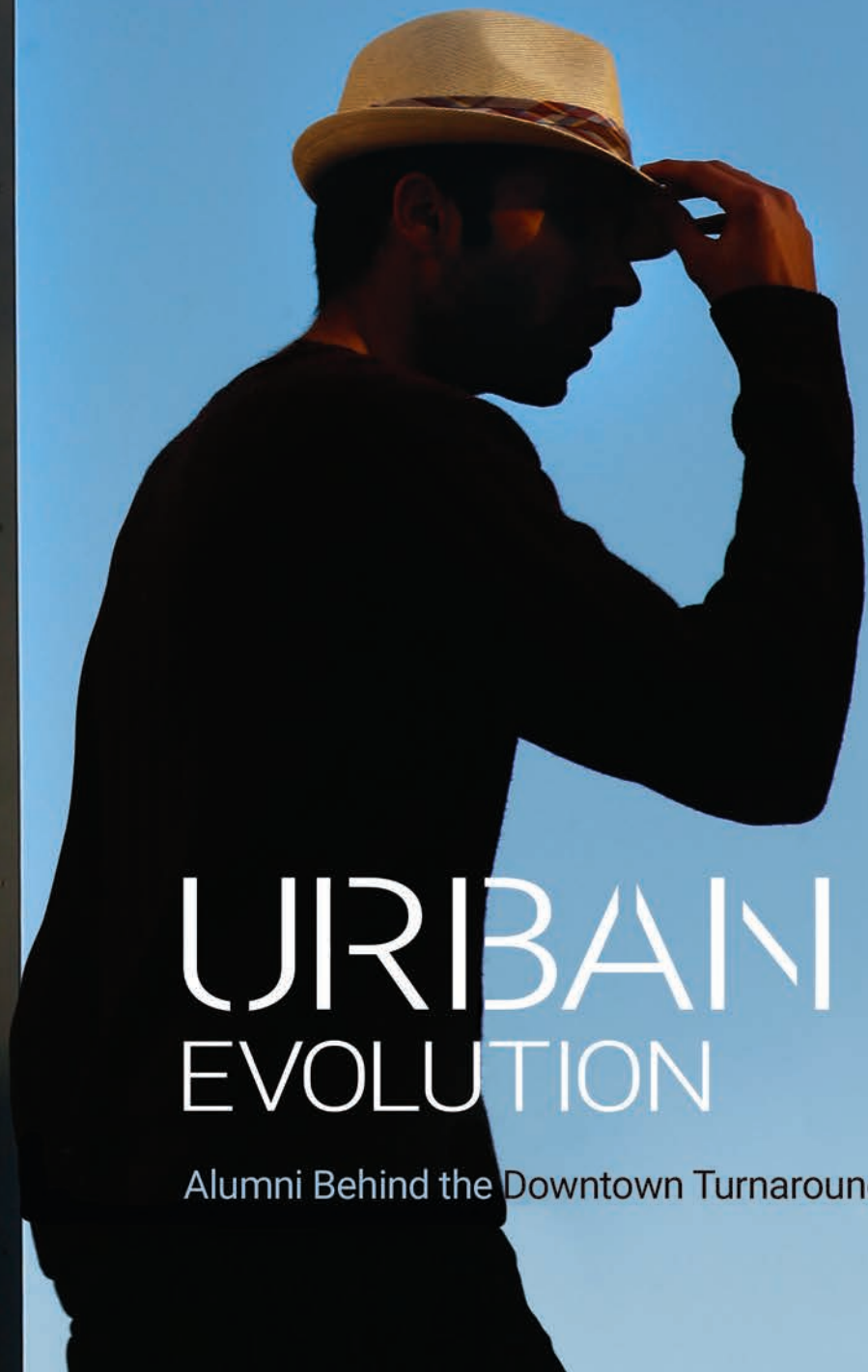


FRESNO STATE

MAGAZINE

SPRING/SUMMER 2018

FULTON DISTRICT



URBAN EVOLUTION

Alumni Behind the Downtown Turnaround



FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

The story of the revitalization of Fresno’s downtown helps to describe the critical role our students and graduates can play in generating bold ideas for where we live.

Universities are generally recognized for the quality of their academic and research programs and the ways in which they provide opportunities to students from all backgrounds. These are the cornerstones of higher education and the hallmarks of what society values and expects from our nation’s universities.

While those attributes are incredibly important and worthy, it is noteworthy that, at Fresno State, our students and alumni also make giving back to the community a vital part of their Bulldog experience. Our surveys show students and alumni are more likely to be civically engaged in their communities than those who haven’t had the opportunity to seek a higher education. While we provide a strong academic foundation at Fresno State, we also value the opportunity for students to become civic entrepreneurs, which inspires community pride and engagement.

As you will learn through this issue of Fresno State Magazine, even though the campus is located eight miles from downtown Fresno, it’s clear that our Bulldogs are woven into the fabric of the district, just like they are in countless communities throughout the Valley and beyond.

The University is proud of the contributions people associated with Fresno State are making to the downtown revitalization effort. We have expressed our institutional support by investing in the Graduate Art Studios and in the Downtown Center at Bitwise South Stadium, where our lecture series, professional-development courses and career-readiness workshops are offered.

I hope you enjoy reading about the energy and devotion your Bulldog colleagues are pouring into this initiative, and I hope you take the time to visit downtown Fresno to see for yourself. It’s a bold effort that we can all be proud to support.


Dr. Joseph I. Castro
President, Fresno State

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Cover photo by Cary Edmondson.
Fresno State theatre arts student Arman Sandhu strolls through the newly opened Fulton District in downtown Fresno. See story on page 14.

Inside photo by Cary Edmondson.

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 at magazine@csufresno.edu. 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 to make your contribution. Thank you.
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Back in the Spotlight

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Fresno State wrestling returned to the mat this season for the first time since the program was disbanded in 2006, and women's water polo competed for the first time ever. And the Red Wave showed its excitement. The wrestling home opener against No. 14 Illinois drew the third-largest crowd in program history as 6,840 fans packed the lower bowl of the Save Mart Center. The Bulldogs finished fifth in the nation in total attendance.

A youthful team, the Bulldogs put up a fight before falling 33-10 to the Illini under first-year coach Troy Steiner. Fresno State finished the season 4-16 overall (1-5 in the Big 12 Conference) with a 20-man roster that included 19 freshmen and sophomores.

Just the Ticket to Build Our Community

The Bulldog Scholarship Fund gives Fresno State alumni and fans the opportunity to support the student-athletes who inspire them.

For more information, visit
www.bulldogscholarshipfund.com.

Bulldogs



Splashing onto the Scene

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Fresno State women's water polo hit the local sports scene with its first-ever home match on Feb. 9, a 16-6 win over crosstown Fresno Pacific. A standing-room-only crowd of 858 fans were treated to plenty of action and a beautiful sunset at the Fresno State Aquatics Center.

With a young team and a challenging schedule under first-year coach Natalie Benson, the Bulldogs got out to a 5-14 start on the season and beat Santa Clara 7-6 on March 28 to earn their first Golden Coast Conference win. Twelve of the 19 players on the roster are freshmen.

Just the Ticket to Build Our Community

The Bulldog Scholarship Fund gives Fresno State alumni and fans the opportunity to support the student-athletes who inspire them.

For more information, visit
www.bulldogscholarshipfund.com

FRESNO STATE **NEWS** BRIEFS

By Eddie Hughes

Cary Edmondson

'Water U'

To strengthen its reputation as a national leader in applied research on water, Fresno State appointed Central Valley native Thomas C. Esqueda as its first associate vice president for water and sustainability. Esqueda was previously the director of public utilities for the City of Fresno.

"Thomas Esqueda brings a wealth of water experience in private industries, local and state government and higher education," says Fresno State Provost Lynnette Zelezny. "A high-energy leader, he is eager to champion our quest to be 'the Water University.'"

Partnering with industry and government agencies, Fresno State incorporates new technologies — satellite, infrared and computer — into its applied water research. Faculty, students and staff study water quality, conservation, delivery systems, supply development, recycling and drought-tolerant crops. The campus houses the Center for Irrigation Technology, the International Center for Water Technology and the Water and Energy Technology Center. The University also is a partner in Blue Tech Valley — an ambitious initiative to create a Silicon Valley-like hub of water research and development.



"Throughout my 29-year career, I have worked with communities around the country to solve water challenges, and this opportunity to combine my experience with the commitment and passion of the Fresno State community is an ideal match."

— Thomas C. Esqueda



A New Student Union

They said yes. Fresno State students voted in March to approve funding for a new University Student Union. The 80,000-square-foot, \$60-million building is expected to open in four to five years with learning and collaborative spaces, student lounge areas, healthy dining options, retail and a mid-sized event center to host conferences, career fairs and awards banquets. The new building will be constructed near where the amphitheater currently sits. The current University Student Union was built for a campus of 10,000 students in the 1960s. The new space will accommodate today's student enrollment of 25,000. Student fees will increase by \$149 per semester, and the University plans to raise about \$10 million in private funds.



