A FRESNO STATE OF MIND KNOWS NO LIMITS

JUDGE | CARR | GEORGE

FRESNO STATE MAGAZINE
FALL/WINTER 2017
Rising Rankings, National Spotlight

Thanks to our University and community working together, we were elated this fall to learn that Fresno State moved up to No. 17 on Washington’s Monthly’s list of the top 30 national universities.

The work Fresno State does every day to support the social mobility of our students, their research and their service in the community — the three pillars measured by Washington Monthly — has been built on a foundation of our core campus values of discovery, diversity and distinction.

At the same time we celebrate these academic accomplishments, we can all be proud of the way some of our most prominent Bulldog alumni work positively for people from all walks of life, and our successful alumni represent what happens when one works hard and reaches for the stars.

Valley

At Fresno State, we recognize that talent exists in every household and in families of all income levels. Our University is a place of opportunity for people from all walks of life, and our successful alumni represent what happens when one works hard and reaches for the stars.

Trailblazers like our star athletes and our 14 recently honored Top Dogs remind us that achieving excellence is a “Fresno State of mind,” and our alumni know no limits.

Enjoy the wonderful stories in this issue of Fresno State Magazine and thank you for helping the University continue its bold upward trajectory.

Dr. Joseph I. Castro
President, Fresno State

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

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.

Stay in touch! We welcome your comments about Fresno State Magazine. Visit fresnostatemagazine.com for faculty contact information, should be sent to Editor, Fresno State Magazine, 3200 N. Barton Ave., M49, Fresno, CA 93740-8023.

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A Crowd Pleaser

Homecoming Week was refreshed and reimagined this year, uniting Fresno State traditions with new ideas to ignite student pride while welcoming alumni back to campus.

The campus was chock full of activities throughout the week, including the new Homecoming Big Show, featuring comedians Adam Devine (Pitch Perfect and Workaholics), Fortune Feimster (The Mindy Project) and Adam Ray (Spy). DJ Kay Rich (pictured) fired up the crowd before the show.

“For years, students have expressed interest in having a large-scale performance on campus,” says Shawna Blair, program and events coordinator in Student Involvement and adviser of the homecoming committee. “We worked hard to make this year’s homecoming one of the biggest, boldest yet.”

The week also featured a viewing party for the movie “Spiderman” inside Bulldog Stadium, where students and community members could bring blankets and eat popcorn while relaxing on the football turf. The evening before the homecoming football game included a pep rally with a fire dancer and a magician show.

The week culminated with Fresno State’s 38-0 shutout win over New Mexico in front of nearly 30,000 fans in Bulldog Stadium.
Mary Coveney Benotti
This year homecoming is especially sweet; I’m moving back to Fresno after many years. When I graduated, I always thought I’d like to come back to the area and now we are.

Bob Koury
Homecoming is a family gathering! For the seniors, their family and friends and for the Fresno State fans! A celebration of Bulldog history, football over several years and all Bulldog followers, supporters, players and coaches! GO DOGS!

Mary Vong
When you travel over 10 hours in one day to see the Fresno State Bulldogs hit the gridiron that’s true love, that’s spirit, that’s straight Bulldog Pride that’s what homecoming means. To the HOUSE!

Nyxy Nicole Imes
Fresno State is special to me because I grew up at Fresno State. It’s home, it’s familiar and it’s my safe place. Since I was 6 years old I was part of the Fresno State family. My dad worked in the mechanical engineering dept. for about 20 years. He brought me to work, and I watched him work and I was inspired. All I want to do is serve students. All because of him. I am proud to say I am an employee for over 12 years, an alumni and now finishing my grad degree! Thank you Fresno State!

Richard A. Donati
I love homecoming because as a player I loved looking in the stands and seeing all the students roaring and showing support for their school. That made me realize that not only are Fresno State athletes Bulldog Born and Bred, but the students are Bulldog Born and Bred! No Dogs Down!
Washington Monthly 2017 Top 30 National Universities:

1. Stanford University
2. Harvard University
3. Massachusetts Institute of Technology
4. Texas A&M University
5. Georgetown University
6. University of California, San Diego
7. University of Pennsylvania
8. University of Washington
9. University of California, Davis
10. Yale University
11. Princeton University
12. Duke University
13. Utah State University
14. University of California, Berkeley
15. University of California, Los Angeles
16. Columbia University
17. California State University, Fresno
18. University of Florida
19. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
20. University of California, Irvine
21. University of California, Riverside
22. University of Notre Dame
23. University of North Carolina
24. Washington State University
25. Purdue University
26. University of Wisconsin
27. Dartmouth College
28. Syracuse University
29. Brigham Young University
30. Illinois Institute of Technology

The Future of Transportation

Fresno State announced the opening of its new Transportation Institute one year after the Fresno Council of Governments Policy Board approved the use of nearly $3 million in Measure C New Technology Reserve funds. The institute opened this fall in a temporary space adjacent to the Engineering East building.

The Fresno State Transportation Institute is a collaboration between the 15 cities within Fresno County and Fresno State’s Lyles College of Engineering, Craig School of Business and College of Social Sciences.

Funding will support students and faculty researchers as they address topics such as air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, safety, energy, congestion and advanced transportation technologies, and also will enable them to seek federal and state transportation grants.

Prestigious U

Fresno State's approach to student success was again ranked among the nation's best at combining academic excellence with economic opportunity.

Washington Monthly, a D.C.-based magazine known for its annual rankings of colleges and universities, placed Fresno State No. 17 on its list of the top universities in the United States.

Fresno State was selected alongside six Ivy League institutions, six University of California campuses, MIT and top-ranked Stanford University on the list.

Washington Monthly has been ranking colleges and universities for 12 years with what it calls “a different kind of college ranking,” focusing on three pillars: social mobility, research and service. The rankings measure “what colleges do for their country,” recognizing universities that “produce research, train the next generation of scientists and Ph.D. [candidates] and instill graduates with an ethos of public service.”

Fresno State was also the No. 1 school in the national university category in commitment to spending federal work-study funds on public service.

Fresno State, as a University that enrolls many first-generation college students and helps them graduate, was cited for its “stellar graduation rate relative to other colleges with a similar admissions profile.” The magazine also says Fresno State’s “net price of attendance (what students pay after scholarships are deducted from tuition) is among the very lowest nationwide.”

“These national rankings are further proof that Fresno State’s commitment to boldly educate and empower our students for success is taking the University’s academic profile to new heights,” University President Joseph I. Castro says. “Our faculty and staff are supporting and engaging students in exciting new ways, and the University is working as one with the community to develop partnerships that can be transformational for our region, where more than 80 percent of our alumni choose to stay and work.”

‘Help Clear the Air’

Fresno State and the other 22 California State University campuses are now tobacco, smoke and vapor free. The University’s ‘Help Clear the Air’ campaign is educating students, employees and campus visitors about the new CSU systemwide policy.

