MAGAZINE

UNVEILING THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH
There’s a definite buzz around campus this fall as students, faculty and staff engage in the learning and teaching for which Fresno State is so well known. Our fall semester started off with a bang as our FresWOW weeks of welcome activities for new and returning students and our barbecue for new faculty warmly drew them into the Fresno State family. All this energy brings a sense of excitement and expectation.

One thing that has people talking is our new DISCOVERe tablet program that started this semester with 1,200 students and 33 faculty participating. It’s an example of how Fresno State’s distinctive faculty stepped up to meet my challenge to #BeBold in bringing tablet technology into classrooms, tutoring and advising. If you’d like to know more, please visit the DISCOVERe website at www.FresnoState.edu/DISCOVERe.

Another source of campus buzz is the construction projects underway. We’ve waited a long time for three projects in particular to come to fruition, and we’re so happy to see work begin on the Jordan Research Center at Barstow and Woodrow avenues and the Physical Therapy and Intercollegiate Athletics Building near the Aquatics Center. These projects will raise our academic profile and increase research opportunities for students and faculty to tackle some of the most pressing issues in our region, such as water and pollution.

At the same time, students will soon enjoy a boost to campus life as construction wraps up on the retail phase of Campus Pointe, which will bring a new movie theater and several dining and entertainment options to our campus community.

We hope you’ll enjoy all the great stories in this magazine — just as you enjoy the success stories in the lives of the students we educate. I hope you’ll join me in shaping the bright future that I know is ahead for Fresno State. I’d love to hear from you on Twitter at @JosephICastro.
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Margie Wright Diamond

Armando Guzman, Jensen Scholar and senior majoring in Plant Science unveils the Jordan Research Center.

Front cover photo Illustration by Todd Graves and Cary Edmondson
President’s Investiture

History was made at the Save Mart Center May 10 as Dr. Joseph I. Castro was formally invested as Fresno State president.

For youngsters Lukas and David Rosas of Fresno, it was a special treat. They enjoyed new student-produced Bulldog hot dogs and posed for photos with the new president, who grew up in nearby Hanford.

More than 1,300 people attended Castro’s investiture after the University reached out to K-12 students in the region. More than half of the attendees were children like Lukas and David.

“If you remember anything I said today, please let it be this: Fresno State is here for you now and in the future to help you achieve your dreams,” said Castro in his address. He also is the first Latino to hold Fresno State’s presidency.

Mom Aida Rosas said her two sons had a great time at the investiture. When Lukas took a copy of the investiture program signed by Castro to school he was a hit with his classmates.

“Dr. Castro has a new, young fan,” Aida said. “Thank you President and Mrs. [Mary] Castro for the time and attention you shared with my boys on that special day.”

Leadership transformation

Castro’s second year at the helm of Fresno State features new leadership across the highest levels and in several other areas as well.

Joining the president’s cabinet are Dr. Frank Lamas (second from left), vice president for student affairs, and Paula Castadio (left), vice president for advancement.

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson (second from right) remains chief financial officer and vice president for administration and Athletic Corporation board chair. She’s also serving as interim co-director of athletics with Stephen Robertello while the University conducts a national search.

Also new to the cabinet is Dr. Lynnette Zelezny (right), former psychology professor and associate provost, who was selected as provost and vice president for academic affairs in March.

Thank you for your philanthropic support

Fresno State raised a record $43,088,793 in 2014 — the highest one-year total raised since the beginning of the recession and a nearly 64 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.

During the past fiscal year, Fresno State received 40 individual gifts over $50,000. Highlights include $500,000 from Mathias “Matty” Matoian for business and nursing scholarships; two $200,000 gifts from Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. to support agricultural research and the Fresno Family Counseling Center; and a $200,000 gift from Olam SVI to enhance laboratory space inside the Jordan Research Center, scheduled to open in fall 2015.

“I am filled with gratitude for the investment that our supporters make in Fresno State and the young minds who will lead us into the future,” Castro says.

“I commend our dedicated volunteers and the University Advancement team who year after year work to enhance the University and to create opportunities for students.”
Commission on Future of Agriculture releases recommendations

The Fresno State President’s Commission on the Future of Agriculture issued its report in May with several recommendations to enhance the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. Among them are:

- Creating stronger industry partnerships
- Creating a Food and Agriculture Institute
- Expanding the number of faculty and staff
- Increasing the number of student internships
- Expanding water-related majors/minors
- Building cross-college opportunities in curriculum and research

The commission, comprising agricultural and University leaders, has been meeting since December 2013 to develop its preliminary report.

“Fresno County is the epicenter for agriculture worldwide,” Castro says. “This commission will help fulfill my vision for Fresno State to become the front-runner in providing California agriculture with its future employees, industry leaders and innovators in production agriculture and food processing.”

Saving water with earthworms

Fresno State partnered with Chile-based wastewater treatment company Biofiltro USA Inc., using earthworms for a new technology — biofiltration — to enhance water efficiency on the University dairy. Biofiltration is an innovative method that uses natural organisms rather than chemical processes to recycle water, says Sanjar Taromi, chief marketing officer for Biofiltro USA.

“Earthworms filter unwanted nutrients out of the dairy’s wastewater,” he says.

“The recycled water can then be used in a greater variety of irrigation applications.”

With an office at the Water and Energy Technology (WET) Center on campus, the company is using Fresno State as a test site for the system that could fundamentally change approaches toward water treatment while saving energy and eliminating chemical usage.

Physics students are out of this world

Fresno State physics students soon will participate in an international research project related to Albert Einstein’s theory on the existence of gravitational waves.

The University’s station at the Sierra Remote Observatories, 47 miles northeast of Fresno near Shaver Lake, has been accepted into the Gravitational-Wave Electromagnetic follow-up program, joining a network of visible-light observatories throughout the world.

The program is part of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration, which includes more than 800 scientists from dozens of institutions and 13 countries worldwide. Founded in 1997, the collaboration seeks to make the first direct detection of gravitational waves — ripples in space created by extreme cosmic events that are predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity.

When a wave is detected by scientists, they will call on participating observatories to aim their telescope at the target area in space to collect data for analysis.

“This will explore the fundamental physics of gravity and will develop the emerging field of gravitational-wave science as a tool of astronomical discovery,” says Dr. Frederick Ringwald, a Fresno State physics professor. “Our students will be participating in a major test of Einstein’s theory.”
Entrepreneur makes investment in Fresno State Students

When most donors establish a scholarship they consider it philanthropy. But when entrepreneur Claude Laval III established a new scholarship fund for Fresno State students, he considered it a sound investment.

The Fresno-based businessman recently pledged $125,000 to support the Entrepreneur Mentor Program at the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State.

“I am very impressed with the impact the Lyles Center has had on the students in the mentorship program,” Laval says. “I view it as a good investment. I have hired four of the students who have been in the program and found them very well prepared to succeed in business. You can be just as entrepreneurial in a larger company as you can starting your own.”

The majority of Laval’s donation will establish the Betty Lou Laval Scholarship, available to students who participate in the Entrepreneur Mentor Program. Two students per year will be chosen to receive $2,500 based on commitment and dedication to the principles of the program.

Laval has been involved with the program since its inception in 2005, first as co-founder and now as a mentor to burgeoning entrepreneurs.

This new scholarship replaces the Betty Lou Laval Entrepreneur Mentor Award, named for and given as a tribute to Laval’s late wife Betty Lou.

“I met both Claude and Betty Lou not long after my arrival in Fresno,” says Dr. Timothy Stearns, executive director of the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. “They shared a deep desire to see greater awareness and activity in entrepreneurship at Fresno State. Across the campus it is clear the commitment they’ve had to this community, which is especially evident in this gift for students who have a passion for entrepreneurship.”