**BOLD
gives
BACK**

Genetic Cancer Research Ramps Up

In an unpretentious lab on the Fresno State campus, biology professor Dr. Jason Bush is looking for ways to target biological mechanisms that fuel cancer. Clues to cutting-edge cancer research may be found in metabolites, small molecules that could hold the secret to better quality of life for patients diagnosed with brain or breast cancer. His current work involves refining cancer treatments by studying stem cells.



Dr. Jason Bush

"Humans are merely extrapolations of all their trillions of cells, but stem cells are special," Bush says. "They have the potential to develop into different cell types throughout the body, thus acting as an internal repair system that is crucial to a healthy life."

Bush's work with biology students is just one of the latest research projects underway in the College of Science and Mathematics at Fresno State, which recently received two major gifts to further its mission "to graduate the next generation of scientists and mathematicians, teachers, technicians, health professionals and field researchers."

A \$1 million gift from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous was announced Oct. 24 by University President Joseph I. Castro with half allocated to student research in genetics and molecular biology and the other half for The President's Circle for Excellence, an annual giving society dedicated to addressing the most pressing needs on campus.

A week later, Castro joined Chevron in announcing a \$450,000 donation to Fresno State in support of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs in Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering and College of Science and Mathematics.

The College of Science and Mathematics also celebrated the grand opening of two newly renovated biology and chemistry laboratories on the first floor of the Science I building. This project allows for data collection and analyses that are critical for preparing students for future science careers.

Fulfilling a Need Across Faiths

How one room creates a sense of belonging across spiritual lines

By Esra Hashem

It's 3:15 p.m. and 19-year-old Nadia Jassim just finished her third class of the day. She walks from the Peters Business building to the Henry Madden Library, eager to find some quiet time before her 4 p.m. class.

The finance major goes to the south wing of the library and rides an elevator to the third floor, where she reaches her destination: the University's Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room.

"The room is kind of like a safe zone," Jassim says. "Like a little break from everything around us." It's no wonder Jassim is looking for a break: on Mondays like these, she is on campus from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m. Jassim spends more time on campus than any other place so that she can one day reach her dreams of becoming a college professor.

But between exams and group projects, Jassim needs a space to pray.

"When you're around people all day, sometimes you just want to be alone with God for a second — or whatever you believe in," she says. "It's nice

to have that moment to yourself where you don't have to think and stress about due dates and exams. It's nice to get 10 minutes of peace in your day."

The afternoon prayer Jassim performs in the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room is one of five she performs each day as a Muslim. Muslim prayer is based on a lunar calendar, which causes the timings for the five daily prayers to vary between morning

"There's no reason for anyone of any faith to not use this room. Everyone's accepted in here."

— Nadia Jassim

and night. With limited time to complete her afternoon prayer before the next prayer time, Jassim uses the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room to fulfill her spiritual needs and still make it to her 4 p.m. marketing class on time.

A Spiritual Solution

No matter their religious beliefs, research shows maintaining spiritual and emotional health is critical to the success of college students. That's why Fresno State joined at least 100 universities in Canada and the U.S. in creating the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room in 2015. It can be used for prayer, meditation, reading or any other quiet activity.

"One of the things that is important to Fresno State is that our students, faculty and staff have a sense of belonging on campus," says Dr. Francine Oputa, director of the University's Cross Cultural and Gender Center. "Providing that sense of belonging impacts retention rates and graduation rates."

That sense of belonging is felt by students, says Zinab Attia, a sophomore biology student.

"The room shows that the University is welcoming to all cultures and faiths," she says. "It's the University saying, 'We have space for you.'"

A Room for all Religions

According to the Pew Research Center, 51 percent of California adults pray at least once daily, with 14 percent praying on a weekly basis. Forty-one percent of adults in California meditate at least once a week.

At Fresno State, there are 12 religious student organizations and nearly 40 cultural clubs.

"I've seen different types of praying methods that I'm not familiar with, and it makes me think, 'Oh, that's cool, I wonder why they do that?'" Jassim says. "I mean, [Muslims] do certain movements when we pray that I'm sure people think, 'I wonder why they do that type of movement.'"

As Jassim finishes her afternoon prayer, she folds her prayer rug and adjusts the purple headscarf she wears — a hijab, symbolizing modesty and a commitment to God in her faith. She smiles at another student using the room before quietly making her way out.

"There's no reason for anyone of any faith to not use this room," Jassim says. "Everyone's accepted in here."

— Esra Hashem is a marketing strategist at Fresno State.



Fresno State finance student Nadia Jassim uses the Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Room to pray between classes.

Cary Edmondson

A March Down Memory Lane

Alumni and friends share memories of the amphitheater on social media

▼
The 1964 Fresno State Marching Band aligns on the amphitheater lawn, which will be near the future site of the new University Student Union.



Today's Fresno State students might know the on-campus amphitheater only as a grassy area to relax or pass through in between classes. But it once attracted some of the largest musical acts, rallies and political speeches — as many alumni recalled during a recent [#FlashbackFriday](#) Facebook post.

From Loggins and Messina in 1975 to Steve Martin in 1978 and Radiohead in 1995, the venue has hosted many memorable concerts. Past political speeches and rallies included Robert F. Kennedy in 1968 and Ralph Nader in 1971, plus a Peace and Freedom Party rally in 1967 featuring the Santana Blues Band.

Most large concerts, as well as graduation ceremonies, are now held at the on-campus Save Mart Center. But soon, the area surrounding the amphitheater will get a facelift as students recently voted in favor of building a new University Student Union near the site (see page 7).

 Below are some memories shared by alumni and friends on Facebook.

John Noel

Saw Ronald Reagan and Bobby Kennedy there. Also saw Santana playing at a Peace and Freedom Party rally before they hit big. Maybe 30 people were watching in a light rain.

Jim Runyon

Graduated there in June 1968. A cool and windy night. My grandparents got to attend. Great memories!

Gabriel Dillard

I'll never forget Warped Tour 2000 at the amphitheater. Green Day and Weezer on the same stage.

Aaron Crutchfield

2000 was a good year for the amphitheater. It also had Bush and Moby, and later, Al Gore's running mate, Joe Lieberman.

Trisha Campbell Hammond

Saw Hootie and the Blowfish there!

Bobbie Jo Mendez

Saw the Pretenders here during Vintage Days... early '80s.

Patricia Cortez Rodriguez

Saw Incubus and 311 there. I also used to take a shortcut through here when walking to a class.

Richard Bullough

I will always have a special bond to the amphitheater because I graduated there in 1989 with my master's in history in a ceremony that was traditional and just right for me and did not have the madness of my bachelor's ceremony at Bulldog Stadium.

Peggy Siemer

Went to a Cesar Chavez speech here (long time ago).

Scott Chappell

Saw Eddie Money there in the mid '80s.

Mark Garcia

Saw Primus and Run-DMC there!

Maya Smith

Jefferson Starship rocked it as did the controversial Two Live Crew in '86-87. Vintage Days air guitar concert 1987 was too much fun! Lots of great memories there, and many late night strolls with my true love.

Doreen Goshgarian

I attended many concerts there and air guitar! Also graduated there.

facebook.com/fresnostate



URBAN EVOLUTION

Alumni Behind the Downtown Turnaround

By Eddie Hughes | Photos by Cary Edmondson

The following is based on a true story. It's about the fall — and rise — of a downtown located in California's fifth largest city. The story begins with an alarming deterioration of the historic urban center of the city that was booming in population while shriveling at its core. Right before our eyes, the area our parents and grandparents once saw thriving morphed into an afterthought as struggling businesses became shuttered storefronts turned deserted buildings. The people flocked north, east and anywhere but downtown.

This is a story about Fresno. And in true comeback fashion, the region hopes it will have a happy ending — but there is a long way to go. The good news is several characters, including some who are about to be introduced, are working toward what will one day become the final chapter to this story. For now, this is a story with a yet-to-be-determined conclusion. But it's a story that needs to be told, and retold, to help spark the movement that will once again make Fresnans proud of their downtown.

Fresno State theatre arts student Arman Sandhu photographs historic buildings in the Fulton District in downtown Fresno.

Continued



▲ Ashley Swearengin, alumna and CEO of the Central Valley Community Foundation, was one of the visionaries behind downtown revitalization.

THE LEADERS

It's 7 o'clock in the evening on a Tuesday in downtown Fresno. A new class on the history of Fresno architecture is wrapping up at Fresno State's Downtown Center inside the Bitwise South Stadium building on Van Ness Avenue. When the class started about an hour earlier, a few dozen people were passing by outside. Even fewer people will be around when the class ends.