State law already bans smoking from workplaces and all buildings accessible to employees and campus visitors about the ‘Help Clear the Air’ educational campaign will create awareness of the change and invite cooperation as we move toward creating a healthier campus environment.”

“We are sensitive to what this change will mean for our campus community, so we want to do as much as we can through educational programs, communication and resources,” says Debbie Adishian-Antone, Fresno State’s vice president for administration. “To support this goal, the ‘Help Clear the Air’ educational campaign will create awareness of the change and invite cooperation as we move toward creating a healthier campus environment.”

For help with smoking and tobacco cessation, visit fresnostate.edu/smokefree.

17. California State University, Fresno
18. University of Florida
19. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
20. University of California, Irvine
21. University of California, Riverside
22. University of Notre Dame
23. University of North Carolina
24. Washington State University
25. Purdue University
26. University of Wisconsin
27. Dartmouth College
28. Syracuse University
29. Brigham Young University
30. Illinois Institute of Technology

“The Fresno County Transportation Authority is excited about the research and educational opportunities that will be provided to students at Fresno State to explore the challenges that face our Valley, state and nation as new technology is introduced to change the way we move people and goods throughout the world,” says Lynne Ashbeck, Fresno County Transportation Authority board member.

Dr. Aly Tawfik, assistant professor of civil engineering at Fresno State (pictured below), will serve as the institute’s founding director.

Fresno State students can now earn a degree in city and regional planning thanks to a partnership with McCaffrey Homes to provide students with hands-on experience in design and infrastructure through a case study class on the Tesoro Viejo development, a 1,600-acre site at the foot of Little Table Mountain.

Jointly owned by the McCaffrey and Lyles families, the new Tesoro Viejo community is located off Highway 41 in Madera County’s designated growth area, Rio Mesa.

Students will learn broad planning skills and gain specialized knowledge pertaining to Valley issues such as transportation and water resource planning. They will also have access to a wide range of internships and experiences through on-site visits and guest lectures, which will make them optimal candidates for jobs in our growing region.

“We commend the efforts of Fresno State to deliver a city and regional planning degree program that will go far in serving the needs of our region,” says Brent McCaffrey, president of McCaffrey Homes. “We are thrilled to invest in the higher education of students in an area that is of critical importance for the future of our community.”

The University received support from corporations like PG&E, as well as scholarship funds donated by McCaffrey Homes, Bonadelle Homes, Granville Homes, Penstar Group and Silkwood Ventures.
A Legacy of Caring

Doris Sullenger cared for others her whole life. One of seven children, and the daughter of Chinese immigrants, she became a caretaker for her younger siblings at age 9. By the time she was college-aged, Mrs. Sullenger (pictured) helped at her parents’ restaurant, earning little more than a dollar an hour to put herself through Fresno State. Though her parents didn’t want her to pursue an education, she persevered, earning bachelor’s degrees in both chemistry and microbiology in 1976 — joining the small but increasing population of women pursuing science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers at that time. For 39 years, Mrs. Sullenger continued caring for those around her. As a clinical laboratory scientist at Community Medical Centers, she supported health and wellness in the Central Valley. “My wife loved to give back what she got,” says Matt Sullenger, Doris’ husband. “I remember twice a year, she would give her whole paycheck to charity.” “She wanted to make it easier for the next generation.” — MATT SULLENGER

Now, even after her untimely death in March, Mrs. Sullenger continues her legacy of caring. She left $200,000 in her will to provide scholarships to students in the College of Science and Mathematics at Fresno State who are studying microbiology, chemistry or mathematics. Such a gift is especially critical at a time when 80 percent of Fresno State students need financial assistance, and women continue to be underrepresented in STEM fields. “She wanted to make it easier for the next generation,” Matt says. “You can’t take [the money] with you when you go, so why not give it back?”

Inspired by his wife’s caring nature, Matt, a retired contractor, also left funds in his will to support vocational education in the Central Valley. “I’ll give all my money back to have another day with her,” Matt says tearfully. “But I can’t — and there are a lot of people working, trying to get their degrees. Our goal was to make each generation easier and better.”

To leave a legacy and enhance the education of students for generations to come, contact the office of Planned Giving at 559.278.4038.

Water, Ag, Energy Start-ups

The Valley Ventures Accelerator at Fresno State announced 11 start-up companies will receive venture capital direction and support in the water, agriculture and energy technology industries. The three-month program will provide professional guidance on growing sales, company value and profitability for the emerging companies from primarily California, as well as Brazil, Chile and Malaysia. Companies accepted into the program demonstrated the potential to have an economic impact in the region and the ability to improve the efficient use of scarce resources.

CSU Outstanding Student Scholar

Shelby Paige Moshier, a Fresno State senior biology student from Tollhouse, was one of 23 students chosen by the California State University to receive the 2017 CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Moshier (pictured) is a member of the Smithcamp Family Honors College and the Fresno State chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. She also works as a lab manager and conducts research on Californian birds in a conservation biology lab.

quite the view

Physics professor Dr. Frederick Ringwald traveled to Metolius, Oregon, to get the full experience of the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. The town was near the path of totality for the eclipse, meaning the duration lasted more than 2 minutes. Ringwald snapped plenty of photos on his trip, including the above.

National Trademark Licensing Award

The Fresno State Trademark Licensing Program, under the leadership of Clarence Chiong, was recognized as the national collegiate licensing program of the year, earning the 2017 Synergy Award from the International Collegiate Licensing Association. The Synergy Award is given annually to a university or other collegiate organization that demonstrated extraordinary commitment to collegiate licensing and contributed to the betterment of the industry and the institution or organization. Fresno State receives royalties from the sale of officially licensed merchandise produced by licensed vendors. The royalties from about $12 million in retail sales of officially licensed Fresno State merchandise last year was used to support various student programs on campus.

Student Spotlight

“I think it is important to be good stewards of the land and our natural resources, which is why I am passionate about learning about conservation biology.”

SHELBY PAIGE MOSHIER

The scholarship program was established in 1984 by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, which partnered with the CSU Board of Trustees to supplement the endowment with contributions from CSU Trustees, CSU Foundation Board of Governors and private donors.

The awardee, one from each of the 23 CSU campuses, receive donor-funded scholarships for their superior academic performance, personal accomplishments, community service and financial need.
A trio of alumni rise to the highest levels of pro sports while giving an entire region reason to believe

by Eddie Hughes

Somewhere along the way, while pages fell off the calendar and hopes began anew, the little University that could became the major University that will. A blossoming community at the heart of the Central Valley grew in aspiration as quickly as it grew in size. And it didn’t take long for that University and that community to come together as one — producing an educated workforce to drive the economy while unifying residents behind the excitement of Fresno State. The Red Wave was born.