Laval married Betty Lou in 1958. The two met in kindergarten and began dating when he returned to the Valley after studying at Stanford University. They have two daughters, Luann Laval Williams and Melinda “Mendy” Laval Alkotob.

Laval is chairman of LAKOS Separators and Filtration Solutions, a company he created in 1972. The business produces equipment used to remove solids from liquids. Products are made for a multitude of uses, including irrigation, industry and household. Alkotob serves as chief executive officer for the company.

This gift expands Laval’s legacy of supporting Fresno State, which includes a gift of $300,000 in 2011 to support cross-departmental water research. His support for and advice to Fresno State on water and irrigation was recognized by the naming of the Claude Laval Water and Energy Technology Incubator (WET Center) on campus in partnership with the Central Valley Business Incubator.

Laval places importance on volunteering and giving back, something he says he learned from watching his parents’ example. In addition to his support of and work with the Entrepreneur Mentor Program, he chairs the Governance Committee of Foundation Financial Services at Fresno State. Laval is also one of the founders of the Fresno Business Council and has been an active participant in the Rotary Club for more than 50 years.

— Kathleen R. Schock is the director of media and development communications at Fresno State.
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Fresno State alumnus and longtime supporter Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. established a $200,000 endowment to support interdisciplinary research. The gift from Moordigian will be used to enhance the Jordan Research Center’s microbiology laboratory. This space, which will be named for Moordigian, will be used by students and faculty to research microorganisms in food processing and wine production.

"Understanding the role microorganisms play in winemaking and food processing would enhance safety and quality of the final product," Moordigian says. "As an alumnus, I would love to see my University at the forefront in this area of research."

These are the kinds of questions the Jordan Research Center is designed to explore. Set to open late 2015, this 30,000-square-foot research facility at Barstow and Woodrow avenues will be a hub for collaboration and innovation in agriculture, engineering, science and math.

A $29.4 million gift from the Jordan family to the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology in 2009 made the facility possible. Now, industry partners and private supporters who share in the Jordan family’s vision are coming forward to enrich the research possibilities.

Three gifts to establish endowments that will bolster research on food production, wine making and robotics were announced by University President Joseph I. Castro at the June groundbreaking ceremony, which marked the start of construction.

How do microorganisms impact food processing?
What role can sensors and robotics play in solving real-world agricultural problems?
Can scientists develop more accurate methods to evaluate wine traits?

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Moordigian, a retired dentist, has actively supported Fresno State since the
1970s, when he joined the Bulldog Foundation. Since then, Moordigian’s
contributions have supported the Armenian Studies Department, the Fresno
Family Counseling Center and the athletics program. In 2007 he honored
his parents, Harry and Nevart Moordigian, by establishing an endowment to
support students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology. He continues
to grow this scholarship, which now stands at nearly $250,000.

“Dr. Moordigian’s dedication to Fresno State will not only have a lasting
impact on our students, but will also help advance research and knowledge
throughout the agricultural industry,” says Dr. Charles Boyer, dean of the
Jordan College.

OLAM SPICES AND VEGETABLE LABORATORY

Global agribusiness leader Olam Spices and Vegetable Ingredients (SVI)
established a $200,000 endowment with the Jordan College to bolster
interdisciplinary research of food and wine.

The gift from Olam SVI will enrich the sensory evaluation, tasting and prep
laboratory inside the Jordan Research Center. This space, which will be
named in honor of the company, will allow scientists and panelists the ability to
develop sensors and evaluate food and wine traits in a controlled environment.

“We’re thrilled to be celebrating the
groundbreaking of the Jordan Research
Center and the new sensory lab, which
will produce the next generation of food
technologists and scientists right here in
Fresno,” says Dave Watkins, Olam’s senior
vice president for agricultural operations.

“Olam is committed to working with local
universities like Fresno State to cultivate
new recruits and keep great talent in the
San Joaquin Valley. Investing in local
education and research is an invaluable
way to achieve this.”

EARL AND BEVERLY KNOBLOCH LABORATORY

Fresno State alumni and longtime university supporters Earl and Beverly
Knobloch established an endowment with the Jordan College to support
robotic research.

“The research and innovation that will be conducted in this space will have
wide-ranging impact throughout the Central Valley and the world,” Boyer
says. “We are so grateful to the Knoblochs for their dedication to agricultural
education and research.”

“Agriculture is the heart and soul of the San Joaquin Valley, and with the
establishment of the research center, other disciplines such as engineering,
science and math, as well as business, can work together to make agriculture
a shining star,” Beverly Knobloch says.
Fresno State is a visionary university. Always has been — from its birth in 1911 with 150 students to its 1950 groundbreaking at a new campus location on Cedar and Shaw avenues. Fresno State was outgrowing its space across town — on land that is now Fresno City College — and the school’s leaders had the foresight to facilitate a move to the University’s present location.

Cedar and Shaw marked the middle of nowhere back then — surrounded by fields and not much else. But ground was broken, seeds were planted and from the fertile soil sprouted the beginnings of a University that stands today as one of the torch-bearers in the California State University system, with more than 23,000 students on a 388-acre main campus and a 1,011-acre University farm.

And the growth is only ramping up. Today, land once used for a feed mill on the northeast part of campus will soon morph into an interdisciplinary research center unlike any other in the CSU system.

A few hundred yards southeast of that, construction is wrapping up on a retail phase of Campus Pointe, the largest mixed-use, public-private partnership ever in the CSU system.

On the west end of campus, near the North Gym, construction is underway on a new multi-purpose facility that will consolidate physical therapy lab space and offices under one roof and provide new space for sports administration and coaches.

“If we’re not moving forward, we’re falling behind. And falling behind is not an option,” says Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro. “Fresno State is boldly approaching the future with a laser-focus on student success and providing innovative, nationally recognized academic and athletic programs.”

The Changing Face of Campus

Major Construction Projects to Bring New Dynamic to Campus Life and Research

by Eddie Hughes
As the flagship University in the top agricultural region in the world, Fresno State is a fitting home for a research center to investigate agriculture, food and natural resources. The Jordan Research Center is the cornerstone of the vision created by the Jordan family’s $29.4 million gift in 2009 to Ag One to benefit agriculture education at Fresno State. It remains the largest single cash gift in the history of the 23-campus CSU system.

Fresno State broke ground in June on the 30,000-square-foot Jordan Research Center, designed to foster collaborative agricultural research among students, faculty and industry.

“My late husband Bud, as well as brother-in-law Lowell, would be so very pleased to see not only the family legacy tied to Fresno State agriculture but to know that the future of agriculture will be well served by the work to be done in the research center,” says Dee Jordan (above), who celebrated with campus officials during the groundbreaking.

Located at the southeast corner of Barstow and Woodrow avenues and scheduled to open in late 2015, the $24 million project will connect in one location researchers from the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, the Lyles College of Engineering and the College of Science and Mathematics.

“You can gain quite a bit of knowledge in the classroom but the most important thing is to be able to apply that knowledge in a real-world setting,” Beebe says.

“Getting involved in research is a great way to apply your knowledge.”

Dr. Susan Elrod, dean of Fresno State’s College of Science and Mathematics, says research is central to her college’s mission and will provide students with opportunities that are important to their education as well as to their ability to get jobs. She points to air pollution as one area Fresno State students can contribute.

Continued

“The synergistic interaction of a wide range of students and faculty working side by side in the Jordan Research Center will lead to opportunities to partner and solve complex research problems.”

Boyer says the center will be continuously available to students, many of whom currently work in research spaces that have become inadequate due to a growing student population. The center will feature flexible research space, wet and dry laboratories and interaction areas for collaboration.