Therein lies the biggest obstacle for downtown revitalization — how to (greatly) increase foot traffic.

The daytime hours Monday through Friday aren't so much the issue. But how does downtown attract people to stay after hours and come back on the weekends to eat, drink and explore? From an entertainment perspective, it's about being creative and becoming a destination by offering something different and authentic.

The years-long process of opening the historic Fulton Mall to vehicle traffic this past October was the first step. More than 15,000 people showed up for the official opening with pop-up businesses, a dozen musicians performing and eateries buzzing with patrons.

Chat with the movers and shakers in downtown revitalization, and many of them will bring up the same names when talking about the city's visionaries — including Ashley Swearengin, a former Fresno mayor. Swearengin is quick to point out the downtown movement was afoot well before her time at City Hall, but there's no question her administration pushed forward some key projects.

"The Central Valley needs a major downtown marketplace. It's the DNA or thumbprint of our community," says Swearengin, a 1994 and 1997 Fresno State alumna now serving as president and

CEO of the Central Valley Community Foundation. "It's our unique skyline and historic buildings. It's one of the few places in the Valley that are uniquely identifiable."

With Fulton Street now open to traffic, downtown businesses can become more identifiable.

"Now that we have good visibility for our businesses and additional on-street parking so people can get to them, we can help businesses be more successful," says Craig Scharton, a Fresno State alumnus and former urban entrepreneurship instructor who is interim CEO of the Downtown Fresno Partnership. "With dining, entertainment and culture, we can go from a daytime downtown to a nighttime fun and entertainment district."

That's the vision. And with 1.7 million people living within a 45-minute drive of downtown, there's no reason it shouldn't be a cultural hub for the region.

Scharton says he has been a student of cities and their downtowns for more than 30 years. He's tracked 175 cities that removed pedestrian malls like Fulton, and 90 percent of those cities revitalized their downtowns within four years.

Scharton points to an example just 45 minutes down Highway 99 in Visalia. "In the Valley, Visalia has done a better job than anybody else with nearly the same demographics Fresno has," Scharton says. "When you have a downtown with fun stuff to do, people show up. It's no different here."

“THE CENTRAL VALLEY NEEDS A MAJOR DOWNTOWN MARKETPLACE. IT’S THE DNA OR THUMBPRINT OF OUR COMMUNITY.”

— ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

Continued

DID YOU KNOW?

Fresno State's Downtown Center, located at Bitwise South Stadium, offers a wide range of courses open to the public related to professional development and personal growth. For the full list of upcoming courses at Fresno State's Downtown Center, including Craft Beer 101, visit www.fresnostatedowntown.com.



THE DEVELOPERS

Events and entertainment are one way to increase downtown foot traffic — and certainly part of the equation — but there's also a more reliable way. "Housing, housing, housing," says Terance Frazier, the CEO of TFS Investments, which prides itself on bringing economic opportunities to distressed neighborhoods. "You've got to have people living downtown so, at nighttime, if they don't want to drive somewhere, they just walk downstairs. We need to get away from the notion of making people drive downtown. Housing is the key."

Frazier, a former Fresno State baseball standout who helped the Bulldogs make the 1988 College World Series and was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 1992, has been involved in various developments downtown and has high hopes for a block of properties he owns on the east side of H Street when and if high-speed rail arrives. Frazier envisions the properties, south of Chukchansi Park, becoming a block of housing, restaurants, pubs and more.

More immediately, Frazier and business partner Mehmet Noyan are preparing to break ground this summer on a new, three-story mixed-use building called The Park on the corner of Fulton and Inyo streets that will include a 54-unit apartment complex with 7,000 square feet of retail space on the bottom floor, complete with a rooftop bar. Half of the units will overlook Chukchansi Park, home of the Triple-A Fresno Grizzlies baseball team. Frazier hopes to have people moving in by 2020.



▲ Under development, The Park will be located on the corner of Fulton and Inyo streets.

Head a couple miles northwest up Fulton Street and it's easy to see the potential for creating attractive urban living communities in downtown. Housing and retail mixed-use spaces dot both sides of Fulton and Broadway for several blocks, including the Iron Bird Lofts and Broadway Lofts developed by 1998 Fresno State alumnus Reza Assemi. He says his lofts are 100 percent full and there's a waiting list of up to 10 people to get in.

"It's interesting because I don't think people understand how much downtown has actually changed," Assemi says. "I would never have dreamed in 18 years that downtown would have changed as fast as it has."

Assemi's first project downtown was The Pearl building in 2000. He was inspired by studying downtown Portland, Oregon. For perspective, he points out that Portland started revitalizing its downtown in the 1970s, and, in 2000, Portland revitalization was already 25 years in the works. "It's going to take time," he says. "That's really important to remember. Nothing happens in six months."

Continued



▲ Terance Frazier, alumnus and CEO of TFS Investments, recently opened the Broadway Event Center and is planning to break ground this summer on a three-story apartment and retail complex south of Chukchansi Park.

THE CULTURE

Assemi is a developer, yes, but he’s an artist at heart — and it shows in his projects, which feature everything from murals outside and inside his buildings to gargoyle sculptures perched atop the Iron Bird Lofts to metal heart-shaped designs detailed in staircases to represent the heart of Fresno. “The arts make me feel good,” Assemi says. “I love seeing murals put up and helping the arts any way I can. We have an amazing creative community here.”

His motivation is to preserve historic buildings and create spaces for artists to work and to share with the public. ArtHop, an event hosted by the Fresno Arts Council the first and third

Thursday of every month, now has more than 40 participating locations in downtown Fresno.

“As a culture, we’re getting younger people who see more and more value in older things that are special,” Assemi says. “It’s not like the previous generation in the ’70s that wanted to knock everything down. Keeping the nostalgia is cool.”

That historic vibe and the arts, including music and theatre, can make downtown Fresno the cultural center of the Valley. And that’s something everyone involved would like to see. Scharton hopes to see the city’s historic theatres put into more

▲ *Alumnus Reza Assemi has developed multiple downtown loft spaces geared toward the arts.*

active use. “It’s difficult for individual businesses to generate the foot traffic they need upfront, but if you have concerts and movies and plays at your larger venues, that spills out into restaurants, bars and coffee houses.”

The same holds true for sports. When the Fresno Grizzlies’ stadium opened in 2002, it was seen as a catalyst for downtown revitalization. The Grizzlies’ creative promotions like Taco Truck Throwdown have been a hit. Add the new professional soccer franchise Fresno FC, which will also call Chukchansi Park home, and downtown Fresno will have 79 sporting events booked between the two teams.

79 SPORTING
EVENTS
600,000 PEOPLE
INCREASE IN FOOT TRAFFIC

Derek Franks, president and general manager of the Grizzlies, says that will draw at least 600,000 people downtown this year.

And now with Fulton Street open to traffic, the Kern Plaza outfield entrance to the stadium has all-new pregame potential. Imagine parking near Fulton Street, eating at a restaurant before the game and seeing live music before entering the stadium.

“**AS A CULTURE, WE’RE GETTING YOUNGER PEOPLE WHO SEE MORE AND MORE VALUE IN OLDER THINGS THAT ARE SPECIAL.**”
— REZA ASSEMI

“There is a chance that over time, Kern Plaza will become the main entrance,” says Franks, a 2007 Fresno State alumnus. “Connecting the experience at the ballpark to Fulton is very important to us.”

A similar synergy between the stadium and the Brewery District is already in the works. Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Co. sits on the corner of Fulton and Inyo streets just across from the stadium. With its popular craft brews and outdoor beer garden, it has quickly become a destination for large music events like FresYes Fest.

On F Street near Ventura Street, the longest running brewery in Fresno,

Full Circle Brewing Co., has brought in several big-name musicians and comedians and hosted roller derby while also partnering with Fresno State’s Downtown Center to offer a unique course for people interested in learning how to brew.

“There’s not a linear path to success downtown,” says Arthur Moyer, the CEO of Full Circle. “You have to be nimble, you have to want it bad enough to change on a whim and figure out what your customers want. There’s not a 100-percent proven formula down here so you’ve got to be an entrepreneur.”

Continued

THE PEOPLE

Brew U is a series of courses designed for people interested in commercial or home brewing, and is one of dozens of courses open to the public through Fresno State’s Downtown Center located at Bitwise South Stadium. Other course topics include everything from Fresno architecture and painting to professional development in things like Adobe Photoshop or grant writing.

Dr. Scott Moore, the University’s dean of Continuing and Global Education, says the Downtown Center is an opportunity for Fresno State to partner with the community and invest in downtown revitalization. “This is about Fresno State doing right in the community,” Moore says. “It’s not about making money.