A fan base with a game day wardrobe featuring only one color and traveling from city to city to cheer on its Bulldogs soon spawned a new generation of believers and raised them to ask “why not us?” while daring to dream instead of settling for average.

It’s the Fresno State of mind. It means not settling for average but striving to measure yourself against the best. It sounds like a bold way of thinking, and that’s exactly the way University President Joseph I. Castro likes it.

Don’t tell Fresno State students or alumni they’re not supposed to be great. They’ve probably heard it all their lives while taking the brunt of jokes from Hollywood or fighting to overcome the true challenges that exist in the Central Valley. But overcoming those challenges makes the reward that much sweeter.

This is what it means to be Fresno State material. It’s a fabric that never fades under the scorching sun while working in the fields or training on them. It’s made of threads that bind together in good times and bad, each one relying on the other to prevent the whole thing from unraveling. And it’s a fabric that comes in many colors, shapes and sizes.

Feeling pride for the hometown school yet?

As the New York Times said this past September, Fresno has been described as the state’s truest college town. The Valley loves its University and it loves its stars. They serve as points of pride for a region long determined to get the chip off its shoulder and show the world it’s willing to settle things on the field. Just give ’em the opportunity. Remember the mantra “anyone, anytime, anywhere?”

Right now, because of a handful of superstar alumni athletes, the Fresno State brand is flashing in front of everyone, all the time, everywhere.

It’s nothing new for Fresno State to have alumni playing pro ball, but never before in its history has Fresno State had three stars who are this super all at once in each of the three most major professional sports.

continued
In the past year alone, Paul George, 27, won an Olympic gold medal with the USA basketball team, made his fourth straight NBA all-star appearance, graced the cover of the NBA’s most popular video game and released his own signature New Era Bulldogs cap and Nike shoe (including the “PG1 University” option in Bulldog red).

This past offseason, George was traded to the Oklahoma City Thunder in a blockbuster deal with the Indiana Pacers.

At the same time, Derek Carr, 26, signed a five-year, $125 million deal with the Oakland Raiders, becoming the NFL’s highest-paid player ever at the time while coming off his second straight NFL Pro Bowl selection, leading the Raiders to a 12-win season for the first time since 2000 and being featured with his brother, David, on ESPN’s E:60. At Fresno State’s 2017 season opener, Carr’s jersey No. 4 was retired at a packed Bulldog Stadium.

Then there’s Aaron Judge, 25, the New York Yankees’ 6-foot-7, 280-pound rookie outfielder who burst into stardom by hitting home runs at a pace only the greats like Babe Ruth and Roger Maris could contend with. Judge started in a viral skit on The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon, landed on the cover of Sports Illustrated, won his first Major League Home Run Derby en route to breaking Mark McGwire’s all-time rookie record for home runs and was named American League Rookie of the Year.

There is likely not another university in America with three active superstars as high profile as these in the three sports.

“All three of them are really genuine people who had great parents, and I don’t think that’s an accident.”

PAUL LOEFFLER
940 ESPN RADIO

And making it even more special, according to popular opinion, they are all-around good people — exactly the type of alum who make a university proud.

“All three of them are really genuine people who had great parents, and I don’t think that’s an accident,” says Paul Loeffler, the voice of the Bulldogs for 940 ESPN radio. “All three had people who were very involved in their lives.”

continued
When George signed with Fresno State in 2009 out of Knight High School in Palmdale, his parents, Paul and Paulette, moved to Kingsburg so they’d be close enough to watch his games. “You saw the kind of person he was, the perspective he had and how he treated other people,” Loeffler says.

By George’s sophomore year, he had grown to 6-foot-9, led the team in scoring and was drafted 10th overall by the Pacers — the highest a Bulldogs basketball player had ever been chosen. The Bulldogs finished just 15-18 that season under former coach Steve Cleveland, but the bevy of NBA scouts showing up to the Save Mart Center each game was a surefire sign that George was a special prospect. It didn’t take long for Pacers general manager Larry Bird to find out he had made a great pick.

“Tired of making baskets. He’s trying to get better, he’s trying to continue to be one of the best players in the world,” says former Fresno State coach Rodney Terry.

George’s NBA scoring totals climbed each year, except for 2014-15 when he was recovering from a broken leg, and plateaued this past season when he averaged 23.7 points before being traded to the Thunder in the offseason with one year left on his contract. George, who has become known for his work ethic and choosing one area of his game to improve each offseason, has fans in Oklahoma City so excited that hundreds showed up to greet him at the airport the day he joined the team.

“He’s always worked out, he’s well-prepared, he’s talented, he’s never forgotten that,” says Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford. “He’s worked, he’s trying to get better, he’s trying to continue to be one of the best players in the world.”

The Carr family has been Fresno famous since 2001, when David Carr led the Bulldogs as high as No. 8 in the national rankings and became the No. 1 overall pick in the 2002 NFL draft.

Eight years later, along came the youngest Carr brother, Derek, one of the highest rated quarterback prospects in the nation out of Bakersfield Christian High School. And he only wanted to play for one school — the school he’d been rooting for since he was 5 years old watching his big brother play alongside his parents, Rodger and Sheryl, and middle brother, Darren.

“Paulette says, ‘He talks so openly about loving everybody and his faith, and he never has a critical word to say about anyone. He shows great leadership.’

In three years as the starter, including his final two seasons under former coach Tim DeRuyter, Carr became an All-American, athletically and academically, and earned two straight Mountain West Offensive Player of the Year honors. He set new records for the most passing yards (12,842) and touchdowns (113) in school history.

“His character off the field is as good as it is on the field,” says former Yankees manager Joe Girardi. “He really understands what you need to do when you’re in the spotlight. You always know he’s going to act the right way and do the right thing.”

Fresno State baseball coach Mike Batesole grins as wide as the brim of his cap when telling the story of how Judge, a Linden High School product, ended up on campus. Judge’s parents, recently retired school teachers Wayne and Pattr, both Fresno State alumni themselves, reached out to get him into Fresno State’s select prospect camp. Each year, a few of the standouts at the camp receive scholarship offers to join the program. “I didn’t take 10 minutes, and I said, ‘OK, let’s go into my office and talk a little bit,’” Batesole says of his first glimpse of Judge on the field.

Judge went on to an All-American career at Fresno State, helping the Bulldogs to two conference championships. As a junior, he was drafted in the first round, 32nd overall, by the New York Yankees. Known for his infectious smile and fierce loyalty to his teammates while playing in the biggest media market in the world, Judge appears almost shy when he comes to talking about his own accomplishments — however historic they are.

“He’s always worked out, he’s well-prepared, he’s talented, he’s never forgotten that,” says Fresno State coach Jeff Tedford. “He’s worked, he’s trying to get better, he’s trying to continue to be one of the best players in the world.”

“His character off the field is as good as it is on the field.”