That’s good news for Yesenia Thompson, a Fresno State biology graduate student who is researching the health of Hispanic farmworkers in the San Joaquin Valley.

“We have a large group of graduate and undergraduate students...” Thompson says. “It will be nice to conduct our collaborative research at the Jordan Research Center with new instruments. Research at Fresno State is great, but it can be better given the right tools.”

Andrew Beebe (right), a viticulture and enology graduate student, is excited for the future generations of students who will benefit from the Jordan Research Center.

“This project will bring researchers around campus much closer together, especially graduate students,” Beebe says. “I have found that most of my growth as a graduate student has been through interaction with other students.”
“Science is a collaborative endeavor, and this building will facilitate that,” Elrod says. “It will enhance Fresno State’s ability to help farmers, ranchers and companies in the food industry advance their efforts with research-based solutions.”

Dr. Ram Nunna, dean of the Lyles College, agrees. “For the first time, there will be a research center at Fresno State dedicated to addressing innovation in agriculture and related areas,” Nunna says.

“Our students and faculty will be collaborating with others in critical areas such as water quality, precision agriculture, robotics, modeling and scientific visualization.”

Dr. Elena Aguaron is a post-doctoral researcher working on pistachio and almond crop improvement and ecological impact. Her research combines plant, soil, water and atmospheric sciences. “Uniting interdisciplinary academic resources and collaborating with industry will make Fresno State more competitive in research and open up new career possibilities for our graduates,” she says.

The importance of the agricultural industry in California is staggering. Agriculture production and processing account for nearly 35 percent of jobs in the San Joaquin Valley and 31 percent of labor income.

With more than 7,500 undergraduates studying agriculture, engineering, science and mathematics and more than 1,300 degrees awarded annually, Fresno State is Central California’s largest educator of students in these disciplines.

“Finding better ways to live and survive has always been our innate instinct, and research is the way to find better alternatives,” Thompson says.

“One thing for certain is that the enormous contribution by the Jordan family is a huge step for a better future in our Central Valley agriculture.”
“Campus Pointe will have a positive economic impact for Fresno and Clovis and will be a catalyst for additional investment and retail growth in the immediate surrounding area.”

President Joseph I. Castro

While the Jordan Research Center will enhance Fresno State’s academic prowess, the mixed-use development at Campus Pointe will boost student entertainment options, campus living and employment or internship opportunities for students studying business, hospitality, tourism, marketing and gerontology.

Located near the Save Mart Center on Chestnut and Shaw avenues, Campus Pointe is a 45-acre public-private partnership between the California State University, Fresno Association, Inc., a recognized CSU auxiliary organization, and Kashian Enterprises, the master developer of the project. When fully built out, Campus Pointe will fill nearly 1 million square feet of space.

More than 1,000 tenants are already living at Campus Pointe in the Palmilla and Palazzo apartment complexes completed in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

The first phase of retail development is now underway with The Square at Campus Pointe, slated for completion in spring 2015. The first 12 tenants were announced in February, highlighted by 2,700-seat Heritage Theatre, Beach Hut Deli, Bella Nails, Cold Stone Creamery, Tofas Mediterranean Grill, Mad Duck, Pedology, Screen Works, Tapioca Express, Wahoo’s Fish Tacos, Wok It Out and Yogurtland will complement the mix of businesses.

“I’m incredibly jealous this wasn’t open while I was attending school,” says Hannah Cortez, a child development major who graduated in May. “I would have loved having a movie theater and shopping center within walking distance.”

Cortez lived in the Delta Zeta sorority house just across the street from Bulldog Stadium. “One thing I love about Fresno State is how involved the community is. From football games to buying corn at the Gibson Farm Market, people from the community really rally around this campus. Campus Pointe is only going to enhance community involvement and provide a fun spot for students to hang out.”

Campus Pointe was designed for student convenience and to provide services not currently available within walking distance, says Deborah Adishian-Astone, Fresno State’s associate vice president for auxiliary operations. “It is being designed with walkways and bike paths that will connect the main campus,” she says.

With dozens of Fresno State basketball and volleyball games, major concerts and other events at the Save Mart Center each year, Campus Pointe is sure to get a lot of pre- and post-event business.

The annual ground lease revenue generated by the project will support retirement of the Save Mart Center bonds and provide financial support to the University Agriculture Laboratory. Future phases of the development include office buildings, a hotel and a senior housing project.

“This is a wonderful addition to our campus and an excellent example of how public-private partnerships can benefit the entire community,” Castro says. “Campus Pointe will have a positive economic impact for Fresno and Clovis and will be a catalyst for additional investment and retail growth in the immediate surrounding area.”

Continued
Since taking office as Fresno State president just over a year ago, Castro has shared his vision for academics and athletics to boldly rise together. In a move to help accommodate growth of the College of Health and Human Services and provide dedicated space for sports administration, Fresno State broke ground in May on the two-story, 22,400-square-foot Physical Therapy and Intercollegiate Athletics Building.

The building will be located near Barstow Avenue and Campus Drive between the Aquatics Center and the North Gym Annex. The first floor of the facility will allow physical therapy lab space and offices to be consolidated under one roof. The department has been scattered across three different buildings since its doctoral degree program was approved in 2012.

A doctorate degree will be required to become a licensed physical therapist in the United State as of 2015, and Fresno State is positioned well as one of just three universities in California to offer the degree.

“Consolidating the Physical Therapy Department’s administrative and faculty offices will provide convenient access to the research and teaching laboratories and, more importantly, it will provide improved communication and collaboration between faculty and the students they serve,” says Dr. Jody Hironaka-Juteau, interim dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Hironaka-Juteau says the new facility also frees up office space in McLane Hall for the college’s School of Nursing.

The second floor will be dedicated to athletics, housing coaches’ offices for men’s and women’s basketball, softball and volleyball, as well as a large team meeting room and a self-instruction computer lab for student-athletes. The facility is scheduled for completion in summer 2015.

“This new facility points to an improved collaborative environment for academic and athletic facility users,” Castro says.

“We’ll have doctoral students working with faculty on high-level research and athletics personnel working on winning Mountain West championships in the same building.”

— Eddie Hughes is senior editor/writer for FresnoState Magazine and University Communications.
New gateway signs welcome the community to the Fresno State campus and hundreds of new pedestrian signs are helping visitors and students find their way around the 368-acre main campus and 1,011-acre University farm.

The new signs are part of a comprehensive project that includes new vehicle directional, parking lot and pedestrian signs. The project was funded in part through a $10 million gift from Table Mountain Rancheria that also provided the 2009 renovation and expansion of the Henry Madden Library.

“The signs help new students, prospective students and first-time visitors find their way to key services on campus,” says Thomas Gaffery, Fresno State's wayfinding signage project manager. “Visitors are reporting the signs are aesthetically appealing and helpful. Our parking staff has seen a huge decrease in the number of basic questions like, ‘Can I park here?’ or ‘Where is this building?’”

The formal gateway sign at Cedar and Shaw avenues reads, “California State University, Fresno” atop a 16-ton, 28-foot-long piece of Sierra White granite. A four-foot custom-cast University seal hangs from a series of ipe (sustainably harvested Brazilian hardwood) panels on aluminum posts — the tallest standing 17 feet.

The campus entrances at Shaw and Maple avenues and Cedar and Barstow avenues feature a 26.5-foot-tall sculptural sprout (see back cover) made of perforated metal and wood and red- and blue-lit “Fresno State” logos. The sprout is inspired by the Table Mountain Rancheria Tower at the Madden Library to reflect the University's agriculture, nature, native history, programs and education and Central California’s natural surroundings.

“The response has been overwhelmingly positive and has really provided a welcoming environment for our campus visitors, students and their families,” says Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Fresno State's chief financial officer and vice president for administration.