“**THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY, AND THE MORE STORIES LIKE THIS THAT PEOPLE SEE AND HEAR, THE MORE WE CAN START CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT OUR CITY’S SELF-ESTEEM.”**

— EDGAR BLUNT

“The Fresno State name brought comfort to people signing leases. We’re just one player, but at the same time, we have a responsibility to be that player.”

In 2015, Fresno State also opened its Graduate Art Studios at the M Street Arts Complex downtown, where students work with faculty and professional artists.



▲ Edgar Blunt, cofounder of IMAGO, is one of several alumni bringing new business ventures to downtown Fresno.

 ONLINE EXTRA

See an exclusive video about alumni and friends involved in the downtown turnaround at fresnostatemagazine.com.

Sarah Moffat, who chairs the Downtown Fresno Foundation, envisions even more downtown partnerships with the University. Some of the foundation’s recent projects include planning of public spaces and storefront renovations on Fulton Street — things she can see students being a part of. She says she hopes to one day see a satellite campus where city and regional planning students (*page 24*) are attending class and doing hands-on projects downtown.

“Fresno State is already an active leader in downtown Fresno,” she says. “To have our region’s largest higher ed institution invest in revitalization by not only words, but actions, is so very important. Fresno State brings an air of credibility along with a student population that predominately has not spent a great deal of time downtown.”

Swearengen and Scharton agree. “It’s consistent with what we’ve seen in other successful cities,” Swearengen says. “Anchor institutions will either help or hurt, will either contribute to the decline or contribute to bringing downtown back. The University is absolutely doing the right thing.”

But perhaps Fresno State’s greatest contribution to downtown revitalization is the people who have been educated at the University and are proving to be instrumental in the movement. People like Edgar Blunt, who co-founded IMAGO with Jason Shoulet, and in just over four years has grown the company to 12 employees and relocated from Bitwise South Stadium to the eighth floor of the T.W. Patterson Building on Fulton Street and Tulare Avenue.

IMAGO partners with school districts and other organizations throughout the U.S. to deliver learning experiences that prepare people for the workforce and facilitate their career options.


Unlike retail businesses in the area, IMAGO doesn’t rely on foot traffic to succeed, but the company has embraced the downtown revitalization movement and is committed to depositing its entrepreneurial spirit in the area.

Blunt, a 1998 Fresno State graduate, tirelessly points out that in a company like his, it takes a whole team of entrepreneurs to make a difference. And in a downtown like Fresno’s, it will take dozens of teams full of entrepreneurial spirit to spark growth.

“There’s a lot of things people should be excited about and proud of when it comes to downtown,” Blunt says. “This is our community, and the more stories like this that people see and hear, the more we can start changing the narrative about our city’s self-esteem.”

Downtown is evolving, one project at a time. It’s not a quick fix, and it’s an ever-changing environment, but it’s happening. This story introduced several characters who are but a small representation of the hundreds of entrepreneurs, visionaries and investors who are reshaping downtown. But, ultimately, the final chapter of this story will be written by you and your friends and your families.

When downtown Fresno earns your consistent business, provides your entertainment and even your job or your home — that’s when this comeback story will be complete.

This is not the end — and perhaps there is no end. There are just new beginnings. 

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor for Fresno State Magazine.

Shaping Spaces

A new degree program is grooming students to shape the region

By Lucero Benitez

Seventeen miles north of campus in Madera County, atop a hill overlooking nothing but green grass and future possibilities, class is in session.

A group of city and regional planning students are on site learning from industry leaders while studying the Tesoro Viejo development, a 1,600-acre site at the foot of Little Table Mountain that will soon be transformed into a scenic master-planned community.

It's an opportunity Fresno State students didn't have until fall 2017, when the city and regional planning degree option was reinstated for the first time in about 25 years. The program partnered with McCaffrey Homes to provide students with hands-on experience in design and infrastructure through the Tesoro Viejo case study.

Job Opportunities

City and regional planners work in public agencies and private consulting firms, preparing comprehensive plans for projects, neighborhoods, cities and entire regions. They address land use, housing, transportation, public facilities, infrastructure and open space. And they have the potential to impact the future of the Central Valley.

"The Valley is different from other California cities. It has more of a sense of rural areas," says Dr. Chih-Hao Wang, who teaches environmental planning and economics at Fresno State.



Cary Edmondson

"The way to solve urban problems should be different than in big cities. Having our own planners will help better address our own issues and provide solutions that are more suitable for the Valley."

The curriculum includes budgeting for public projects by reviewing and regulating private development.

Dan Zack, a Fresno State alumnus and assistant planning director for the City of Fresno, says the new degree program is a blessing for the community.

"We're a growing city with a lot of challenges. We're growing outward, and that presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities. We're also growing inward now in a way that we never have before with infill development that is revitalizing downtown, which has a whole different set of unique challenges and opportunities," Zack says.

Up until this academic year, Valley students had to travel out of the region to obtain a degree in planning. In doing so, they were more likely to leave the area permanently.

"Regional governments, developers and nonprofits alike have been expressing the need for such a program for quite some time," says Dr. Michelle Calvarese, chair of the Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning at Fresno State.

"We're also growing inward now in a way that we never have before with infill development that is revitalizing downtown, which has a whole different set of unique challenges and opportunities."

– Dan Zack

"We are thrilled to be able to finally fill that need. People care about their homes and having locally trained planners makes decision-making not just an academic exercise, but a personal decision regarding their homes."

Calvarese says the programs pays close attention to issues that affect the Valley and its residents such as water, transportation and environmental protection.

"A successful project in one city may fail miserably in another," Calvarese says. "Planners need to be aware of contextual challenges and understand the underpinnings of local problems. When planning is place-oriented, it is more likely to succeed for all actors involved."

From the focus on downtown Fresno revitalization to new communities in rural surrounding areas, a growing region means there will be increasing opportunity for students like Eileen Mitchell.

"Having a degree in the Valley, where you actually go through the experiences with the developers, you get to see what's going on in the community," Mitchell says. "In this field, you can actually see the fruit of your labor. At a localized level, you can see your efforts being manifested."



– Lucero Benitez is a communications specialist for the College of Social Sciences at Fresno State.

◀ Todd Wood, biologist, points out future plans for the Tesoro Viejo development to Fresno State city and regional planning students.

A Blossoming Set of Skills

Oral interpretation festival challenges children from generation to generation

By Lisa Maria Boyles



Thirty years apart, Stacy Batrich-Smith and her daughter, Cassidy Smith, both participated in Fresno State's Peach Blossom Festival. They aren't unique in that.

But few multi-generational participants can say they memorized and recited the same piece for the annual oral interpretation festival.

Stacy, a Fresno State alumna with a bachelor's degree in radio and television, still remembers the piece she performed for Peach Blossom in 1965 as a sixth-grader from Fresno's Mayfair Elementary School:

"It's called 'What is a Girl' by Alan Beck," says Stacy, a longtime Fresno businesswoman who came back to campus in March to serve as a judge for the festival.

When her parents purchased a life-insurance policy for her when she was an infant, the insurance salesman gave them a framed copy of "What is a Girl," which hung in her childhood bedroom.

In 1996, Cassidy also performed "What is a Girl" at Peach Blossom, as a first-grader from Forkner Elementary in Fresno.

Cassidy — a Smittcamp Family Honors College President's Scholar and a 2011 dean's medalist from the Department of Media, Communications and Journalism — recalls wearing a pink gingham dress that her mom made just for the performance.

Since it began 60 years ago, Peach Blossom has brought nearly a quarter of a million students, plus teachers, family members and friends, to the Fresno State campus, Communication Department chair Doug Fraleigh estimates. The festival helps young people realize the importance of reading literature aloud and teaches them about interpretation, performance and being an audience member.

"I remember that I wanted to participate in Peach Blossom after going to a schoolwide assembly in kindergarten at Forkner," Cassidy says. "I thought it was so neat to have the opportunity to make people laugh, cry and everything in between."

Both women spoke to the impact the Peach Blossom experience has on young students.

"It's probably the first brush outside of your family or school unit to express yourself and get some feedback and go out into the big world," Stacy says. "I remember when I was judging, watching these buses come in with these children. It provides a platform for them to experience new things, to participate and to take a challenge."

Cassidy, who was a featured speaker for Fresno State's 2016 Pay It Forward luncheon series, credits Peach Blossom with igniting her passion for public speaking:

"I competed in speech and debate in high school, and went on to major in broadcast journalism as an undergrad. The biggest impact it had on my life, however, was the role it played in introducing me to Fresno State. Walking onto the campus that

'What is a Girl?'

Excerpt from the writings of Alan Beck

"A little girl can be sweeter (and badder) oftener than anyone else in the world. She can jitter around, and stomp, and make funny noises that frazzle your nerves, yet just when you open your mouth, she stands there demure with that special look in her eyes. A girl is Innocence playing in the mud, Beauty standing on its head, and Motherhood dragging a doll by the foot."