Joe Girardi

Former Yankees Manager

Paul Loeffler 940 ESPN Radio

“All Rise for the Honorable Judge”
“Fresno State is a special place with special people. The same things that are said about David and myself can be said about Paul George and Aaron Judge. They are good people. We’re not just all right at what we do, these are good people, and they come from a great place.”

JOSEPH I. CASTRO
PRESIDENT, FRESNO STATE

“For an athletic department like Fresno State, having three guys like that could be a game changer if they’re able to parlay that into recruiting,” says ESPN reporter Arash Markazi, who also teaches journalism at the University of Southern California. “I’ve noticed a lot of kids aren’t into history. If a school’s last championship was in the 1980s, that doesn’t hold a lot of weight with them. But these three are young players in the prime of their careers playing for signature teams. It changes things.”

Batesole, Terry and Tedford are all leveraging their notable alumni in recruiting. Other sports are too, men’s and women’s. Batesole said he’s already seeing youngsters wearing jersey No. 99 like Judge. Terry is seeing youngsters wearing George’s Nike shoes. And Carr’s Raiders jersey is one of the top sellers in the NFL.

“We’re living in the moment right now with these guys,” Terry says. “These guys are current superstars in each of their fields. You always talk about staying relevant — Fresno State is as relevant as you can get right now with those guys performing on the main stage.”

The fact these alumni are also fan favorites for what they do off the field and court provides teaching material for Fresno State coaches.

“I tell our players, ‘You always have little ears, you have little eyes always watching. You guys are role models.’”

“We’ve had talented student-athletes in all different sports forever, men and women distinguishing themselves,” Castro says. “This is a very special time when all three of these Bulldogs are playing at the highest levels in their sports, and it exemplifies what’s possible here at Fresno State. Most of our students are going to be great leaders outside of sports and this level of distinction inspires them to reach for excellence.”

George posted a photo of himself in the first row at Yankee Stadium this summer, wearing a Judge jersey and cheering his fellow Bulldog. George also returned to campus Sept. 2 to see his buddy Carr have his jersey retired.

“We were the only school to have a Pro Bowler, an all-star in baseball and an all-star in basketball in one season this past year,” Carr says as if he rattles off those talking points each day. “If you ask any of my Raiders teammates, they know that stat. Fresno State is a special place with special people. The same thing that are said about David and myself can be said about Paul George and Aaron Judge. They are good people. We’re not just all right at what we do, these are good people, and they come from a great place.”

It’s a place that will forever be proud of them and inspired by them. And, perhaps, somewhere in the Valley right now, there’s a kid dreaming about becoming an astronaut or doctor or playing pro sports. And maybe others are telling that kid to be more realistic. But that child can point to at least three reasons why dreaming big dreams and working hard make anything possible. Sometimes, the stars align. That inspiration is a piece of the legacy these alumni left behind.

“It’s incredible, it’s an honor, I’m proud to be a former Bulldog,” Judge says, breaking into his trademark smile. “All of us, we’re just a big family. Bulldog born, Bulldog bred.”

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.
There are more than 480,000 NCAA student-athletes — and less than 1 percent go on to play professional sports. Many more move on to successful professional careers in other industries such as government, healthcare, education and public safety. In the NCAA, 86 percent of Division I student-athletes earn a degree. While Fresno State has many inspiring examples of successful alumni, here are just a few prime examples for young student-athletes to look up to.

Chantea (Fleming) McIntyre ’04, ’16
Job: Owner of McIntyre Model Management; Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Manager for Fresno Unified School District
Fresno State Degrees: Business Administration, Educational Leadership
Sport: Basketball
How did being a student-athlete prepare you for a successful career?
Still, nothing has been harder than being a student-athlete. Nothing! People ask me how I balance being a wife, a mom to four, a business owner and a full-time educator, and my answer is that I was once a student-athlete.

Kerri Donis ’91
Job: Fresno Fire Chief
Fresno State Degree: Physical Education
Sport: Softball
How did being a student-athlete prepare you for a successful career?
Being a student-athlete provided a fantastic foundation of work ethic, discipline, organizational skills, teamwork and mental toughness one needs in the business world.
Best advice from a coach:
Don’t you quit! (Coach Margie Wright)

Dr. Juan Bautista ’03
Job: Physician
Fresno State Degree: Health Science
Sport: Football
How did being a student-athlete prepare you for a successful career?
Being a student-athlete helped to teach the importance of both physical and mental health. Handling failure is also important. During my career we lost games, I’ve been injured, etc. Learning to get up from defeat or adapt is a lesson that is constantly exemplified in sports.
Best advice from a coach:
If you do everything you are supposed to do (go to class, practice, lift weights and eat well) you will just be average. It’s the extra things you do that will make you great. (J.D. Williams)

Deborah A. “Debbie” Poochigian ’74
Job: Fresno County Supervisor (retired)
Degree: Physical Education, elementary and secondary teaching credentials
Sport: Tennis
How did being a student-athlete prepare you for a successful career?
Participating in athletics during college helped me focus on my career goals and gain confidence while developing appreciation for hard work, preparation, teamwork and competitiveness.
Best advice from a coach: Coach Elaine Mason emphasized hard work, consistency and setting lofty goals. I learned that success in the classroom can only be achieved with lots of preparation and attention to every detail — big or small.
How the Red Wave was Born

Fresno State supporters have fondly been known as the Red Wave for 35 years now. It's an identity for the University’s fan base that is both nostalgic and inspiring. And it's a tradition that Fresno State credits to Ron Orozco, a longtime journalist for The Fresno Bee who now teaches in the Media, Communications and Journalism Department at Fresno State.

As Orozco recalls, there was a growing fan base for the athletics program just starting to realize its potential in the late 1970s. The men's basketball team was thriving under then coach Boyd Grant. And the fans wouldn't settle for watching their Bulldogs only at Selland Arena — they followed them on the road in droves.

On Jan. 17, 1981, Fresno State visited San Jose State, and Orozco's game story in The Bee focused on the hundreds of Bulldogs fans who made the trip over Pacheco Pass in buses and cars, so many wearing red that he nicknamed them the Red Wave.

"And now there's another generation — including my grandchildren Benjamin and Alexandra — who are learning about and joining the Red Wave," Orozco says. "It makes me happy for the community. I am grateful that I was The Bee beat writer for Fresno State sports at that time. Journalists are trained to be the eyes and ears for readers; it was easy for me to write about what I was seeing and feeling."

You may know the Fresno State fan base is nicknamed the Red Wave, but do you know the name's origin?
Fresno State has cemented itself as a service-oriented university with students, faculty and staff providing more than 10 million hours of service to the community over the past 10 years. The concept of volunteerism has become part of the campus culture — and it’s not going unnoticed nationally.

Service, along with social mobility and research, was among the three pillars factored in when Fresno State ranked No. 17 on Washington Monthly’s list of the top national universities in August.

