and how it affects Black homeownership.

**Ven. Ajahn Suchart Abhijato Maha Thera** (1972) was featured in the Sunday Observer in an article on inner peace and happiness.

**Rae Dunn** (1985), whose popular, inscribed plates, bowls, mugs and vases are sold at stores like HomeGoods, Marshalls and T.J. Maxx, was featured in XTRA Living magazine.

**Thom Huggett** (1982) retired after 42 years of service for city and county governments in Fresno and the East Bay Area. He is a registered civil and structural engineer in California and Oklahoma. He is also a certified building plans examiner and building official. He and his wife now reside in Edmond, Oklahoma.

## 1980s

**Mary Villalta Brooks**, (1982) was recognized as a member for 50 continuous years of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world's largest organization of nutrition experts.

**Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher** (1989, '90, '94) is the new Fresno County Superintendent of Schools.

**Sean Lane** (1989) is the dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

**David Morrison** (1985, '93), who served as director of Napa County's planning, building and environmental services department since 2014, was named interim county executive officer (CEO).

## 1970s

**Sally Delap-John** (1972) created a solo exhibition of 85 of her oil paintings of her hometown Truchas, New Mexico, "A Painted Tale of Truchas."

**Manuel Jimenez** (1977) and **Olga Jimenez**, founders of the Woodlake Botanical Garden, were featured in the

## CLASS NOTES

1980s *continued*

**Chris Pacheco** (1985), a business owner and football alumnus, created bulldogbread.com to generate donations to support student-athletes through name, image and likeness opportunities.

**Mark Pasculli** (1988) and wife, Lori, own Rolling Hills Vineyard in Eagle, Idaho. Rolling Hills was named a 2023 Idaho Winery to Watch.

**Jon Reelhorn** (1985) is the owner of Belmont Nursery in Fresno.

**Jerome Rosa** (1982) is associate director of animal services at the Arizona Department of Agriculture.

## 1990s

**Jason Ahronian** (1998) is now senior vice president in the Morgan Stanley Fresno office.

**Lori Chavez-DeRemer** (1990) won Oregon's 5th Congressional District race.

**Todd Davison** (1996) is the Mohave County Park police chief and the environmental rural area cleanup enforcement coordinator.

**Alex Holman** (1993), Notre Vue's seasoned winemaker, has spent his winemaking career at well-known family-owned wineries and has worked at every sub-American Viticulture Area in Sonoma County.

**Genoveva "Veva" Islas-Hooker** (1991) was chosen as the Woman of the Year for the 31st District, which includes the city of Fresno and surrounding areas. She served as president of Fresno Unified School District's board of trustees and is the founding executive director of Cultiva La Salud, a nonprofit focused on creating health equity.

**Eric Johnston** (1993) is now chief executive officer of Sonoma Media Investments.

**Robin Johnston McGehee** (1998), a former Fresno State Alumni Association Top Dog and educator, was invited to attend a ceremony in which President Joe Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act, enshrining protections for same-sex and interracial marriage into federal law.

**Diana Marie Nalbandian-Hatton** (1998), a former volleyball standout and athletics director for Tulare Union High School, had an article written in the Visalia Times-Delta about her sports-driven family.

**Soma Norodom** (1993), the Cambodian princess, released her second book, "Royal Love," about the tragic death of her fiance, David Toste, in 2018.

**Robert Putica** (1998) is now vice president of sales for Evolon Technology, Inc., a developer of software solutions for video surveillance.

**Peter Robertson** (1992, '95, '05, '22), was named grand marshal of the Tower District's 25th Mardi Gras Parade.

**Craig Scharton** (1995) took over responsibility for Ten at the Top's entrepreneurship initiatives, commonly referred to as the Upstate Entrepreneur Ecosystem in the 10-county Upstate South Carolina region.

**Dr. Jennifer Smith** (1997) is a business columnist for Gazette.

**Todd Suntrapak**, (1992) president and CEO of Valley Children's Healthcare, has been elected 2023 chair of the California Hospital Association's Board of Trustees.

**John Zanoni** (1996) was elected Fresno County Sheriff.

## 2000s

**Ryan Banks** (2005, '11) is Turning Point of Central California's CEO elect. Banks has been with the agency since 2000, most recently as deputy chief operating officer. Turning Point addresses mental health, community corrections, children's services, housing programs, recovery services and substance abuse disorders.

**Pragati Desai** (2008) is now a tax manager with Price, Paige and Company.

**Josh Escovedo** (2009), an intellectual property, litigation and sports attorney, was named the No. 1 trademark author in the 2023 JD Supra Readers' Choice Awards. He leads the firm's sports law group and has clients in various other industries, including hospitality, real estate, agriculture and construction.

**Reese Fortin** (2007) is a district HSE manager for Sundt Construction, where she has been an employee owner for five years. Reese guides teams constructing building projects in the southwest region and helps manage corporate safety policies and initiatives.