Vecteezy.com



Fresno State alumnae Cassidy Smith and her mother, Stacy Batrich-Smith

day and getting to roam the halls and sit in the classrooms made it feel like a very real, special place, and I loved it."

Stacy says her Peach Blossom experience helped launch her into big things, including performing as a dancing bear mascot at Yosemite Junior High, forensics at McLane High, winning Fresno's Junior Miss competition and California's Junior Miss competition in 1972, competing for America's Junior Miss in Mobile, Alabama — not to mention her professional success later.

Cassidy contrasted the Peach Blossom experience with other typical childhood accomplishments:

"Unlike a lot of sports or academic-related activities for elementary school-aged kids, it's a very independent and creative endeavor. Electing to participate, picking your piece, memorizing it, thoughtfully incorporating gestures — those are a lot of important skills for a 6-year-old. I can't think of anything else quite like it for children that age."

— Lisa Maria Boyles is a public information officer at Fresno State.

ONLINE EXTRA

Visit peachblossomfestival.com to learn how you or your children can participate in the next Peach Blossom Festival.

FOREVER NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2018 marks milestone anniversaries for both the softball and baseball programs



Those Fresno State bat-and-ball sports sure must like years that end in the number 8 — because they’ve made a habit out of finishing No. 1.

This year marks the 10th anniversary since Fresno State baseball won the 2008 College World Series, becoming the lowest seed to ever win an NCAA championship. The “underdogs to wonderdogs” story was capped with longtime ESPN broadcaster Mike Patrick proclaiming “Cinderella wins a national championship” on national TV as Steve Detwiler caught a pop fly in right field for the final out. It was the program’s fourth College World Series appearance and first under current coach Mike Batesole.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary since Fresno State’s first team national championship, when the Fresno State softball team won the Women’s College World Series in 1998 after three previous runner-up finishes. The Bulldogs softball team earned 10 Women’s College World Series berths in former coach Margie Wright’s 27-year career, when she amassed an NCAA-best 1,294-450-1 record.

To take the lucky 8 streak even further, in 1988, the softball program advanced to the national championship game, and the baseball program advanced to the College World Series after winning an NCAA record 32 straight games and spending much of the season ranked No. 1.

So how will 2018 play out? Both storied programs welcomed alumni and coaches back for celebrations this season and certainly hope some more magic is in store.

Fresno State Magazine caught up with former Fresno State softball All-American Becky (Witt) Labandeira, who was a freshman on that 1998 team, and with former Bulldogs baseball catcher Danny Grubb, for their first-hand accounts of those historical championships.

Continued





1998
BY THE NUMBERS:

Championship game:
Fresno State 1, Arizona 0

1998 overall record:
52-11 (28-2 WAC)

Coach: Margie Wright

How it happened:
The Bulldogs broke Arizona's 29-game win streak as senior second baseman Nina Lindenberg's sixth-inning home run snapped a string of 52-consecutive scoreless innings by Arizona pitchers. Sophomore pitcher Amanda Scott shut down the Wildcats on three hits and struck out six for her 14th shutout and 25th win. Scott tied Women's College World Series records for lowest ERA (0.00), fewest earned runs allowed (0) and fewest walks (0).

Women's College World Series Most Outstanding Player:
Amanda Scott

Fresno State All-Americans:
Laura Berg, Nina Lindenberg, Amanda Scott, Becky Witt (second team)

Have you ever had that feeling of complete euphoria after completing a goal that you have worked so hard to achieve? I have. My name is Becky (Witt) Labandeira, left fielder for the 1998 national championship team. As a freshman, you don't fully grasp at first the sense of teamwork and chemistry that is needed to accomplish this goal. Eighteen women ranging in age from 18-22 years old were able to put differences aside for one common goal.

Looking back on that championship run, the goal was always that you have to play the best to be the best. We were seeded seventh out of eight teams. We had very convincing wins over those higher seeds, which kept building our confidence. I believe having to play Arizona again was the best thing that could have happened for us. That year, we had played Arizona several times, one game a 6-0 loss. They had All-Americans up and down their lineup. Speed and power. So when the championship game came around, and we were facing Arizona again, there was a collective sense of "we got this."

Championship day felt like any other day, actually. The only time I could say I was nervous was going into the bottom of the seventh inning. Arizona had the top of their lineup due up. We had to keep the leadoff hitter off the base path, as she was the fastest player in the NCAA. Amanda Scott had been throwing a great game for us, limiting Arizona to only three hits. We could tell they were deflated, evident by their body language after Nina Lindenberg hit the home run for our only run. They were in shock. When Angela Cervantez fielded the ball and stepped on first base for the last out, it was complete EUPHORIA! To see Coach Margie Wright finally accomplish this last goal, to see her hug her dad on the field was one of the greatest and most vivid memories that I will forever cherish from that day.

We were representing all the Bulldogs who had come before us with the same goals, who had made Bulldog softball what it was. This win was for all our Bulldog Diamond Club members and fans for their countless hours of support, and for making sure the team had what it needed to be successful.

It was apparent what this championship meant to our Diamond Club members and our fans. The parade we had was unbelievable! Shaw Avenue was lined with supporters from Fashion Fair Mall and then again on Cedar Avenue to Margie Wright Diamond. As our fire truck we were aboard came into view of the capacity crowd at the stadium, they erupted into a huge roar. So many fans had given blood sweat and tears over the years for Bulldog softball. And now we were the ones giving back — with the trophy and memories for a lifetime.

Becky (Witt) Labandeira,
outfielder



Looking back on the 2008 College World Series victory, there were a lot of things that we took for granted in the moment, and we did not realize how monumental the accomplishment was for the University, the city of Fresno and the Central Valley.

During the days in Omaha, the guys and I knew what an uphill battle we had ahead of us with teams like North Carolina, Rice, Georgia, Miami and Florida State in the mix. We were competing with some of the best players in college baseball. Looking back, this was a blessing. There was no expectation for us to be there, or to win at all for that matter, which took all the pressure off us. We were 18- to 21-year-old boys living out a dream, and we didn't realize the impact it had on so many.

The year was full of ups and downs, successes and failures, but with all that being said, by the time we got to Omaha it all seemed very easy. Each player knew his role on the team and how to contribute, we supported each other throughout each grueling game.

Skipping forward to the championship Game 3 winner take all, it was another day at the office. Our routine stayed the same, we watched film and did everything by the book as if it was opening day. We were confident without a worry in the world because we had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Justin Wilson is a guy who I have caught and played with since travel ball at 14 years of age. He is, mentally, one of the strongest pitchers I ever had the opportunity to catch. His poise was always at ease and he knew how to win. He was the guy we knew we could climb aboard, and he would carry us through that game.

Fast forward to the eighth inning, which is when it started to sink in that this really could happen. Nerves started to kick in, but with the offensive help from Steve Detwiler and Brandon Burke in the bullpen, we were ready for this. Long story short, Burke closed it out for us, and we became national champions, something that will go down in the history books for the sport of baseball and for our city.

However, we were not thinking that at the time, nor did we have any idea how big of a deal this really was until we arrived home to thousands of people waiting for us at the parade. It was a sight we had never seen, and the boys and I finally realized what we had accomplished. I was proud to be a part of it. It is something I will cherish and be able to tell my son, Harvey, as he gets older. I will always be a Bulldog and the 24 other guys who stood side by side with me that year will always be a part of a chapter in history, but, more important, family.

Danny Grubb, catcher



2008
BY THE NUMBERS:

Championship game:
Fresno State 6, Georgia 1

2008 overall record:
47-31

Coach: Mike Batesole

How it happened:
Steve Detwiler homered twice and drove in all six runs, and Justin Wilson allowed five hits in eight innings to cap Fresno State's wild ride to a title. Fresno State was forecast to be a top 25 team coming into the season, but the Bulldogs lost 12 of their first 20 games and needed to win the conference tournament just to make the NCAA field of 64.

College World Series Most Outstanding Player: Tommy Mendonca

Fresno State All-Americans:
Steve Susdorf,
Tanner Scheppers

Longhairs *Do Care*

ABC's 'Shark Tank' was full of hair whips and high fives with these Fresno State alumni

By Eddie Hughes

The double doors opened, and Chris Healy and Lindsay Barto emerged with a rush of swagger that captured the nation's attention on the Jan. 14 episode of the ABC hit show "Shark Tank."

Healy and Barto, both Fresno State alumni who met during their days in the Sigma Nu Fraternity, pitched their business, The Longhairs, that makes hair ties for guys. The two didn't disappoint, striking a deal with Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban for \$100,000 for a 20 percent equity share in the company.

Fresno State Magazine caught up with Healy and Barto and asked them all about the experience.

Fresno State Magazine: Tell us about your business and how you came up with the idea.