Now, a new study conducted by two Fresno State researchers — Hongtao Yue and Steven Hart — is further demonstrating the impact of service-learning on campus. The research found students who took at least one service-learning course were 25 percent more likely to graduate than those who did not take any service-learning courses.

“Even when you control for things like a student’s GPA, the number of units they’ve taken at the time they take a service-learning class, their socio-economic status — even when you control for those variables, service-learning is shown to be extremely influential in positively impacting students’ graduation rates,” says Chris Fiorentino, the director of the University’s Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

Their study, published in the spring 2017 issue of the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, analyzed 31,074 undergraduate students who enrolled at Fresno State from fall 2002 to fall 2009.

In addition to the finding that one service-learning course increased students’ likelihood of graduating, their research also found that taking additional service-learning courses increased the likelihood of graduation. Also, participation in service-learning coursework at the upper-division level had larger correlations with graduation than it did in lower-division courses.

Regarding the findings for upper-division courses, Yue and Hart said it makes sense because upper-division courses are more aligned with students’ majors, which increased motivation and enhanced relevance.

“The results of this study suggest that service-learning is a high-impact practice that increased the likelihood of student graduation,” Yue says. “The University should have strong commitment to service-learning programs, including increased offerings of upper-division service-learning courses, increased training of faculty in service-learning and developing initiatives that promote student participation in service-learning courses across their academic experiences.”

Dr. Matthew Ari Jendian, chair of the Department of Sociology and director of the Humanics program at Fresno State, has incorporated service-learning into his courses for 20 years.

“What they have found, using statistical analysis, is really the most powerful testament to one pedagogical approach having an impact on graduation rates,” Fiorentino says. “Even when you control for things like a student’s GPA, the number of units they’ve taken at the time they take a service-learning class, their socio-economic status — even when you control for those variables, service-learning is shown to be extremely influential in positively impacting students’ graduation rates.”

CHRIS FIORENTINO
DIRECTOR OF THE RICHTER CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE-LEARNING

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Fresno State has cemented itself as a service-oriented university with students, faculty and staff providing more than 10 million hours of service to the community over the past 10 years. The concept of volunteerism has become part of the campus culture — and it’s not going unnoticed nationally.

Service, along with social mobility and research, was among the three pillars factored in when Fresno State ranked No. 17 on Washington Monthly’s list of the top national universities in August.

Now, a new study conducted by two Fresno State researchers — Hongtao Yue and Steven Hart — is further demonstrating the impact of service-learning on campus. The research found students who took at least one service-learning course were 25 percent more likely to graduate than those who did not take any service-learning courses.

“Even when you control for things like a student’s GPA, the number of units they’ve taken at the time they take a service-learning class, their socio-economic status — even when you control for those variables, service-learning is shown to be extremely influential in positively impacting students’ graduation rates,” says Chris Fiorentino, the director of the University’s Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning.

Their study, published in the spring 2017 issue of the Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning, analyzed 31,074 undergraduate students who enrolled at Fresno State from fall 2002 to fall 2009.

In addition to the finding that one service-learning course increased students’ likelihood of graduating, their research also found that taking additional service-learning courses increased the likelihood of graduation. Also, participation in service-learning coursework at the upper-division level had larger correlations with graduation than it did in lower-division courses.

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The findings of this study resonate with my experience, and the positive impact of service-learning extends beyond retention and graduation,” Jendian says. “There are positive impacts on students’ self-efficacy and sense of their own ability to act and make a difference, long-term positive impacts on the civic engagement of alumni and positive impacts on faculty.”

Music composition and theory professor Dr. Benjamin Boone started teaching at Fresno State in 2000, but didn’t discover what service-learning really meant until he attended a workshop on the subject five years later.

“I was shocked to learn that what I had thought was service-learning was in fact community engagement, or volunteering,” Boone says. “What distinguishes service-learning from volunteering and other types of service is that it is intimately tied to the curriculum of a particular course. A high-quality service-learning project not only provides meaningful service, but it enhances academic learning, and it consciously teaches civic learning.”

Fresno State students have engaged in various service-learning projects in recent years, including working with youth at Stone Soup Fresno, helping to revitalize the El Dorado Park neighborhood near campus and opting to serve others as part of the Alternative Spring Break program.

During the 2016-17 academic year alone, 14,565 Fresno State volunteers contributed more than 1.3 million hours of service, valued at more than $40 million in time.

“Students find the hands-on experiences invaluable,” says Kim Morin, a professor in the Department of Theatre Arts who incorporates service-learning into her classes on children’s theatre and puppetry. “Most of my students are graduating seniors, and many comment that they want to incorporate the lessons they have learned from their service-learning experiences directly into their future careers as teachers. Students comment about service-learning helping them become better collaborators and making them more aware of the world around them. Many say that they plan to continue to volunteer in the community in some way.”

Betsy A. Hays, a media, communications and journalism professor, was named the University’s Faculty Service-Learning Scholar for 2017-18.

“Service-learning makes everything better,” Hays says. “The students care more, work harder, find personal and professional meaning, and we all get to make the world a better place to some degree. By making assignments ‘real,’ the standard is elevated — both from a faculty and student perspective.”

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

Visitation Day at CHSU College of Pharmacy

Ready to Help People Live Healthier Lives? Bring your family and friends for a 2 hour visit at the CHSU Campus from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, January 13th, to discover if the CHSU College of Pharmacy program is right for you.

You’ll learn about our Curriculum, obtain important Admissions, Scholarship and Financial Aid information, meet our faculty, hear about student life from our students, and take a tour!

CHSU College of Pharmacy Visitation Day Agenda:
• Welcome Refreshments
• Curriculum Overview
• Admissions Requirements
• Financial Aid/Scholarships Available
• Student Panel/Meet the Faculty
• Campus Tour

RSVP:
Please arrive at 9:45 am for check in rsvp@chsu.org or call (559) 573-8124
Hope Lemons, Outreach & Admissions Advisor
Daniel Loera grew up knowing the meaning of hard work. He spent his days laboring at a farm, out before the sun came up and only making his way back home after the sun went down. The son of migrant farm workers, he was the first in his family to pursue higher education. Now, Loera is in his final semester at Fresno State, studying plant science and planning to use his knowledge to improve California agriculture and to create a more sustainable environment.

Though Loera continues to work his way through school, his education is in part made possible through scholarships.

“There’s a lot of stress on me and my family,” he says. “The students who apply for scholarships really do need it.”

Loera is one of an all-time record 25,000 students at Fresno State, 80 percent of whom need financial assistance to pursue their education. That’s why hundreds of community members came together in support of students like Loera during Fresno State’s inaugural Day of Giving (D.O.G.) fundraiser. Starting at midnight on Nov. 2, and ending at 11:59 p.m. that evening, Day of Giving rallied hundreds of Fresno State supporters from across the world.