**John Garza** (2004) was appointed to Lemoore's City Council District B.

**Amanda Huffman** (2007) was featured as a U.S. service member with her podcast, "Women of the Military."

**Rafael Iñiguez** (2008, '08, '22) is now superintendent for Parlier Unified School District.

**Andrew Janz** (2004) was appointed as Fresno's new city attorney.

**Allen Mesick** (2009), a Northern California goat farmer who hopes to spread word about regenerative ag, is now supervisor for Centennial Farm in Orange County.

**Maggie (Thach) Morshed** (2006), OASIS humanities lead at UC San Diego and former newspaper journalist, was welcomed into the Authentic Voice program of the Women's National Book Association.

**Yvette Roberts-Haynes**, (2006), a former Bulldogs basketball standout, had her No. 24 jersey retired at the Bulldogs game against Colorado State on Feb. 11 at the Save Mart Center.

**Brandy Robertson** (2005) is an original member of the Bulldog Blitz skydiving team.

**James Runcorn** (2000) launched a podcast called "Culture Crux" where he invites people to share their stories of faith.

**Maureen Qualia** (2008) is a fourth-generation winemaker at Val Verde Winery in Del Rio, Texas and an enology lecturer at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

## 2010s

**Ismail Lourido Ali** (2012) is director of policy and advocacy at the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies.

**Kyle Campbell** (2015) wrote, "Beyond Belief: How Living with a Brain Stem Tumor Brought Faith and Purpose to Life." It made a dozen bestseller's lists on Kindle in categories like disability studies, oncology and Christian faith.

**Derek Carr** (2013) signed a contract with the New Orleans Saints after nine years with the Raiders. His 35,222 career yards and 217 passing touchdowns are Raiders franchise records.

**Ethan Castro** (2016) was recently featured in the Silent Garden Lecture Series at Fresno State, showcasing his patent-pending audio technology for the first time in California.

## Bulldog Born, Bulldog Wed

**1 Brent Hansen** (2006) and Megan (Smith) Hansen welcomed their first child, Josephine Mae Hansen, on March 7.

**2 Megan (Morales) Kane** (2010) and Nolan Kane welcomed their second daughter, Brynn Leighton Kane, on Dec. 16.

**3 Hunter (Fitzgerald) Porter** (2021) married Nicholas Porter on Aug. 6.



**Dylan Chmura** (2019) has been named Northern Michigan University's interim head football coach.

**Paul George** (2010) earned his eighth career NBA All-Star game honor after leading the Los Angeles Clippers with 23.8 points per game.

**Sarah Gilbert** (2012) is an original member of the Bulldog Blitz skydiving team.

**Tawnie Kroll** (2014) released her first cookbook, "Italian Cooking in Your Instant Pot: 60 Flavorful Homestyle Favorites Made Faster Than Ever."

**Jordan Luplow** (2015) joined the Toronto Blue Jays in his seventh season of Major League Baseball, after previously playing for the Pittsburgh

Pirates, Cleveland Guardians and Arizona Diamondbacks.

**Mario Macagba** (2013) completed his MBA from Chaminade University of Honolulu and was in the inaugural cohort, completing the degree in one year.

**Jennifer McLelland** (2010), who previously served as a Fresno police officer for eight years, is active in advocating for disability rights and home- and community-based services.

**Chris Ramos** (2011) is now vice president for field operations at Preston Companies, which specializes in excavating and installing underground utilities, soil testing and management and fill site management.

2010s *continued*

**Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson** (2013) was appointed president of San Jose State University. She previously served as president of Texas A&M San Antonio for eight years, and was Fresno State's vice president of administration and chief financial officer from 2004-15.

**Gabriel Verduzco** (2013), an arborologist, was featured in the Kinfolk Magazine and the LA Times Plant People for his work with invasive species, native plants and more. He was also featured on NBC1x and on podcast "SciNight" about invasive tree pests.

2020s

**Holly Cassina** (2022) was hired as a Fresno State athletics strategic communications coordinator.

**Trent Dilfer** (2021), former Fresno State quarterback, first-round NFL draft pick and Super Bowl champion, is now head football coach at University of Alabama Birmingham.

**Jessica Hall** (2022) is mentioned in an article about the lack of financial support for the UK's female golfers when they make the transition from amateur to pro.

**Steven Hensley** (2022) was elected to serve a three-year term on the ACLU of Northern California's board of directors.

**Dr. Gloria Ponce-Rodriguez** (2021) is the founder and organizer of The Caravan Tour, in which recruiters from Historically Black Colleges and Universities give high school students the chance to earn on-the-spot acceptance.

**Alex Scott** (2022) is now a researcher at The Business Journal, in charge of compiling weekly lists and the annual Book of Lists.

**Tim Shaghoian** (2020) released his debut album, "Gentle Beacons," on Origin's OA2 Records.

**Scotty Trujillo** (2021) appeared on ABC's "Shark Tank" to pitch his company, Copy Keyboard, a small computer keyboard that has copy and paste buttons.

In honor of his nearly eight years of service as Fresno State's official live mascot, Victor E. Bulldog III was recognized by the City of Fresno, and March 30 was proclaimed Victor E. Bulldog III Day.