Healy: The Longhairs is a global fraternity for men with long hair. We publish original content, foster community and sell Hair Ties For Guys, the finest men's hair ties in the world, and other superior products for men with long hair. Stemming from the notion that men shouldn't have to use the same hair ties as

their little sisters, or purchase them from the women's hair care aisle, we recognized the glaring need for a superior men's hair tie.

How did you get started?

Barto: The Longhairs was established in 2014, and we are located in San Diego. For the first year, we didn't have any products or make a single dollar; all we did was publish original, quality content for guys with long hair. Once we started building an audience, we realized there is a very real community out there, and they really need our help.

Was there an experience from your time as Fresno State students that helped prepare you?

Healy: I can say without question our Sigma Nu Fraternity experience helped prepare us for starting our own business. Working together in the fraternity, from recruitment to leadership development, helped us figure out how to get things done. We'd sit around late at night at the fraternity house talking about starting a business together one day.

What's the biggest challenge you've faced?

Barto: We've never had a steady paycheck, a savings account, a 401K, paid holidays or any of those nice securities. We didn't have jobs, we made our jobs. We have been grinding, and we still are, and there's a long way to go before we've 'made it.'

What's your advice for a young grad who has a business idea?

Healy: Ideas are a dime a dozen, even good ones. The difference is doing what it takes to make an idea real. And that's putting in the work. There is no such thing as overnight success, get rich quick or seven-minute abs. If you want to make it, you must be willing to put the work in.



Take us through the 'Shark Tank' experience.

Healy: That morning we got up at 4 a.m. We hit the hotel gym. We practiced our pitch while lifting weights, breathless. We knew if we could pitch mid-exercise we could do it anywhere, in front of anyone. The next five hours included breakfast, transport, orientation, walking the set, hair, makeup, audio, sound checks, wardrobe checks, run-throughs, set checks and more walk-throughs. Finally, it was just the two of us standing on a small carpet in front of those double doors leading into the hallway. We looked at each other, and we were ready. Those doors opened and we walked down that hallway, fearless.

Tell us about the deal you were able to reach with a shark.

Barto: While we would have welcomed a deal with any shark, we both believed in our hearts we were going to get a deal with Mark Cuban. We are extremely humbled, grateful and fortunate to have gotten the deal we did.

Did you make sure Mark Cuban has some Fresno State gear?

Healy: We still need to get him some Bulldogs gear!

Fresno State alumni Lindsay Barto and Chris Healy pitched their business of hair ties for guys on ABC's "Shark Tank."

▼ Photos courtesy of ABC

How is business since the show aired?

Barto: Business has been on fire since airing. The first week we did about 10 times our average weekly sales. We've shifted our focus to sustaining our momentum and positioning ourselves for the long haul.

What's next for The Longhairs?

Healy: Alongside our charity partner, Children With Hair Loss, we will attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the largest hair donation in history. It will be The Great Cut on March 16, when men, women and children will cut their hair for children who cannot grow their own. We are seeking the support of every Fresno State alum and friend.

Anything else you'd like to add or that you'd like people to know?

We are proud to represent Fresno State and the Valley, and we attribute much of our success to our formative years spent there. You'll find us cheering on the 'Dogs and wearing cardinal and blue at every sports event we can make it to.



ONLINE EXTRAS

To learn more about The Longhairs, visit thelonghairs.us.

To be a part of The Great Cut for children with hair loss, visit blog.thelonghairs.us/great-cut/.



Cary Edmondson

THE ULTIMATE BULLDOG ROOM

Wayne and Judy Holm caught the Red Wave spirit in the early 1980s and turned it into a lifetime of memories. With a particular fondness for Bulldogs men's basketball, the Holms travelled on the team charter to every road game from 1995 to 2002 — and were regulars at home basketball and football games for more than three decades. Full of Bulldog spirit, they decorated a spare bedroom floor-to-ceiling with paintings and memorabilia where their twin grandsons used to have sleepovers. One wall depicts the score of a thrilling 1984 basketball game in which the Bulldogs beat first-place UNLV 68-43 at Selland Arena. UNLV was 16-2 in conference that year, with two losses to the Bulldogs. Wayne, the now retired founder of Famous Software in Fresno, formerly served on the Bulldog Foundation board of trustees.

Editors note: Wayne and Judy Holm are the uncle and aunt of Fresno State Magazine's senior editor, Eddie Hughes.



Do you have that Bulldog spirit?

Show us how you keep Fresno State pride alive at your home or business and you might be featured in a future issue of **Fresno State Magazine!**

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CLASS NOTES

1940s

Lillian Faderman (1940) authored "Harvey Milk: His Lives and Death," which was published by the University Press of Yale.

1950s

Carlene A. Kostiw (1958), a watercolorist who runs an art studio in Fresno, and her students displayed their artwork at "A Legacy Exhibit" at The Kings Art Center.

1960s

Richard Doecker (1960), an educator, was inducted posthumously to the College of the Sequoias Hall of Fame. As a pitcher, he led COS to the 1957 state championship before moving on to Fresno State and later playing in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization from 1959-1964.

Jim Vidak (1962) announced his retirement after nearly three decades as Tulare County superintendent of schools.

1970s

James V. Boren (1972), executive editor and senior vice president of The Fresno Bee, retired on Jan. 18 after 48 years at the newspaper.

Daren Gee (1971), of DB Specialty Farms and Darenberries, earned the Extraordinary Achievement Award at the Strawberry Sector awards sponsored by EconAlliance.

Roger George (1975), a three-time All-American decathlete, was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in November.

Doug Hansen (1974), an artist who recently had an exhibition at the Madden Library, had a pair of jeans that he bought at the Cherry Avenue Auction in 1970 put on display at the Levi Strauss & Co. Archives. Levi's historian Tracey Panek learned about the jeans that Hansen filled with colorful patches.

Philip Huerta is now a school board member for Madera Unified School District.

Larry Johanson (1976), president of Johanson Transportation Service, was elected to serve on the board of governors for the California State University, Fresno Foundation.

Timothy J. Schmal (1979), of Santa Cruz, was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as one of 25 Superior Court judges.

Dennis Shelby (1978), CEO of Wilson Medical Center in Neodesha, Kansas, was honored as Distinguished Alumni by Hope International University, from which he earned his bachelor's degree in 1976.

Kathleen R. Smith (1972), of Easton, Kansas, was named Professional of the Year by Strathmore's Who's Who Worldwide for her contributions and achievements in the field of canine breeding.

1980s

Angela (Angie) Cisneros (1982) was honored by Arte Americas with the first Judge Armando O. Rodriguez Legacy Award.

Randall R. Groom (1989) is now city manager in Visalia.

Karen Hendricks (1988) is now interim superintendent for the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education.

Sheila Kincade (1983, '86) and her students were paid tribute in an exhibition of digital artwork at Madera South High School.

Kelley Landano (1984) was appointed Fresno County librarian in March.

Tony Lopes (1980) earned the 2018 Engineer of the Year Award from the San Joaquin Engineers Council.

James Powell (1982) is now the national partner-in-charge of campus recruiting and university relations for audit, tax and advisory firm KPMG LLP.

William T. (Bill) Shaughnessy (1987), president and chief operating officer at eHealth, Inc., was elected to serve on the board of governors for the California State University, Fresno Foundation.

Jeff Tedford (1983) was named Mountain West Coach of the Year after leading the Bulldogs to a 10-4 record and West division championship in his first year at the helm.

Ysabel Trinidad (1985), vice president for finance and administration at California State University, Channel Islands, is now a board member for the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County.

Tom Uribes retired as public information officer at Fresno State after 30 years at the University.

1990s

Roxanna Aguirre (1994) is now part-time coordinator for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership as the coordinator of the Spanish-language ministry training program.

Joseph Allison (1993) is now vice president of administrative services at Merced College.

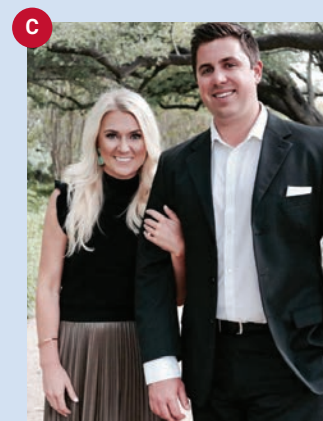
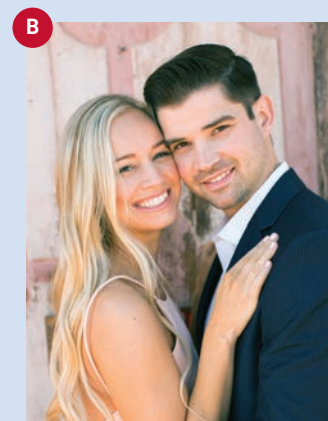
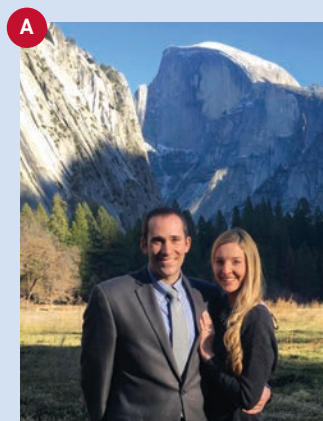
Kim R. Bobby (1991), of Prince George's Community College, was appointed as the president's chief of staff.