The project was designed by Linspace of Los Angeles and fabricated and installed by A-Plus Signs of Fresno.
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EMBRACING NEW EXPERIENCES

by Eddie Hughes

It was 103 degrees outside — and not much cooler inside the stuffy gymnasium — as Fresno State wrapped up its second women’s basketball practice with new coach Jaime White. The players gathered in a circle, sitting on the court still regaining their breath after an intense intrasquad scrimmage.

Senior guard Raven Fox stood up and pulled out a folded up piece of paper.

“A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions,” Fox said, reciting a quote by Oliver Wendell Homes Jr.

The quote related to the team’s preseason Australian tour that allowed them to start practice earlier in the summer and bond with the new coaching staff and teammates. But the quote resonated much deeper than that for a program that’s faced a revolving door of new experiences the past four years and, through it all, keeps hanging championship banners from the rafters.

This is Fresno State basketball — home of seven straight conference titles and seven straight NCAA tournament appearances.

But this is also Fresno State basketball — home of three different coaches in the past four years.

“We just started doing this new tradition with our players choosing a quote to share with their teammates,” White says. “It gives our kids a chance to express their feelings, lead the team and have a voice. I love it.”
EXPERIENCE WITH CHANGE

Leading is the top priority for Fox and fellow seniors Alex Sheedy, Alex Furr and Robin Draper. They’ve been through a coaching change before — just two years ago — and won Mountain West tournament championships in Fresno State’s first two years in the conference.

This year, with another coaching change, the goals are no different. Win the Mountain West. Win the Mountain West tournament. Make it to the NCAA tournament.

How does that happen? How did a Fresno State women’s basketball program that had never — NEVER — been to the NCAA tournament in school history just eight years ago suddenly make it the norm?

Former coach Adrian Wiggins started the trend in the 2007-08 season and ran off a string of five straight trips to the beloved tournament known as March Madness. Then Raegan Pebley took over as coach without a hiccup and added two more tournament berths. Now, it’s White’s turn to maintain the momentum.

“With each coach you learn something different,” says Furr, a fifth-year guard who has overcome two knee injuries and is now working on her master’s degree in sports psychology. "A lot of people see the coaching changes as a disadvantage because you have to learn a whole new offense, but in a lot of ways I think it's a really good opportunity to have so many coaches because you learn different lessons from each one of them.”

White is putting her own spin on the Bulldogs’ game plan this summer, installing principles of the triangle offense and more on-ball screens. White met with Stanford coach Tara Vanderveer, the master of the triangle offense at the college level, and hired one of Stanford’s volunteer assistants to join the Bulldogs staff.

White says the team will still run in transition, but she wants to put the post players inside more than they have been in the past to give them a chance to score at a higher percentage. For Sheedy, an Australia native and Fresno State’s returning all-conference forward, that means adjustments.

“In Australia, we got new coaches nearly every year, so I’m pretty used to it, but I was definitely not expecting it when I came here,” Sheedy says. “It’s been a bit weird, honestly, because you get so used to one style of play and then it’s constantly changing. But I think it’s good — it’s good for everyone to develop their game.”

CONSISTENCY AMIDST INCONSISTENCY

Obviously, the coaches have changed. And as is protocol in the college game, the players have changed too. From Chantella Perera and Amy Parish, to Jalesa Ross and Tierre Wilson, to Ki-Ki Moore and Emma Andrews — star players have come and gone. And now, Sheedy and the other seniors are tasked with leading the program into a new era.

To do that successfully, this year’s team will have to find consistency in inconsistent surroundings — again.

“It’s tradition now. You don’t want to break that,” Furr says. “You don’t want to be the team that comes in and messes it all up. It’s a really high standard, so we have to uphold it.”

With that high of a standard, comes pressure and expectations. And that’s part of what attracted White to take the job. She knows this program is a proven winner.

“When you start that, it’s tough to stop,” White says. “The kids have bought into winning. It’s an expectation I don’t even have to say. They want to keep it alive and keep the tradition they’ve built. It wasn’t easy to build that, it was a lot of hard work, and they have pride in that.”

The challenge, as some of the star players prepare to graduate and move on, is to find new talent and then insert those new pieces into the team without disrupting its rhythm.

The two previous coaches duplicated that formula. Now, it’s White’s turn.

“We don’t want to change the direction and expectation of winning,” White says. “We have to make it our own and add to the team that we already have. My goal is to make the transition seamless for the kids who have had three coaches in four years.”

White plans to do that by leaning on her most experienced players while working to develop the younger ones. In the coming years, she wants to focus on recruiting athletic players. She’ll continue to explore the Bulldogs recruiting pipeline in Australia, but also focus heavily on California prospects, specifically in the Central Valley.

Draper, a fourth-year pre-med (anthropology) student from San Joaquin Memorial High in Fresno, believes the recruiting foundation is solid.

“Because we’re winning championships, we get good recruits,” Draper says. “And because we get good recruits, we keep becoming a winning team. Good players equals a good team.”

If history is an indicator, there’s no reason to doubt Fresno State will again have a good team. The question is always, how good?

Through all the success and all the postseason appearances the past seven years, the Bulldogs still haven’t won a game in the NCAA tournament.

Rewind to that early-season practice, where Fox stood and read aloud to her teammates: “A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.”

Neither can this basketball program.
Every sports fan has a favorite athlete. Every Red Waver has a favorite Bulldog. The question is how do you choose?

Does he or she play your favorite sport? Wear your favorite number? Play the position you used to play? Come from your hometown or high school? Maybe he or she is simply the best player on your favorite team?

That’s all good. But how many of you look deeper — beyond the field — and consider the athlete’s character before anointing your favorite?

How many magazines take that into account before deciding whom to write about? Fresno State Magazine did. And this is a story about Karl Mickelsen, a Fresno State football player who cares.
KARL’S LITTLE HERO

Mickelsen, a senior linebacker at Fresno State, is perhaps best known for his hair. He has big hair that explodes beyond the restrictive confines of his Bulldogs football helmet and dangles down the back of his jersey, covering most of his last name. He also has a big personality, big aspirations (NFL) and is one of the team’s biggest hitters. Oh, and he has a big heart (metaphorically speaking). Just ask his Little Hero, 6-year-old Maya.

Mickelsen — she calls him Karl — met Maya during his freshman year at Fresno State when he went bowling with her family. Her brother was a patient at Children’s Hospital Central California and both children were involved in the Big Heroes Little Heroes program. Now a senior, Mickelsen, Maya’s Big Hero, has stayed in touch with the family ever since.

The program is a collaboration between Fresno State, Children’s Hospital and the Fresno Downtown Rotary. It spawned from the California Bowl in the 1980s when players were matched with patients who were invited to come watch the bowl game formerly held at Bulldog Stadium. Today, more than 50 Fresno State student-athletes from various sports are paired with patients for special activities from pizza parties and bowling to carving pumpkins and attending sporting events together.

Mickelsen seeks opportunities to participate in all types of community outreach. He says former Fresno State punter Andrew Shapiro encouraged him to get involved in off-the-field activities by inviting him to read books at elementary schools — and now Mickelsen does the same with his younger teammates.

“As a student-athlete, it’s all about time management,” Mickelsen says. “You’ve got time to play football, time to be a student and you’ve got time to be helping out in the community.”

Mickelsen often speaks to children about the importance of education, hard work and exercise. And, more often than not, he starts out by speaking to them about his hair. Think of it as a built-in, grown-out icebreaker.

“They want to touch my hair or play with my hair,” Mickelsen says. “At first, the kids, like my Little Hero Maya, she was scared. All the kids were like, ‘Oh my gosh he’s a big guy, look at his hair.’ But once we start hanging out, it’s all good times, just staying positive and being silly.”

