



Dean Sandra Witte, Jordan College Undergraduate and Graduate Medalists Kelli Williamson and Andrew Beebe, and Associate Dean Kathie Reid-Bevington.

## Welcome from the Dean

*We are finishing one of the most memorable semesters ever for the Jordan College, and I am anxious to share with you all the great things happening!*

On May 13 we ‘cut the ribbon’ on the \$29.5 million **Jordan Agricultural Research Center** ([click for more info](#)) a project that broke ground nearly two years ago. The project was funded by a gift from Bud, Dee and Lowell Jordan in 2009.

However, the story really started many years earlier at a GMC motorhome rally when the Jordan family first heard about us from retired Fresno State agricultural business professor Bob Glim and his wife Dorothy. They told their fellow rally participants about all the exciting products and academic programs that we offer and a new organization that had been started to support students and programs – the Ag One Foundation. The Jordans started by funding scholarships and eventually giving

their amazing gift to support agricultural research. They have played a vital role in the lives of so many of our college’s students, staff and faculty.

We are also grateful to the center’s laboratory sponsors and partners that include **Bayer CropScience**, **Earl and Beverly Knobloch**, the late **Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr.**, **Olam**, and **The Wonderful Company** ([click names for more info](#)). Their generosity has given us the ability to continue to keep this building on the cutting edge.

April brought waves of blue to campus – blue corduroy FFA jackets that is! The Jordan College helped host another exciting **FFA State Convention** ([photos](#)) that saw a record high of more than 6,000 in attendance. There were more than 3,200 students (another record high) taking part in the 25 FFA Field Day competitions on campus, too.

As I write this, we are preparing for our **college convocation** ([photos](#)) honoring 487 graduating students – our largest class ever! Among the group of graduates are nine students who have been part of our **first honors cohort**. We are so proud of the success of this program and the amazing work that these students accomplished this past year as they worked with their faculty mentors to find solutions to real world challenges in the fields of food, family and agriculture.

Memorial Day weekend marks the return of sweet corn to our **Rue & Gwen Gibson Farm Market** ([photos](#))! I know I’ll see many of you in the market buying corn and, hopefully, other great items, too. We’ve just hired a new manager, **Jeremy Lewis** ([photo](#)), and he has big plans to expand our line of student-produced products from our campus farm in new and exciting ways. He comes to us from Whole Foods in Fresno where he had worked since October 2002 in the grocery, produce, frozen and prepared foods sections.

Coming in June, President Castro, his wife Mary, myself, Senior Development Director Alcidia Gomes and Animal Sciences Faculty John Cordeiro will travel to the **Azorean city of Angra de Heroismo** ([photos](#)) on the island of Terceira. We will be finalizing an agreement with the agricultural program at the University of the Azores to have our students participate in a variety of agricultural education exchanges. We thank the Tulare-Angra Sister City Foundation for being the catalyst in getting this program going. The program will allow students from both countries to experience diversity in agriculture while also preparing to work in a global economy.

### Upcoming Events / Links

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>June</b>      |   |
| 11               | Winemaker’s Dinner, Palms Restaurant  |
| 12-18            | College National Finals Rodeo (Wyoming)   |
| 15               | Ag One North Bay Alumni & Friends Dinner (Santa Rosa Junior College)                |
| 20               | CATA Alumni & Friends Social (San Luis Obispo)                                      |
| 20-24            | President’s & Dean’s exchange agreement trip to University of the Azores (Terceira) |
| <b>August</b>    |   |
| 2                | Grape Day (Viticulture and Enology Department)                                      |
| 4-6              | Livestock Judging Camp (Fresno State Animal Livestock Pavilion)                     |
| 13               | Iris Society Fundraiser and Nursery Plant Sale (Horticulture Unit)                  |
| <b>September</b> |   |
| 11               | Ag Boosters BBQ (Borba Ranch, Madera)   |

On a personal note, I want to thank everybody for all the kind words that I've received since I was named permanent dean during National Agriculture Week in March. This year is my 35th year as a member of the Fresno State family, and I'm proud to continue to be part of the Jordan College and, with President Castro's tremendous support, make a difference in the nation's leading agriculture area.

Thanks to all of you – alumni, friends, donors, partners and supporters – for all that you do for us. We sincerely appreciate you and look forward to continuing to work with you in the 2016-17 academic year!

*Sandra Witte*

Dean, Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology

## FACILITIES: Jordan Agricultural Research Center showcased to public

The \$24.5 million **Jordan Agricultural Research Center** opened its doors ([story](#)) on May 13, and the College also announced new lab sponsorships by **The Wonderful Company** ([story](#)) and **Bayer CropScience** ([story](#)).