Brant Brown, a former Bulldogs baseball standout who was drafted in the third round in 1992 by the Chicago Cubs, is now assistant hitting coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Todd Coelho (1992) is now a partner with Hutchinson and Bloodgood LLP.

Monica R. Diaz was appointed to a judgeship at Fresno County Superior Court by Governor Jerry Brown.

Continued



A Daniel Ward (2014) and **Devon Goossen** (2013) are engaged to be married on April 7.

B Jace Brown (2010) married **Sammy Hudson** (2011) on Sept. 30.

C Rudy Weiser and **Kirbe Schnoor** (2012) were married on Dec. 30.



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Jim Gillio (1997) announced his candidacy for San Benito County Supervisor.

Hilary Graves (1995), who owns agricultural consulting business Mighty Nimble, was featured in the San Luis Obispo Tribune. She also breeds the endangered heritage breed of Gloucestershire Old Spots pigs.

Scott Howell (1995), M.D., is now chief medical officer at Advantmed health care solutions company.

Curtis Johnson (1994) is now director of sales for North America for the Euramco Group.

Jay Mahil (1999), a partner in family farming operation Creekside Land Company, LLC, was elected to serve on the board of governors for the California State University, Fresno Foundation.

Adrienne McGraw (1993) is now executive director for the Gateway Science Museum at Chico State.

Larry Spikes (1981, '92) is retiring after 24 years as Kings County administrative officer and 36 years total with the county.

Patti Waid (1991) is now director of University Communications at Fresno State. She previously served as director of public affairs at Chico State and as assistant vice chancellor for communications at UC Merced.

Dora C. Westerlund (1996), CEO for the Fresno Area Hispanic Foundation, was appointed to the California Secure Choice Retirement Saving Investment Board by Governor Jerry Brown. She also holds board positions with the Big Fresno Fair and the Fresno State Foundation.

Patrick Wiemiller (1991) is now Santa Maria's assistant city manager.

Michael E. Woody (1991) announced his candidacy for the 24th Congressional District seat.

2000s

Edson Barrantes (2006) is now local sales manager at KPNX-TV, an NBC affiliate in Phoenix.

Melody Canady (2002) is now assistant superintendent for business and fiscal services for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

David Carr (2001), the former Fresno State quarterback and No. 1 over NFL draft pick, was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in November.

Melvin Ely, the former Fresno State basketball star and NBA lottery pick, was inducted into the Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame in November.

Mitch Fagundes (2003) is now vice president for global strategic accounts at Arecont Vision, an IP-based megapixel camera technology.

Jimmy Hook (2000) is now Tulare County agricultural commissioner.

Ashley Jacobsen (2003), an assurance manager for Moss Adams in Fresno, was featured in Working Mother magazine as Working Mother of the Year.

Jessica Peterson McCormack (2008), a former Fresno State volleyball standout, was inducted into the Sonora High School Hall of Fame after starring in volleyball, basketball and track and field and being named 2003 CIF Woman of the Year.

Patrick Ramirez (2005), vice president of corporate services at Community Medical Centers, was named to Fresno State's University Advisory Board.

Kathleen S. Rindahl (2007), assistant professor of nursing at Fresno State, was among 11 nursing professionals recognized statewide at the Association of California Nurse Leaders 40th annual conference in February.

Demitrius Snaer (2005), a Modesto Junior College professor and men's cross country coach, presented for the Positive People Speaker Series at the college.

Continued



Brian Archer (2005) and Bonnie Archer welcomed their third child, Claire Lea J., on Jan. 25.

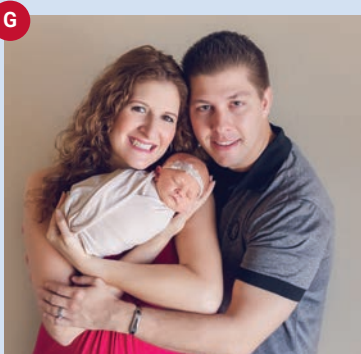
Krista Calderon (2009, '11) and Gabe Calderon welcomed their first child, Adeline Sumiko, on July 16.

Sara (Mohr) Frauenheim (2009) and Geoffrey Frauenheim welcomed their second child, Jameson Daniel Lee, on Nov. 3.

Benjamin Holton (2008) and **Tracy (Funk) Holton** (2000, '03) welcomed their first child, Olivia Alexandra, on May 31.

Blake Kalcevich (2011) and **Kendall Kalcevich** (2012, '14) welcomed their first child, Clayton Ray, on Feb. 4, 2017.

Brooke (Lloyd) Rummonds (2004) and Joshua Rummonds welcomed their first child, Jackson James, on Sept. 29.



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2010s

Christopher Ayala (2015) is now a Selma police officer.

Lindsay Eskildsen, a former Fresno State cheer team member, advanced to the “American Ninja Warrior” national finals, broadcast on NBC in September.

Mathew Graham (2010) is now project engineer for T-O Engineers Municipal Group.

Jessica Djabrayan Hannigan (2011) and husband **John Hannigan** (2001, '08) authored “Don’t Suspend Me: An Alternative Discipline Toolkit.”



Gregory Nitzsche (2013) is now a Selma police officer.

Lanae Oviedo (2016) was awarded the \$9,000 Hugh Goodwin Bar Scholarship by the San Joaquin College of Law.

Wilma Quan-Schecter (2013) is now Fresno city manager.

Kathleen Rhodes Schock (2017) is now Central Valley deputy director for the California College Guidance Initiative.

Aaron Stonelake (2014) is now a nutritionist for the Kern County Public Health Department.

Chris Turner (2017) is now systems integration/test engineer for Lockheed Martin.

Pazong Vang (2015) was awarded a \$5,000 Hmong Language Scholarship from the San Joaquin College of Law.

Rebekah E. Wells (2016) is now residence life coordinator at Eastern Wyoming College.

Desiray J. Yeaw (2014) is now a registered dietitian at Illinois State University.

Affinity Partners privacy notice

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

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

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

Your choice
Restrict Information Sharing With Affinity Partners:
Unless you say “NO,” we may share your name, address and electronic mail address with our affinity partners. Our affinity partners may send you offers to purchase various products or services that we may have agreed they can offer in partnership with us.

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

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

1. Reply electronically by visiting **www.fresnostatealumni.com** and clicking on the “SB 569” graphic.
2. Fill out, sign and fax the form to 559.278.7925.
3. Call 559.278.4036 or call toll-free 866.414.8136.
4. Fill out, sign and send back this form to us at the following address (you may want to make a copy for your records).

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

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| Last name | |
| Address | |
| Current email address | |
| Daytime telephone | |
| Signature | Date |



IN MEMORIAM

‘For thee, our hopes and memories’

Rebecca “Becky” Adams, Feb. 6, Fresno.

Sally S. Adkins, Nov. 9, Fresno.

Alice Ahern (1977), Oct. 12, San Francisco.

Raymond D. Audino (1968), Jan. 6, Visalia.

Lee W. Ault (1971), Dec. 14, Fresno.

Eleanor (Kazarian) Avedisian (1947), Nov. 16, Fowler.

Richard Bruce Baird (1959), Sept. 13, Sonora.

Vincent Baldini (1969), Oct. 5, Visalia.

Eleanor J. (Castleberry) Bender (1952), Oct. 10, Carlsbad.

Donald J. Beymer (1968), Oct. 30, Fresno.

Stanley J. Bien (1990), Nov. 5, Fresno.

Mark Bixler, Nov. 16.

John B. Chambers, Jan. 19, Visalia.

Jack H. Chaney (1968), Jan. 4, Fresno.

Gary M. Charlson, Sept. 19, Fresno.

Patrick Chiamori, Dec. 22, Madrid, Spain.

Beverly A. Childs (2003), Nov. 16, Tulare.

Harry E. Christiansen (1952), Nov. 14, Rancho Cucamonga.

John K. Christensen (1969), Jan. 4, Fresno.

Barbara A. Cole (1930), Dec. 17.

David E. Costello (1958), Nov. 17, Fresno.

Carolyn Mendes Dias (1959), Nov. 21, Clovis.

Gregory O. “Butch” Dias Jr., Dec.16.

Carl W. Drow (1961), Sept. 13, Fresno.

Eileen Jo Said Dykema (1980), Aug. 29, Santa Barbara.