FLIPPING A SWITCH

Mickelsen’s dedication to service certainly says a lot about him. But so does his play. He earned honorable mention All-Mountain West Conference last season in his first year as a starter, leading the Bulldogs with 97 tackles. He flies around the field sizing up ball carriers, delivering game-changing hits and celebrating with his traditional fist pump followed by a yell toward the sky with both arms flexed and outstretched at his sides.

“Everybody always asks me, ‘Why do I see you as this crazy guy on the field?’ But it’s all about having a switch,” says Mickelsen, standing in the south end zone at Bulldog Stadium.

“When I touch this field, I’m a whole different person. It’s all about football and just running around, attacking people, hitting people. But when I step off this field, I’m just regular Karl, just a regular student-athlete going to class.”

For the Fresno State defense, that switch can’t have any electrical shorts this season, with star quarterback Derek Carr (Oakland Raiders) and record-breaking wide receivers Davante Adams (Green Bay Packers) and Isaiah Burse (Denver Broncos) all moving on to the NFL. Mickelsen and the Bulldogs defense will be expected to carry a bigger load if Fresno State is going to win a third straight conference championship.

“I love pressure. I love having the pressure all on me or on the defense,” Mickelsen says. “I feel really comfortable. We all feel comfortable together because we have more experience.”

Continued
FOSTERING A CULTURE OF GIVING BACK

That experience, on and off the field, recently landed Mickelsen a nomination for the 2014 Allstate American Football Coaches Association Good Works team. The criminology-law enforcement major is up for the award that recognizes players whose charitable involvement and community services stand out among their peers.

Service is ingrained into the culture at Fresno State, where students, faculty, staff and administrators have volunteered more than 5 million hours over the past five years. And Fresno State student-athletes have been recognized each of the past two years with the Mountain West SAAC Community Service Award for the most volunteer hours by any school in the conference.

“It helps mature you and helps humble you, just seeing what these kids go through and seeing how blessed we are,” says Micenheimer, who has maintained relationships the past three years with two Little Heroes who are brothers.

Mickelsen is one of Fresno State’s representatives for SAAC, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which meets throughout the year to schedule volunteer activities, such as distributing food to the needy, and recruits others to get involved.

“We talk to our guys about being champions on and off the field, and he totally embodies that,” DeRuyter says. “He gets it. He’s a great leader for us on our field, and he wants to give back to the community every way he can.”

Now that Mickelsen’s time on campus is winding down, he reflects back to when he first arrived as a freshman from Morse High School in San Diego, ready to aggressively pursue his potential. His approach hasn’t changed.

“I’m going to make the best out of this that I can and take advantage of every opportunity I get,” Mickelsen says. “As a college student-athlete, a lot of people look up to you, even kids.”

And chances are, while you’re cheering for the Bulldogs this season, you might look up to Mickelsen too. Maybe he’ll even become your favorite player.

WHO’S YOUR FAVORITE BULLDOG STUDENT-ATHLETE?

Tell us on Twitter @FresnoState_Mag and you’ll be entered to win 4 FREE FOOTBALL TICKETS TO THE NOV. 29 GAME VS HAWAII! #MyFavBulldog

Winner will be selected at random on Nov. 21.
129 Bulldogs earn Academic All-Mountain West

The Mountain West Conference honored a record 897 student-athletes from its 11 member institutions, including 129 from Fresno State. To be eligible, student-athletes must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher and be a starter or significant contributor on their team.

Overall, Fresno State student-athletes posted a 3.11 cumulative GPA in the fall and a 3.02 in the spring.

Fifty Fresno State student-athletes were named Mountain West Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA and completing at least two academic terms. The soccer team led the way with six Scholar-Athletes.

Fresno State wins three Mountain West team championships

Three Fresno State teams claimed 2013-14 Mountain West championships in the University’s second year in the conference, including football, women’s basketball and women’s tennis.

The Fresno State football program won its second straight conference title, beating Utah State 24-17 in the inaugural Mountain West championship game on Dec. 7 at Bulldog Stadium. The Bulldogs (11-2) were ranked as high as 13th nationally before losing to USC in the Las Vegas Bowl.

The women’s basketball team won its sixth conference tournament title in seven years, and second straight Mountain West title, with a 77-68 win over top-seeded Colorado State on March 15 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The Bulldogs (22-11) earned their seventh straight trip to the NCAA tournament, losing 74-55 to Nebraska in the first round.

The top-seeded Fresno State tennis team defeated New Mexico 4-2 on April 27 at the Sierra Sport and Racquet Club in Fresno to win the title. “We knew we had to put it together every day, and to win three matches in a 24-hour span is a tough feat,” said Fresno State coach Ryan Stotland, the Mountain West Coach of the Year. “I am proud of the ladies as we made history today by winning our first Mountain West Conference tournament.”

Fresno State took a 12-match win streak into the NCAA tennis tournament, but lost 4-0 to No. 17 Michigan.

Individually, several more Bulldogs earned Mountain West titles, including Guðrún Brá Björgvinsdóttir for women’s golf; Meagan McKee (outdoor hammer throw) and Breeauna Thompson (outdoor 400-meter dash) for women’s track and field; and Brennen Davis, Cameron Parker, Devante O’Connor and Christopher Brusenback (4x100 meter relay) for men’s track and field.

Baseball catcher named to Team USA

Following an 11-day tryout with the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team, Fresno State junior catcher Taylor Ward was named to the 24-man national team on June 30 and competed in international competition this past summer. “It’s an honor to wear the USA jersey,” Ward said. “I’m so fortunate to have this opportunity. Hopefully I can take a lot of what I experience back to Fresno and empower us to win games and compete.”

Ward hit .320 with six home runs and 41 doubles last season, earning second-team all-Mountain West.

Volleyball all-star tours Europe

Fresno State junior middle blocker Maci Murdock was selected to the 12-person Mountain West all-star volleyball team that finished third in the European Challenge Global Cup in July. The Turlock native traveled to Italy, Slovenia and Croatia with the team.

For daily Fresno State athletics updates, visit www.gobulldogs.com.
Since becoming the first California State University campus to offer independent doctoral degrees in 2007, Fresno State continues to reach new milestones with its post-baccalaureate programs. In May, the University recognized the first graduating class from its Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

It is the third doctorate degree to be offered by the University.

Originally, only the University of California schools were allowed to confer doctorates. But in 2005, the California Legislature approved independent doctoral programs at CSU campuses. Fresno State was the first CSU campus to take advantage, establishing the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership in 2007 and the Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program in 2008.

Since then, the programs have produced more than 100 graduates to help serve community needs in the Central Valley and beyond.
Doctor of Nursing Practice

The California State University, Northern Consortium Doctor of Nursing Practice, is designed to prepare nurse leaders and advanced practice nurses for evidence-based practice in patient care, leadership and educational roles.

As a joint-doctorate program with San Jose State University, classes are held online and on campus to accommodate working professionals. Unlike other programs, the culminating experience is a doctoral project rather than a dissertation, which allows research for particular areas of practice most useful to each student.

Students in the program have developed projects that influence prominent topics like health care in the Central Valley and ways to change outcomes among different populations of people, such as infants and an array of ethnic groups.

“Two years ago, I would not have had the knowledge, skill or confidence to approach these tasks and now I do,” said student Christopher Patty, a medication safety specialist at Kaweah Delta Medical Center in Visalia.

Other student projects have included topics on feeding protocol on premature infants and skills needed for a Backpack Homeless Healthcare Program team to provide services to the unsheltered homeless.

Students graduating from the program gain the skills to provide safe, effective and efficient care within the scope of advanced nursing practice; translate research into clinical practice; and design, implement and evaluate quality improvement measures.

Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

The Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership is designed to equip graduates with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to shape policy and practice in ways that benefit students and communities.