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## IN MEMORIAM

**Larry Michael Adams** (1996),  
April 1, California City.

**Seth Atamian** (1954),  
Jan. 21, Fresno.

**Chad Atkins** (2000),  
Dec. 10, Ventura.

**Patricia Joan Berryman** (1964),  
March 6, Fresno.

**Douglas C. Broten** (1971),  
Oct. 15, Fresno.

**Mary Brutosky** (1971),  
Jan. 21, Los Angeles.

**Donald George Dineley** (1961),  
Sept. 3, 2021, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Beatrice Elaine Fleming** (1982),  
Nov. 23, Fresno.

**Irene Guinevere Ford** (1948),  
March 26, El Dorado Hills.

**David Harlan Goerlich**,  
March 18, Fresno.

**Melanie Horne** (1966),  
Oct. 27, Fresno.

**Berl Jay Hubbell** (1968),  
Jan. 19, Fresno.

**Morgan Harry Johnson** (1954),  
March 16, Madera.

**George B. Knapp** (1952),  
March 14, Fresno.

**Pamela Larsen** (1975),  
Jan. 12, Sequim, WA.

**Ronald Lee Le Doux**,  
March 16, Rocklin.

**Eman W. Makar**,  
Jan. 31, Fresno.

**Sandra McHaney** (1971),  
March 9, Sacramento.

**Mark Charles Menzel** (2001),  
Nov. 27, Santa Barbara.

**Jim Newton** (1965),  
Dec. 21, Arroyo Grande.

**Ronald Keith Orbeck** (1962),  
March 29, Murray, KY.

**Sally "Gail" Penning**,  
Nov. 5, Oakhurst.

**Basil Jivon Perch** (1965),  
Dec. 12, Visalia.

**Edward Rice** (1973),  
Feb. 14, Veneta, OR.

**Donna Irene Sasselli**,  
Jan. 16, Selma.

**John Lawrence Shehadey** (1964),  
Jan. 4, Fresno.

**Leonard Strickland** (1966),  
Jan. 3, Sacramento.

**Derek Bryan Thompson** (1985),  
Jan. 27, Tehachapi.

**Michael C. Tilden** (1972),  
April 27, 2022, Hanford.

## FACULTY/ STAFF

**Cleo Bauer**, Jan. 23, Fresno.

**Robert Delmar Brenner**, Feb. 9, Clovis.

**Barbara Garabedian**, Oct. 14, Fresno.

**Lily Small**, (1970, '71), March 10,  
Fresno.

**Deborah Russell**, March 9, Fresno.

## FRIENDS

**Todd Clark**, March 22, Meriden,  
Connecticut.

**Phil Fullerton**, Dec. 10, Fresno.

**Judy Holm**, Nov. 27, Fresno.

**B. DeWayne Holmdah**, Jan. 22,  
Lompoc.

**Lucille Sherman**, Feb. 18, Fresno.

## Passing the Collar

After nearly eight years as Fresno State's live mascot, Victor E. Bulldog III passed his collar to his successor, Victor E. Bulldog IV, during a ceremony at the Fresno State baseball game on April 16 at Pete Beiden Field at Bob Bennett Stadium.

Prior to the first pitch of Fresno State's 5-4 win over rival San Diego State, Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval took the ceremonial collar from Victor E. Bulldog III and placed it around Victor E. Bulldog IV's neck, representing the official passing of duties.

"This event ushers in the next chapter for the Fresno State live mascot program," Jiménez-Sandoval says. "Victor E. uplifts the university in a way no human ambassador ever could."

The red leather collar, custom-designed by Orloff Jewelers, displays each previous mascot's name and years of service engraved in brass and includes the iconic Green V and four-paw Bulldog logo.

"When [Fresno State] asked us if we would create the ceremonial collar, there was an immediate 'yes' to this honor. The live mascot program embodies the rich traditions of Fresno State and the Central Valley," says James Orloff, who attended the passing of the collar. "Getting to design something that will represent a legacy and the future of the program is truly humbling."

The purchase of both Victor E. Bulldog III and Victor E. Bulldog IV was made possible by donors Kathy and Robert Huebert, who were also present at the ceremony, and the late John H. Horstmann.

"Victor E. Bulldog III is in good health, but, for this role, retiring at 8 years old is the right age," says Jacqui Glasener, the executive director of the Fresno State Alumni Association and caretaker of the live mascots. "Victor E. III has served Fresno State so admirably all these years, and we want him to go out on top. Retirement will mean no more official business for Victor E. III, but he will still come to campus from time to time."

In his retirement, Victor E. Bulldog III will continue to live with Glasener and her sons, Declan and Aidan, both Fresno State students. His care will continue to be funded by the Live Mascot Program.

The program is solely funded by donations from fans and friends of Fresno State.

— Caroline Nolan ('18)



## The Path to Graduation

Self-taught in over a dozen instruments, Krystyn Burgess (*pictured performing at commencement*) has always had a heart for music, but after losing her grandfather — her biggest musical inspiration — she decided she was all in. With years of training, Burgess settled on the flute, and in May, graduated from Fresno State with a bachelor's degree in music (instrumental performance option).

Scan the QR code below to see how Fresno State surprised three graduates, including Burgess, with a message that reminded them of their relentless paths to graduation and the lasting impact their Bulldog success stories will have on themselves, their families and their communities.