The inaugural online fundraiser was a non-stop, 24-hour opportunity for alumni, faculty, staff, parents, friends and students to make a gift to the campus program or activity for which they were most passionate. Donors were encouraged by emails, matching challenges and social media posts, using hashtags like #FresnoStateDOG and #FeedTheDOG.

“It’s a way that we as alumni stay connected to Fresno State,” says Jamin Brazil, who earned his master’s in business administration from Fresno State in 2015. “The next generation is going to stand on our shoulders, and we have to make sure that they have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes and successes that we have experienced. The more that we as alumni are investing our time and resources into Fresno State, the more we are going to improve our local economy and, ultimately, our lives.”

As donations continued to pour in from across the world, students like Loera expressed thanks.

“Getting help, even if it’s a little — it’s so much less stress on me and my family,” he says. "The students who apply for scholarships really do need it.”

— Esra Hashem is a marketing specialist at Fresno State.

15 giving opportunities

- Fresno State Central Funds
- College of Science and Mathematics
- Kremen School of Education and Human Development
- Alumni Association
- Division of Research and Graduate Studies
- College of Arts and Humanities
- College of Social Sciences
- Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
- Athletics
- Henry Madden Library
- College of Health and Human Services
- Craig School of Business
- Lyles College of Engineering
- Division of Continuing and Global Education
- Student Affairs

Challenge in 2007, which encouraged people to rally their online networks to make giving easier and a part of their daily lives. Giving days have since been used with notable success by higher education institutions and community foundations, sometimes raising millions of dollars in a 24-hour period.

Fresno State Day of Giving aimed to represent as many facets of the University as possible, with options to donate to eight colleges, the Henry Madden Library, the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, athletics and dozens of additional programs.

Though the fundraising marathon existed primarily online, faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered together to create an undeniably festive campus environment in support of a single cause: student success.
THIS IS
‘JEOPARDY!’

Fresno State alum wins big on popular TV game show

by Lisa Maria Boyles

Peter Guekguezian, 31, appeared on four episodes of the popular ABC game show in June, racking up $46,800 in winnings. He was the champion on June 16, 19 and 20, losing on June 21 to challenger Lisa Evans of Easthampton, Massachusetts.

Since the episodes aired, Guekguezian, his wife and their 2-year-old son, Zekiel, moved to New York, where he is pursuing post-doctoral work. The couple met while they were both graduate students at Fresno State, and Marilyn taught at Fresno State’s American English Institute. Guekguezian earned his master’s degree in linguistics in 2011 and was part of the first graduating class at University High School, a charter school on campus.

“I really appreciated the support of my community,” Guekguezian says. “People seemed really proud and supportive of me being on the show and representing Fresno. That made me happy. A lot of times we can feel down on ourselves about Fresno, especially people my age. There’s a lot of good stuff going on there, a lot of potential.”

Fresno State Magazine asked Guekguezian about his experiences and how he reached his potential on the show.

IN THE KNOW

Fresno State Magazine:
HOW DID YOU PREPARE TO BE A CONTESTANT ON “JEOPARDY!”?

Guekguezian: It’s hard to prepare because the questions can literally be about anything.

I decided the best strategy was to focus on things that are easily memorized and are over-represented in “Jeopardy!” categories like Nobel Peace Prize winners, Oscar winners, that sort of thing.

The most important thing was studying how to wager. Most games are won or lost in Final Jeopardy, and it comes down to whether or not you wager correctly.

I have a friend, Jesse Thoren, also from University High, who is a complete math genius, and he broke down how I should bet in every situation.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO COMPETE ON THE SHOW?

It’s a fun break from real life. To be living your real, everyday life knowing in a few days you’re going to be transported to this completely different experience — you just can’t wait for it to start.

But then you’re also a little nervous because you want to win, you don’t want to make a fool of yourself on national TV. I was able to do both at the same time. That [second show] was a train wreck.

There was one where I got the answer right, but I didn’t put it in the form of a question, and I realized it too late. That’s the cardinal sin of “Jeopardy!”

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST QUESTION?

That was the train wreck game. I missed all three Daily Doubles. But I was still able to win because I answered Final Jeopardy correctly: The question was, “On June 17, 1929, this airline’s first passenger flight left Dallas, making stops at Shreveport, Monroe and Jackson.”

And you’re supposed to name the airline. That doesn’t give you a lot to work with.

My first instinct was Southwest because they are based in Dallas, but then I realized they weren’t around in the ’20s. I thought about the cities, and they are all around the Mississippi Delta region, near the border of Louisiana and Mississippi. I thought maybe that’s the clue, maybe they’re telling me it’s Delta. That was right, and no one else was able to figure it out. I wouldn’t have won if I hadn’t gotten that question right.

Did you record the programs you appeared on to share with your son when he is older?

Yes, we did. I think it would be pretty cool for him to know that his dad was on “Jeopardy!” and I’d love to watch with him when he gets more interested.

What do you plan to do with your winnings?

I hope to take my family on a trip to Europe. My son is obsessed with Disneyland, so I would love to take him to Disneyland Paris, and then to see the rest of Paris and other parts of Europe.

I’d also like to do something related to Armenian causes. There are some foundations that are doing excellent work in that area, like the Armenian Missionary Association of America. I’d really like to give some money to some LGBT organizations in Fresno. I’d also like to help out the Chukchansi language preservation project at Fresno State. The Linguistics Department really does a lot of good work on endangered languages.

FALL/WINTER 2017 > FresnoStateMagazine.com

He spent four days competing on a national TV trivia show and won enough money to take a European vacation and give back to several community organizations.

Who is “JEOPARDY!” Winner Peter Guekguezian of Fresno?

ANSWER:

QUESTION:

Jeopardy! Productions, Inc.
The Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala recognizes some of the University’s most accomplished graduates with the highest honor presented by the Fresno State Alumni Association.

Each year one alumnus from each of the University’s eight academic schools and colleges, as well as the Department of Athletics, the Henry Madden Library, the Division of Student Affairs and the Division of Graduate Studies, is chosen to be honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award.

On Oct. 13 at the Save Mart Center, during homecoming week, this year’s group of awardees gathered in front of a crowd of about 1,000 Fresno State supporters for an inspirational evening filled with bold stories of achievement and service.

Kim Ruiz Beck, chairman of Ruiz Foods, earned the Distinguished Alumna Award, the top honor of the night. Ruiz Foods’ El Monterey brand is the No. 1 selling frozen Mexican food in the U.S. and its Tornados brand is a leader on convenience store roller grills. Fresno State Magazine asked Ruiz Beck, a 1988 graduate, to write a first-hand account of her journey and what the award means to her.

A Proud Bulldog Moment
by Kim Ruiz Beck, Top Dog Distinguished Alumna

It is an incredible honor to receive the Top Dog Award, and I have never been prouder to be a Bulldog!