“It is truly a Valley-run program aimed at improving the Valley, which is critical given the unique educational and cultural landscape of the region,” said Dr. Jim Marshall, associate dean of the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.

Improving California’s education system is a core function and mission of the CSU, making it essential for the program to train educators to work with underserved populations and build relationships with K-12 schools. Nearly all graduates from the program remain in the Valley and assume leadership positions in organizations across the education spectrum, from pre-school to college.

As the program has evolved, accommodating working professionals has become a top priority. The University offers classes on nights and weekends with small cohorts of 10 to 12 students for a more supportive environment.

Courses are taught by practitioners and faculty.

Notable alumni of the program include Fresno State Vice President for Administration Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, who has contributed to the campus by helping execute initiatives such as the Henry Madden Library revitalization and fundraising, the Campus Master Plan, partnerships with other government agencies and several process improvement initiatives.

Doctorate of Physical Therapy

In 2015, a doctorate degree in physical therapy will be required to become a licensed physical therapist in the United States. Fresno State is one of just three universities in California to offer the degree.

Upon completing the three-year program, students gain expertise in directing clinical research; planning and implementing patient care and education; and learning to provide consultative and administrative services in the delivery of physical therapy services.

The Physical Therapy Department trains students in onsite clinics: the Gait, Balance and Mobility Research and Education Center and the Musculoskeletal Care Clinic. Both clinics provide services for the community and opportunities for students to integrate classroom lessons into hands-on experience with patient care.

“Fresno State’s physical therapy program is unique in that community involvement from both medical professionals and generous volunteers is high,” says Rosalie Avila, a second-year student in the program. “When I graduate I will be able to relate to the people I am providing care for and be able to work as a medical team member because of my experiences at Fresno State.”

GraduatePrograms.com ranked Fresno State’s physical therapy program No. 8 nationally in 2013 in a survey of students and graduates. Fresno State was the highest ranked program in California.

Dr. Peggy Trueblood, professor and chair for the Department of Physical Therapy, says she is proud of the University’s fast-growing program.

“We have a distinguished history of developing outstanding, competent, professional practitioners and future leaders of the profession of physical therapy.”

In May, the University broke ground on the new two-story, 22,000-square-foot Physical Therapy and Intercollegiate Athletics Building to consolidate the department’s offices and laboratories under one roof for a more collaborative environment between faculty and students.

— Akyia Westley is a University Communications student assistant.
A GLOBAL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE

Fresno State is opening the doors to an American educational experience for more international students than ever to introduce a more culturally diverse, global learning environment.

This fall, Fresno State has enrolled about 700 international students representing 65 different countries.

Sandip Roy came to the Central Valley from Kolkata, India, looking to expand his perspective. He found Fresno State’s Craig School of Business.

"Like business, which is global, you want to go to college for that global exposure," Roy says.

“You want to meet someone from another country with different experiences than you. It helps to teach you about other countries and cultures, which helps to lend a different perspective.”

Roy says it was a unique experience to be immersed into American culture.

“I’ve seen people form some really out-there stereotypes about other countries and people because of something they saw on TV or in a movie,” Roy says. “And having international students helps to correct these misconceptions.”

The presence of students from around the globe helps everyone on campus better understand other nations and cultures, says Paul Hofmann, Fresno State’s assistant vice president for international affairs.

After experiencing American culture for the past six years, Roy says he will miss the experience when he leaves.

“I will be graduating next year, and I am happy but sad to have to leave,” Roy says. “I don’t even feel like a foreigner. I feel like I grew up here because I know so many people and know the city.”

by Nathan Fuentez

STUDYING ABROAD

International student relationships are a two-way street. A helpful community that embraces students from afar can be very reassuring.

Christopher Costello, 25, an American Fresno State alumnus who studied abroad his final semester, got a unique experience of his own.

Costello studied in Preston, Lancashire, England, and says the welcoming environment helped him get used to the differences overseas.

“The people I met in England were very respectful and helpful,” Costello says. “It definitely changed the way I view American culture and opened my eyes to different ways of thinking.”

He was amazed by the importance of punctual public transportation and how much English people relied on it. “When I was there, trains never ran more than five minutes late, something I had never really seen in America,” Costello says.

Costello agrees that studying overseas exposes students to cultures beyond what is portrayed in the media.
Hofmann says attending Fresno State is more affordable than some of California’s other large universities.

This makes Fresno State a popular choice for international students who want to experience California while seeking degrees in subjects like business or engineering.

Students who have had good experiences at the University are more beneficial to recruiting than an advertising campaign, Hofmann says.

Fresno State had a record 300-plus new international enrollments this year.

“International students add to the diversity of thought, language and even religion at the University,” Hofmann says.

“One of our greatest strengths at Fresno State is that diversity.”

Hofmann says when he was in graduate school he, too, went abroad and studied in China.

“It was a good experience because I lived there, learned a little bit of the language and experienced a lot of the culture,” Hofmann says. “Doing so, unintentionally, prepared me to work in the field that I am in today.”

Incoming international students recognize the value of studying abroad and the community to which they are contributing, Hofmann says.

“Some Fresno State students might be unable to study abroad, so sitting next to a student from another country may be the only international experience they have,” Hofmann says. “International student numbers won’t continue to grow forever, but we need to make sure students are taking advantage of the benefits of this international community while they still can.”

— Nathan Fuentez is a mass communication and journalism student at Fresno State.
Marvin R. Baxter’s journey from a small farm in Fowler to the state’s highest judicial office ran directly through Fresno State.

It was at then-Fresno State College that Baxter gained the knowledge and skills that helped him through law school, a successful career in public and private practice law and finally, in 1991, an appointment as associate justice on the California Supreme Court.

In January 2015, Baxter will retire, ending a distinguished law career that spanned nearly 50 years.

Baxter is not alone in his legal accomplishments. When checking credentials of the “who’s who” in Valley legal circles, Fresno State emerges as the alma mater of many judges. And looking beyond, graduates are scattered around the state and country.

The University’s database lists alumni with job titles throughout the legal field: judge, justice, lawyer/attorney, prosecutor, defender.

To name a few judges:

• Four Fresno State alumni sit on the Fifth District Court of Appeal — Presiding Justice Brad Hill (‘77, ‘79), Gene Gomes (‘69), Rosendo Peña Jr. (‘77) and Charles “Chuck” Poochigian (‘72).

• Retired from that court are James Ardaiz (‘70), James Thaxter (‘56), Steven Vartabedian (‘72) and Rebecca Wiseman (‘75).

• Earlier Fifth District Court justices, now deceased, were Hollis Best, presiding, (‘49) and George Zenovich (‘48).

• Saundra Brown Armstrong (‘69) is senior district judge of the U. S. District Court, Northern District of California.

• Gary Austin (‘72) and Sandra Snyder (‘68) serve as federal magistrate judges for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California.

• Fresno State alumni are Superior Court judges in at least 10 California counties: Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Kings, Kern, Stanislaus, Alameda, Riverside, San Bernardino and Tehama.

• Mark Anthony Scott (‘80) is Superior Court Judge in the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit in DeKalb County, Georgia.
Downtown Fresno tribute will honor alumni Marvin and Jane Baxter

Justice Marvin R. Baxter will retire from the California Supreme Court on Jan. 4 — marking the end of a distinguished 24-year career on the Supreme Court and 32 years of public service.

Marvin and wife Jane (Pippert) Baxter both graduated from Fresno State in 1962. They have maintained a close connection to the University, where Baxter once served as student body president. He later served as president of the Fresno State Alumni Association and was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Top Dog Award in 1996. They remain avid fans of Fresno State athletics.