Kenneth E. Eliason (1993), Oct. 12, Fresno.

Frank K. Errea (1964), Jan. 16, San Ardo.

Mary L. Everton (1981), Aug. 30, Santa Cruz.

Sharon Louise Tilly Farley (1966), Oct. 31, Fresno.

Emma C. Farran (1942), Dec. 2, Clovis.

Richard W. Francis (1962), Nov. 19; Frederick, Pennsylvania.

Michael R. Freund, Dec. 15, Hanford.

Donald Gaddini (1982), Nov. 9, Fresno.

Robert W. Ganse (1944), Dec. 27; Bothell, Washington.

Lori Denise Garciamarsella (1987), Sept. 17, Fresno.

Rachel Irene Garcia, Sept. 22, Selma.

Augie Garrido (1961), March 15; Newport Beach.

Robert Franklin Geary (1962), Clovis.

Cindy Gerringer (1995), Clovis.

Dorothy Lee Gibson, Aug. 4, Hanford.

Michelle Hoshicko Gifford, Nov. 3, Fresno.

Robert Glim (1973), Nov. 11, Fresno.

Sarah R. Neel Goble (1942), Jan. 1, Fresno.

Gene M. Gomes (1969), March 6, Fresno.

Ernest G. Gomes (1960), Feb. 5, Salinas.

Lillian (Perry) Gomes, Dec. 24, Visalia.

Joni Gray, Nov. 22, Santa Maria.

James Greenamyre (1957), Sep. 22 in Santa Rosa, CA.

Harold D. Griffey (1956), Jan. 20, Fresno.

Robert W. Gudgel (1952), Dec. 16, Fresno.

Gerry M. Hall, Feb. 23, Visalia.

Herman L. Hamm (1953), Dec. 15, Fresno.

Anita A. Harriger, Oct. 30, Pacific Grove.

Joan K. Wainwright Hatter (1973), Dec. 27, Fresno.

Gary Hawley Sept. 12; Orlando, Florida.

George D. Helvey (1972), Sept. 13, Madera.

Todd Hendrickson (1982), March 22, Fresno.

Charles Hipwell (1945), Aug. 23, Visalia.

Samuel R. Hodges (1958), Oct. 9, San Luis Obispo.

Shirley Ann (Masumoto) Honda, Nov. 16, Fresno.

Dewayne I. Hoppert (1946), Jan. 26, Visalia.

Hal D. Hynds, July 16, Fresno.

Burton R. James (1941), Dec. 15, Fresno.

Bill J. James (1959), Oct. 11, Livermore.

Robert S. Johnson (1975), Nov. 20, Fresno.

Erma L. Jones (1983), Dec. 7, Fresno.

Jean W. Kiehl (1950), Oct. 5, Fresno.

John Zoltan Kiraly (1950), Aug. 17, Fresno.

Muriel Laub, Sept. 14.

Wanda Lister (1953), Oct. 26, Fresno.

Gregory B. Logan (1970), Feb. 8.

Andrea N. Long, Jan. 8, Clovis.

Robert Lorio, Dec. 18, Visalia.

Betty Lum (1945), Nov. 7, Fresno.

Elsie M. Lukens (1942), Oct. 6, Bakersfield.

Carolyn M. Luttrell (1931), Jan. 14, Bakersfield.

Frank J. Maglio (1943), Nov. 23, Fresno.

Glenn Mar (1952), Jan. 9, Visalia.

Janet M. Marando (1975), Sept. 29, Fresno.

Greeta S. Martin (1951), Dec. 28, Fresno.

Helen J. Martin (1961), Jan. 4, Sonora.

Mark F. Matthews (1973), Nov. 5, Kingsburg.

Conrad J. Mazurek (1963), Fresno.

Louise Borges McGrew (1969), Sept. 15, Visalia.

Frank McNeely, Sept. 21, Ventura.

Colleen McNeilly (1954), Feb. 17, Chico.

Shirley McVay, Dec. 23, Visalia.

Kelsey Meadows (2011), Oct. 1, Las Vegas.

Gary R. Miller (1977), Feb. 1, Visalia.

Wilda K. Moller (1950), Jan. 1, Fresno.

Jennifer L. Moss (1985), Jan. 9, Fresno.

Arthur Mugnolo (1939), Nov. 1, Mill Valley, Utah.

Vinetta E. (Milicicha) Negranti (1964), June 22, Morro Bay.

Elizabeth N. Nelson, Jan. 10, Fresno.

Marjorie A Nelson (1963), Feb. 4, Los Banos.

Darel Newman (1966), Oct. 10, Fresno.

Charles R. Odle (1960, '69), Nov. 15, San Jose.

George Kaneo Omata (1963), Sept. 30, Menlo Park.

John P. Owens (1962, '74), Jan. 16, Bakersfield.

Jack T. Palsgaard (1967), Nov. 27, Clovis.

Natalie Pestorich, Jan. 12, Fresno.

Gerald E. Peters (1930), Jan. 11, Fresno.

George W. Poplin (1952), Jan. 8, Fresno.

Gary J. Quintana (1999), Oct. 12, Selma.

Jill E. Richards, Jan. 29, Fresno.

Douglas Richert (1992), Sept. 28, Fresno.

Randy Ross (1976), Dec. 14; Mahomet, Illinois.

Phillip V. Sanchez (1957), Oct. 16, Fresno.

Alfred R. Sciacqua (1949), Dec. 1, Fresno.

Kenric Silva (1979), Aug. 13, Novato.

Blake Smith (2006), March 2, Fresno.

Dr. Allen H. Simmons (1955), Sept. 7, Fresno.

Bonnie L. Simonian (1970), Nov. 11, Fresno.

Mark C. Simpson (1989), Nov. 12, Visalia.

Kenneth Smeltzer (1962), Oct. 2; South Jordan, Utah.

Blake Smith (2006), March 2, Fresno.

Beverly J. Stilwell (1964), Aug. 6, Fresno.

Edith H. Stock, Jan. 9, Fresno.

Alfred D. Stuart Jr. (2002), Jan. 23, Fresno.

Leona A. Thompson (1939), Jan. 8, Fresno.

Brad R. Tomasini Jr. (1967), Oct. 27, Wasco.
William L. Tucker Jr. (1971), Dec. 31, Fresno.

Walter A. Wallace (1954), Nov. 3, Salinas.

Ronnie W. Williams (1960), Nov. 13, Fresno.

Donald Wolverton (1946), Dec. 16, Walnut Creek.

James Young, Dec. 14, Fresno.

FACULTY/
STAFF

Herman K. Doswald, Jan. 8; Blacksburg, Virginia.

Rosa M. Hurtado, Nov. 20, Fresno.

Haruo Imamura, Sept. 19, Fresno.

Kim I. Morand, Dec.19, Clovis.

Stanley Frank Norsworthy, Sept. 6, Fresno.

Ignacio B. Santesteban, Oct. 29, Fresno.

Willie Lee Shell Jr. Sept. 11, Bakersfield.

Gail E. Tompkins, Nov. 1; East Providence, Rhode Island.

Traci L. Wagenleitner, Oct. 7, Fresno.

Shirley A. Wiley (1976), Oct. 15, Fresno.

Leaving a **BOLD** Legacy



For Louise and Jim Dunaway, math is everything.

Math is what led to their first meeting in a Bay Area school district in 1969. Teaching math is how they both spent their 30-year careers. And math education is where the retired couple will leave their legacy.

“When we started looking at what to do with what money we have when we’re gone, we thought we wanted to leave at least a reasonable amount to attract and encourage people in mathematics teaching,” Jim says.

That’s why Louise and Jim are leaving a generous gift in their wills to provide scholarships to Fresno State students. Their goal is to provide students the same opportunities that were provided to them.

Fresno State prepares more K-12 school teachers than any other public university in California. For students at Fresno State, 80 percent who are in financial need, gifts like these help ensure their vibrant future.

If you would like information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Liz Garvin, Director of Planned Giving, at 559.278.4038 or egarvin@csufresno.edu.

“It’s paying it back, isn’t it? Somebody came to help me out when I really needed it ... And if we can do that for somebody else, even in a small way – we both want to do that.”

– Louise and Jim Dunaway

Oh, Happy Days!

Thousands of spring Fresno State graduates got a jump on celebrating at the 15th annual Grad Fest on the lawn outside the Kennel Bookstore. Hosted by the Fresno State Alumni Association, the event serves as a fundraiser and is the first chance for graduates to pick up the popular Grad Box that includes a cap, gown, tassel, T-shirt and other alumni-branded items. More than 570 students donated \$13,608 this year to support the Student Cupboard food and hygiene pantry, student scholarships and the University’s live mascot, Victor E. Bulldog III. About 6,000 students applied to graduate in May during the University’s 107th commencement.



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