## STUDENTS: Williamson & Beebe honored as Jordan College Dean's Medalists

Viticulture and Enology graduate student **Andrew Beebe** ([click for profile](#)) and senior Viticulture and Food Science double major **Kelli Williamson** ([click for profile](#)) were named the Jordan College's Dean's Medalists.



## RESEARCH: University receives \$5 million grant to promote water and energy innovation

Spearheaded by its International Center for Water Technology, Fresno State has been awarded a California Energy Commission grant to establish the Central Valley Energy Innovation Cluster ([read more](#)).



## PROGRAM: First Jordan College Honors Cohort presents research results

The nine-member first **Jordan College Honors Student Cohort** recently presented results from their research projects conducted the past year under the guidance of their Jordan College faculty mentors ([read more](#)).



## VIDEO: Student Spotlight

Honors cohort member and **Carolyn Chase** is one of the Jordan College's most dynamic students as a food science nutrition and culinology major, mother and Air Force veteran ([click to watch](#)).



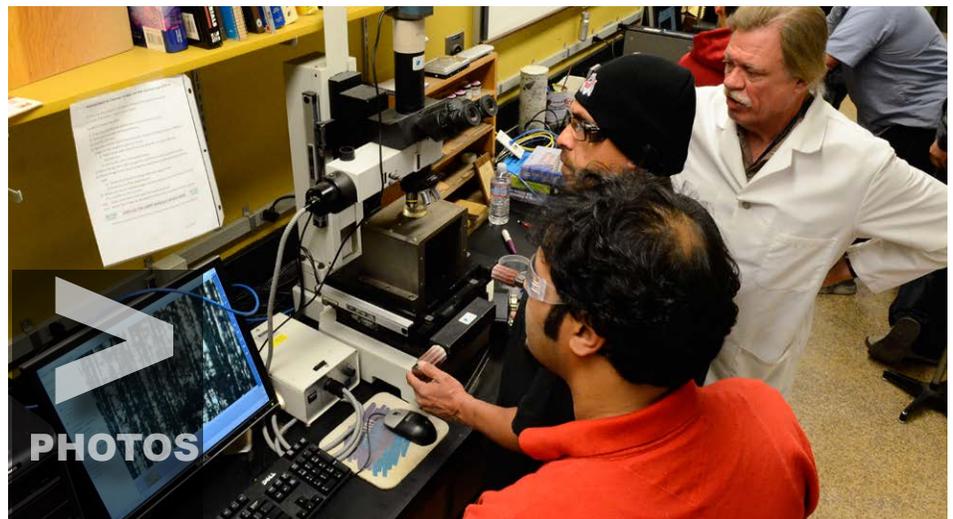
## CLUBS: Pre-Vet students shining in the classroom and the community

The **Fresno State Pre-Vet Club** is one of the College's most active clubs, and its many community and professional enhancement events are preparing a record number of students for graduate programs around the country and beyond ([read more](#)).



## DEPARTMENT: Industrial Technology expands its focus and curriculum

The **Industrial Technology Department** is continuing to meet the profession's demand for graduates with additional process and system management skills ([read more](#)).



## INDUSTRY: Child, Family & Consumer Sciences internship class prepares students for future

Dr. Amber Hammons and the **Child and Family Services 193 Internship Class** are providing students with key professional experiences before they graduate ([read more](#)).



## COMPETITION: Soil Judging Team caps successful first year

Directed by area soil scientists and volunteer coaches Michael Sowers and Dr. Phil Smith and plant science professor Dr. Bruce Roberts, the Jordan College's **Soil Judging Team** competed against the nation's top teams at the National Soil Judging Contest in Manhattan, Kansas in April ([read more](#)).



## ALUMNI: Agricultural Business graduate carries on tradition

Madera native and 1992 Fresno State graduate **Dr. Mark Manfredo** admits that he owes a lot to his former agricultural business professors whose teaching and mentorship led him on a similar career path. He currently serves as Arizona State University's Director of the Morrison School of Agribusiness, yet also still proudly considers himself a Bulldog ([read interview](#)).



## INTERNATIONAL: Grant created to support Azorean exchange program

Lisbon-based Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) gave \$49,000 to launch a partnership between Fresno State and the University of the Azores to encourage an agricultural student exchange ([read more](#)).



PHOTOS

## OUTREACH: Ag One hosts 45th Turf Day Golf Tournament

View pictures from the annual event that was hosted by title sponsor Willowood USA at the Belmont Country Club and brought together 136 Jordan College alumni, friends and industry sponsors ([pictures](#)).



PHOTOS