A special tribute will take place in honor of the Baxters at 6 p.m. on Nov. 14 at Fresno Hotel and Conference Center (2233 Ventura St.). For more information, email: baxtertribute@gmail.com.

Like Baxter, a 1962 graduate of Fresno State, all of these achievers have Bulldog roots that started them down the path to success.

Baxter says Fresno State is the only college he considered. He particularly appreciated the close interaction and mentoring he received from faculty and staff. He was active in student government and served as student body president, which led to a fellowship in public affairs with the prestigious Coro Foundation followed by law school at the University of California’s Hastings College of the Law.

“I owe my entire career to having attended Fresno State,” Baxter says.

“Fresno State provided me with opportunities I would not have had at another university.”

Building pride

Peña says as a Fresno State student in the 1970s, he had the opportunity to build pride in his Latino heritage and engage in meaningful extracurricular activities, including as a founding member of the Chicanos in Law Club. He says his experiences helped him learn “that challenges are a part of life and that it is better to meet them head on and with gusto.”

Following his graduation, Peña headed to UCLA Law School and began his legal career in the California Public Defender’s Office in Los Angeles. He worked in public and private practice law before he was appointed judge of the Fresno County Superior Court by Gov. Gray Davis in October 2002.

In 2012, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him a justice on the California Fifth District Court of Appeal.

Both Peña and Baxter have maintained ties to the University through the Fresno State Alumni Association. Baxter served on the board and as president, and Peña is now in his seventh year as a board member.

Peña enjoys the alumni connection and believes it’s an important one for all Fresno State graduates. “It ensures the Bulldog legacy lives on, and the value of our degrees will continue to be enhanced by the University’s successes,” Peña says.

Campus life in the ’60s

Armstrong left her hometown of Oakland in 1967 to study sociology at Fresno State because she wanted to avoid the student protests and turmoil at campuses nearer to home.

“It was exactly what I needed at the time,” she recalls. “It was a quiet place and a challenging academic setting.”

At that point in history, Fresno State also allowed Armstrong to experience a much-less diverse atmosphere than she was used to in Oakland. She often was the only female African-American in her classes, in the dorms and on the cheerleading squad that she joined. [Today, African-Americans make up 4.1 percent of the student body]

“It rounded me out in a way I could not have accomplished if I had stayed in the Bay Area,” she says. “The experience I had in Fresno went a long way to prepare me for my future career moves. I was the first African-American female in many of the jobs and appointments I’ve had.”

Armstrong joined the Oakland Police Department after graduating from Fresno State and then earned her law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law, graduating No. 4 in a class of 225.

“Fresno State prepared me well to compete against students from a range of schools from all over the country. I felt extremely well prepared,” she says.

Armstrong’s law career included work as a deputy district attorney, senior consultant to the California Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice, commissioner on the Consumer Product Safety Commission and a member of the United States Parole Commission. She was a judge on the Alameda Superior Court when President George H. W. Bush nominated her to a seat on the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

— Shirley Melikian Armbruster is the associate vice president for university communications and integrated marketing.
As long as he can remember, Jacob Van Meter (below) has been drawn to taking things apart and putting them back together. It started with cars and dirt bikes and turned into an engineering career in the Silicon Valley.

Van Meter started his career at Apple, Inc. in April, three years after graduating from Fresno State. He credits the University’s Valley Industry Partnership for Cooperative Education (VIP) Program with helping him gain the experience to transition to the workforce right out of college.

Van Meter, 28, grew up in Oakhurst and transferred from Clovis Community College Center to Fresno State in 2008 as a mechanical engineering major. During his second semester, he joined the VIP Program in the Lyles College of Engineering. The program set him up with internships at Serpa Packaging Solutions and E&J Gallo Winery in Modesto.

Van Meter secured a full-time position with Serpa Packaging Solutions during his senior year at Fresno State and then served on the VIP Program council as an industry member for two years, mentoring students in the same way he was mentored.

"I just wanted to give back to the program that helped jumpstart my career and have an impact on any other students I could," Van Meter says. "Having mentors encourage me really helped me ignore those negative people in my life who told me I was crazy for wanting to be an engineer and taking calculus courses I would never pass. I think everyone has those people in their life, but you just have to surround yourself in the positives and figure out for yourself what you can and can’t do."

Van Meter's father, an engineer himself, was one of those positive influences. "I chose mechanical engineering because I already loved working on things to figure out how they operate," Van Meter says.

The VIP program was formed in 1999 by Professor Walter Mizuno as a cooperative effort between Fresno State and a number of local companies. The main goal of the program is to provide a richer, better-rounded educational experience for engineering students by giving them an opportunity to work in real-world environments.


"One of the most valuable things I see students take away from being in the program is confidence," says Nell Papavasiliou, program director. "By giving students a year of experience with two different companies under their belts, they have the ability to adapt to situations better and contribute to the company right away."

Enrollment in the program varies each semester but ranges from 10 to 20 students, depending on internship demands.

Every student in the VIP program has landed a job when they graduate. Most are offered full-time positions prior to graduation and earn $60,000 to $80,000 their first year.
VIP success stories

Other VIP students have gone on to Edwards Air Force Base to work on such planes as the F-35 and the F-22, which can aid in ground attack, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and air defense missions.

More recently, a graduate went to work for Chevron in Bakersfield and another for Hyundai in California City. Many students also end up with full-time positions at local VIP member companies they interned at such as JBT Food Tech in Madera, POM Wonderful, Allied Electric and International Paper.

“One of the many benefits for companies that are part of VIP is that they are able to recruit and develop relationships with these outstanding students,” Papavasiliou says. “The talent is kept here in the Valley, and the great part is that we have all of these alumni to mentor our current students.”

Lyles College students in the program are required to maintain a strong GPA and have about 60 semester units completed in their major. Students must agree to two, six-month internships where they will take ownership of projects for companies participating in the program.

A pilot program was implemented with two students in June to test the success of summer internship programs to provide students and companies with more options. Ideally, students will be full-time in summer and work at least 20 hours during the fall semester.

“My best advice to incoming students is to not be afraid or intimidated by what other people say,” Van Meter says. “Have a strong support group and get involved on campus or through your department. Being in the VIP program was like a real-world test drive for me. It made me realize what an engineering career really consisted of and what I wanted and did not want to do.”

— Ashlie Day is a University Communications student assistant.

Above - Gagan Pandher
Below - Santiago Cerda
The Fresno State Alumni Association is proud to award more than $125,000 in student scholarships this year.

Students are selected based on academic achievement, financial need and service to the community. The FSAA leads all of the 23 alumni associations of the California State University in annual student scholarship giving. The FSAA will honor 2014-15 scholarship recipients at the Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala.
ARTHUR SAFSTROM SERVICE AWARD

Brad Fischer (1981) LEGACY, vice president and operations support manager for Premier Valley Bank, is the 2014 recipient of the Arthur Safstrom Service award, honoring his outstanding service to the Fresno State Alumni Association and the University.

Fischer has shown his appreciation for Fresno State in many ways. He was a charter member of the Alumni and Friends Chapter of the Craig School of Business and has served on the Business Associates board. In 2012, Fischer served on Fresno State’s nationwide search advisory committee for the University’s new president, and then was a member of President Joseph I. Castro’s transition team.

WILLIAM S. SMITTCAMP

A leader in business, community and University service

William S. Smittcamp (1975) LIFE, president and CEO of Wawona Frozen Foods, is the recipient of the 2014 Top Dog Distinguished Alumnus Award — the highest honor presented at the Fresno State Alumni Association’s Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala each fall.

Smittcamp graduated from Fresno State with a degree in business administration and began following his father's example in business, community and University service. Growing up, he worked on the family farm, learning every aspect of the fruit business.