My years at Fresno State were, indeed, an important part of my life and solidified my desire to be part of our family business. In fact, when I look back at my years at Fresno State, I recall how much of my class work related directly to some of the challenges we were facing at Ruiz Foods. For example, I recall how my market research project was a taste test of our mini chimichangas, and how our company philosophy developed from one of my management classes.

After college, I joined our company’s marketing team, spent time in sales, managed product development, became the interim CEO and, now, chairman. But I could not have accomplished any of this without the love and support of my husband, Tom, and my sons Tyler, Travis and Trent.

Today, I am so very proud of all that our 3,600 team members have accomplished. Each team member is the story of an American dream come true, and I am honored they believe in the Ruiz family and our leadership team. I also believe we have the best management team in the food industry led by our CEO, Rachel Cullen. Together, they inspire me every day.

With the success of our family-owned business, we have the opportunity to invest back into our community. We are passionate about children and education, and I am pleased to say that our Ruiz 4 Kids scholarship program has helped to support many, many Bulldogs.

As I have become more involved with the University through the Board of Governors, I have developed a greater awareness and appreciation for the importance of Fresno State in our community’s future. After all, it is where our future leaders will come from, and I believe our recent gift to the Craig School of Business reflects our commitment.

Finally, I am excited to have the time to become more involved in what Fresno State brings to the community, and I firmly believe in President Joseph Castro’s leadership and vision for the University.

We cared for children from one end of the Valley to the other—and from the Central Coast to the Sierra and beyond—420,000 times last year alone. The trust placed in us by children and their families inspires us to set higher standards, break barriers and exceed expectations.

We are honored to be recognized as one of the best children’s hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in orthopaedics, gastroenterology & gastrointestinal surgery, and diabetes & endocrinology.

And while awards are nice, getting kids back to being kids—that’s what we live for.

valleychildrens.org/USNews
Diving in for the ’Dogs

Gary Castro came up with a fun idea a few years ago when he and his wife, Sue (a 1986 Fresno State alumna), decided to resurface their back yard swimming pool. “I said, ‘Hey, we’ve got to put the Bulldog in there,’” Gary recalls. The family already had a pickup truck decked out with Bulldog décor, and they are ardent supporters of everything Fresno State, so why not? The pool has been the centerpiece for plenty of summer family memories ever since.

“My family and our business, Bulldog spirit is totally about the Fresno State students. It’s about seeing them graduate and cheering for the spectacular athletic teams. The students give us the spirit. We have students from the Craig School of Business tour our company every year, we go to all the games and we tailgate. We feel like we’re participating in it.”

GARY CASTRO
PRESIDENT OF KRC SAFETY CO., INC. IN VISALIA

1960s

Paulette Janian (1968) received the Bernard Winch Lifetime Achievement Award presented June 23 by the Fresno County Bar Association.

Michael Lingo (1967), who served the Bakersfield City School District for 41 years and retired as superintendent in 2011, was inducted into the Eac2 Bakersfield High School Hall of Fame.

1970s

Shirley Mellkin Armbruster (1973) retired as associate vice president for University Communications after 17 years at Fresno State.

Lynne Ashbeck (1977) has been reappointed as a board member to the San Joaquin Valley California Partnership.

David Ayers (1979) started his second term serving on the Hartford City Council.

Anne (Richards) Da Vigo (1972) published her debut novel, “Thread of Gold,” with launch parties in Davis and Sacramento. She was a panelist at the Other Words Literary Conference in Tampa, Florida, on the topic, “Fact Vs Fiction: Making Story from Real Events.”

Rick Elkins (1975) retired as editor and publisher of the Porterville Recorder after a 40-year journalism career.

Thomas Montgomery (1979) is the new winemaker for the Fresno State Winery.

Douglas Sloan (1979) is now director of wine management and recycling in Sacramento County.

Maxine Madden Spencer (1979) is performing with the Fradley Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Tulare County Symphony.

CLASS NOTES

Do you have news to share?
Submit an alumni Class Note and high-resolution photo to:
magazine@csufresno.edu
Good news for anyone who can’t stand waiting

When you’re injured or ill, a month can seem like an eternity to wait for an appointment. Fortunately, we offer same- or next-day appointments, extended hours and a range of services to address your needs.

Need a physical? We’ll get you one within the week. Visit www.samc.com/urgent-care for more information, or call (559) 450-7267 to schedule an appointment.

Medical care has never been more convenient. And for those unexpected illnesses and accidents that happen after-hours and on week-ends, we offer urgent care at two convenient locations.

For more information, visit samc.com/urgent-care.

Saint Agnes Care locations to meet your primary care needs:

LOMG
1221 E. Spruce Ave., Fresno 93720

Northwest
4770 W. Herndon Ave., Fresno 93722

Avecinia
2006 Shaw Ave., Clovis 93611

Saint Agnes Urgent Care
(559) 450-CARE (2273)

Northwest
4770 W. Herndon Ave., Fresno 93722

Main Campus
1245 E. Herndon Ave., Fresno 93720

Most insurance plans accepted

1990s
Fred Cogan (1995), former principal at Kingsburg High School, is now with the Madera County Office of Education.
Alma Colada (1998) is now city finance director for Kingsburg.
Todd Henderson (1993), director of CBER commercial real estate valuation and Advisory Services, received the Management Team of the Year on behalf of his team and was also named Volunteer of Distinction in June by the Appraisal Institute.
Scott Howell (1995) is now chief medical officer for Tanet Diagnostic, a provider of laboratory and genomic testing and evidence-based research to direct patient care.
Todd Lile (1996) is now superintendent for Madera Unified School District.
Don Lopez (1994) is now vice president of instruction for Fresno City College after previously serving in the interim role.
Emil Milavetz (1998) is now director of the Jules Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State as well as assistant professor of management in the Craig School of Business.

Marshall D. Moshigian (1993) is in his sixth year (fifth as chairman) on the board of the Charlie Keegan American Community School in Fresno. He previously was commander of the Knights of Vartan, an Armenian social and service fraternity, and he sat on the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee.
Bob Nelson (1992) is now superintendent for Fresno Unified School District.
Frank M. Nunez (1996) celebrates the 10th anniversary of his law office, which focuses on personal injury, agriculture and business law.

Tim Ryan (1998) was one of 60 selected for the Core Fellows Program in Public Affairs leadership program that trains the next generation of change makers.

Rickie White (1997) is now strength and conditioning coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Jeffrey Wurm (1994) is now assistant director of the investment division of the California State Treasurer’s Office.

2000s
John M. Alcorn (2005) joined Suncrest Bank to lead its Agribusiness Division in Fresno.
Daniela Benavides (2004, ’07) earned her doctorate in education in sports management and a minor in health and fitness from the United States Sports Academy.

Linda Carvalho Cooley (2004) earned her doctorate in organizational leadership from Brandman University. Her dissertation was titled “The role of communication in strategic planning at California Community Colleges.”

Marianna (Santos) Gentert (2006) is now Tulare County’s deputy agricultural commissioner.

Sneeya Creeved-George (2005) is now assistant general manager at Gawain County Transit/ Joplin Commuter Services, Transdev Inc. in Georgia.

Chris Giles (2004), the former vice president of sales and strategy for the San Francisco 49ers, is now chief operating officer of the Oakland Athletics.


Mike Janssen (2000) is now head PGA golf professional at San Juan Oaks Golf Club in Hollister.

Tomas Mundarain (2006) earned an alternate spot on the U.S. Olympic track cycling team.

Ryan Phelps (2001) is now principal at Kingsburg High School.

Matt Rogers (2009), of Selma, is the Central Valley District director for California Senator Kamala Harris’ office.

Matt Tobin is now special day class teacher at John Sutter Middle School and head varsity girls basketball coach at Fowler High School.


John M. Alcorn (2005) joined Suncrest Bank to lead its Agribusiness Division in Fresno.

Avecinia


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2010s

Michael Anderson (2010) graduated from undergraduate combat systems officer training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.

Miguel A. Gastelum (2016) was in the production “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” to raise funds for the Selma Arts Center.

Tyquan Glass, defensive back, signed with the Los Angeles Rams.

Mitchell Lam Hau (2015) was in the production “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” to raise funds for the Selma Arts Center.

Lehong Hong is now athletic trainer at Kingsburg High School.

Matt Jones opened Oak Strength Academy in Hanford to train high school student athletes.

Naeekian Kaur Khalra and the Sikh community moved Fresno City Council members to rename Victoria West Park in honor of her father, Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Melissa (Mata) Mendes (2011) now works for Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board as a career technical education coordinator.

Esteban Miranda (2013), owner of Miranda’s Buy and Sell, has opened a Modesto location.

Lauren Oakley (2016) is now school psychologist in the Sonoma Valley School District.

Aaron Ordaz created Pops Emporium, a cart business that sells gourmet ice pops around Fresno and is available for special events.

Miguel A. Gastelum (2016) graduated from undergraduate combat systems officer training at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida.

Grady V. Berry (1963, ’73) was in the Night Time to raise funds for the Selma Arts Center.

Guy Badasci (1993), June 18 in Visalia.


Edward Hammon (1972), Aug. 30 in Hanford.


Theresa Marie (Bingle) Higgins, Aug. 5 in York, Maine.

Troy Gene Haukaby (1961), July 9 in Kingsburg.

Loren Lee Coutler (1962), June 30.


Barbara Allison (1976), June 10.


Robert Andrew Azzaro (1958), in Fresno.

Guy Badasci (1969), June 18 in Fresno.


Herbert F. Bolz Jr. (1946), June 28 in Woodland.

Brant Kaelly Bramer (1979), Sept. 28 in Fresno.

Jennings Brown (1958), in Fresno.

Claras Cassin (1952), Feb. 5 in Fresno.

Barbara Jean Coddington (1961), June 13 in Ontario.

Michelle Kay Daniels (2000, ’02), June 28 in Fresno.


Willard Ray Engvall (1947), July 3 in Fresno.

Sauven Sam Faraskian (1950), July 28.

Edward Hammon (1972), Aug. 30 in Hanford.


Theresa Marie (Bingle) Higgins, Aug. 5 in York, Maine.

Troy Gene Haukaby (1961), July 9 in Kingsburg.

Loren Lee Coutler (1962), June 30.


Matthew R. Jimenez (2014), July 4 in Fresno.

Barbara Allison (1976), June 10.


Robert Andrew Azzaro (1958), in Fresno.

Guy Badasci (1969), June 18 in Fresno.


Herbert F. Bolz Jr. (1946), June 28 in Woodland.

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Theresa Marie (Bingle) Higgins, Aug. 5 in York, Maine.

Troy Gene Haukaby (1961), July 9 in Kingsburg.

Loren Lee Coutler (1962), June 30.


Matthew R. Jimenez (2014), July 4 in Fresno.

Bud Alan Jones (1974), June 10 in Fresno.

Curtis Charles Jones (1976), May 26 in San Jose.

Elmer Kapielian (1942), May 27 in Walnut Creek.

Ronald L. Kucheran (1969), May 12 in Seattle.

Daniel H. Langgaap (1953), June 28.

Mark W. Lawson (1973), Aug. 8 in Aprts.

Dan J. Leonardo (1950), May 29 in San Diego.


Jack Emerson Mann (1969), Sept. 5 in Visalia.

Elliott Castro Martinez (1980), June 10 in Fresno.


Jeffery Lynn Meeke (1963), Aug. 28 in Dallas.

Mattie Douglas Burton Meyers (1965), Aug. 16 in Fresno.


Pauline F. Patterson (1964), July 9.

Anna Pieper (1960), July 14 in Fresno.


George “Bud” William Pope (1965), July 14 in Fresno.

Janet E. Petersen (1966), June 14.

Michelle Kay Daniels (2000, ’02), June 28 in Fresno.


Willard Ray Engvall (1947), July 3 in Fresno.

Sauven Sam Faraskian (1950), July 28.

Edward Hammon (1972), Aug. 30 in Hanford.


Theresa Marie (Bingle) Higgins, Aug. 5 in York, Maine.

Troy Gene Haukaby (1961), July 9 in Kingsburg.

Loren Lee Coutler (1962), June 30.


Matthew R. Jimenez (2014), July 4 in Fresno.
In her third year as a volunteer counselor at Camp Kesem, a free, week-long camp for kids who have a parent affected by cancer, Hailee Ramont says the experience is indescribable.

“Kesem actually means magic, and that’s what I tell people right away. Camp Kesem is a place where I can go with my campers and they can open up and tell stories that they might not be able to share at home.”

Ramont’s father was diagnosed with cancer when she was young, and she didn’t have a support system like Camp Kesem. So when she learned about the camp as a Fresno State student, she jumped at the chance to volunteer. “In that moment I decided this is my chance to give back and be that person for a little kid when I didn’t have that person. So I joined Camp Kesem and was able to be that inspirational person — so I thought. But then in coming every year, I’m the one who is inspired.”

Campers are able to share stories and relate to each other in a safe environment, while playing games, singing and bonding with people who understand their challenges.

It takes about $500 per camper to fund the week-long activities, and counselors work year-round to raise money so kids ages 6 to 16 can attend for free.

Ramont, who’s now pursuing her master’s in speech-language pathology at Fresno State, says the bonds created at camp are lasting. “This isn’t just a one-week experience. Camp Kesem, once you’re involved, it is a family.”

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Fresno State is first in the nation to receive four American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) awards, which recognize institutions for excellent and innovative approaches to student success. The University most recently earned the 2017 AASCU award for Student Success and College Completion.