In 1983, Smittcamp became president and CEO of Wawona Frozen Foods and has grown it to a staff of 200 full-time and 1,200 seasonal employees. Each year, Wawona Frozen Foods processes more than 125 million pounds of fruit.

Smittcamp is deeply involved in Valley service. He serves on the boards of Children’s Hospital Central California, Central Valley Community Bank (director), Garfield Water District, Fresno State Agricultural Food Science, Sigma Chi Foundation and Every Neighborhood Partnership.

Also being recognized as Outstanding Alumni at the 2014 Top Dog Alumni Awards Gala

Lacy Barnes (1988, ’91), Department of Athletics
Andrew Hoff (1973, ’75, ’78), College of Health and Human Services
James Melikian (1969) LIFE, College of Arts and Humanities
Harry Moore (1979) LIFE, Lyles College of Engineering
Tamsen Nichols Munger (1968), College of Science and Mathematics
Yolanda Partida (1976, ’77), Division of Graduate Studies
Kay Provost (1962) LIFE, Henry Madden Library
Todd Suntrapak (1992), College of Social Sciences
W. Richard Smith (1977), Kremen School of Education and Human Development
Scott Vick (1989, ’91) LIFE, Division of Student Affairs
Leo Wilson (1957), Craig School of Business
Rob Yraceburu (1984, ’90), Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology
1930s

1950s
Ronald H. Markarian (1953), a retired U.S. Air Force major general, was honored as the district’s 2014 Veteran of the Year at a ceremony in Sacramento.
Philipp V. Sanchez - 2 (1957, ’72), a former U.S. ambassador to Honduras and Colombia, had his 85th birthday celebrated by the Pinedale History Project.
Bill Stewart (1956) was appointed deputy chancellor of the State Center Community College District.

1960s
Dick Caglia (1965), owner of Electric Motor Shop, was presented the Leon S. Peters Award at the 2014 Valley Business Awards, sponsored by the Greater Fresno Chamber of Commerce.
Larry Duncan - 3 (1969), owner of iLOVETOCREATE, received the Harold Zinkin Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the 2014 Valley Business Awards, sponsored by the Greater Fresno Chamber of Commerce.
Augie Garrido - 4 (1961), a former Fresno State outfielder and current Texas coach, became the winningest coach in college baseball history.
Anthony R. Greico (1961) had his name added as a “Friend” to the National Air and Space Museum’s Wall of Honor.
Mathias “Matty” Matoian - 5 (1965) LIFE donated $500,000 to fund scholarships for Fresno State business and nursing students.
Sen. Jim Nielsen (1967) threw the ceremonial first shot to open the USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the State Capitol. He was a member of the 1964 Bulldogs, the first-ever national championship team at Fresno State.
Robert Oliver (1966), a retiring judge with the Superior Court of Fresno County, will be honored at the Champions of Justice, an annual event of Central California Legal Services.

1970s
Rod Anaforian (1974, ’92) is now director of sales for The Terraces at San Joaquin Gardens in Fresno.
Steve Belcher (1971) is now interim police chief in East Palo Alto.
Rick Bubnenik (1977), of Ricana Media Group, was named to the Fresno Advertising Federation Hall of Fame.
David Cehrs (1970, ’75) was guest speaker for Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno’s Town Hall.
Christine Vartanian Datian - 6 (1974), of Las Vegas, had her grilled chicken and bulgur salad recipe featured in Sunset magazine.
Joe Del Bosque (1975) hosted President Barack Obama at his farm in February to discuss the impact of the drought on California.

John E. Eiskamp (1978) was named Santa Cruz County Farmer of the Year.
Diana (Bates) Mock - 7 (1976) was named vice president for advancement and university relations at Fresno Pacific University.
Alberto Perez Jr. (1976) was inducted into the Reedley College Tiger Hall of Fame.
Reinhart Poprawe (1978), managing director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology in Aachen, Germany, has authored or co-authored nearly 100 presentations for the international society for optics and photonics.
Sam Sciacca (1971, ’72) is now part of the editorial advisory board for the Visalia Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register.
John H. Stanfield II (1973) is now distinguished professor of social sciences and public policies and founding director of Mokae International Development and Governance Research Institute at Botswana International University for Science and Technology.

1980s
Eric Andersen (1986) was promoted to supervisor of alternative education for Modesto City Schools.
Darius Assemi - 8 (1982), of Granville Homes, earned the J.U. Berry award for career contributions from the Fresno Advertising Federation.
Mark Astone - 9 (1988, 2000), CEO of Catalyst Marketing Co., was selected as the Pacific Regional Chapter Health Officer of Young Presidents Organization.
Brad Bargas (1987) is now the principal for Oak Creek Intermediate School.
Scott Barton - 10 (1982) serves as CEO and director of the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, which broke ground on its new African Adventure exhibit.
Darrell Copeland Jr. (1988) is now assistant vice president, special assets officer with Rabobank North America.
Elizabeth Diaz - 11 (1982) is now Fresno County’s public defender.
Annette Easton - 12 (1984) was appointed new chair for the management information systems at San Diego State University.
Mark Foote (1980) is now CEO for Madera Community Hospital.
Frank Gallegos (1987) was named executive director of Cen Cal Business Finance.
Diana Gomezez (1988), Central Valley Regional Director for California High-Speed Rail Authority, received the Jaime Oaxaca Award from the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.
Rick Hayden (1984) was appointed city manager for City of Santa Maria.
Roger I. Lane (1987) was elected fellow of the American College of Physicians.
Julie (Logan) Lindahl - 13 (1985) was named program director for Fresno State radio station 90.7 KFSR.
Bridget Naso (1986) is a military reporter for NBC San Diego.
Warren R. Paboojian (1980) of Baradat & Paboojian, Inc. was named one of the top 100 lawyers by Northern California Super Lawyers.
Brian Panish - 14 (1980), of Los Angeles, a former Bulldogs football standout, was named one of the top 100 lawyers in California by the Daily Journal.

Laurie Pramervara (1984) was named executive director of clinical services for Hinds Hospice.

Joel Ruble (1988) is now director of student services at West Hills College in Lemoore.

Rich Salvestrin (1987) was honored as Napa County Farm Bureau’s Outstanding Agriculturist of the year.

Janene Scully (1986) was named North County editor for Noozhawk in Santa Barbara.

Jeff Shaeffer (1988) is now sales manager for Benovia Winery in Santa Rosa.

Kathy Smith (1982) is now principal for St. Mary’s High School in Stockton.


Gary Watamura (1985) was named the new purchasing manager for the City of Fresno.

Steve Wray (1980), CEO of Cadient Group digital marketing in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, was named 2014 Main Line Chamber of Commerce CEO of the Year.

1990s

Paul J. Bauer (1995), a shareholder in the Valley-wide practice of Walter & Wilhelm Law Group, was named a Northern California Super Lawyer.

Brad Bell - 16 (1995), a pastor and former Fresno State football standout, authored "Walking with a Limp."

Jason S. Bell (1997) of Baradat & Paboojian, Inc. was named a Rising Star by Northern California Super Lawyers.

Drew Bassinger (1995) is now interim police chief for the City of Kingsburg.

Melinda Louise Bohannon - 17 (1994), a local teacher and author, released her novel, “Reckless Intentions,” the second part of the “Inner Society” trilogy.

Fred Cogan (1995) is now principal at Kingsburg High School.

Kristina Dritsas (1993) was promoted to partner at Morse, Wittwer, Sampson LLP.

Jason Freeman (1995, '97) led the First Congregational Church contingent in the 24th annual Rainbow Pride Parade in Fresno.

Tara Gomez (1998) is general manager and winemaker for Kita Wines in Santa Ynez Valley.

John J. Heber (1993) joined Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadef & Sitterson LLP. He is now assistant vice president for GEICO in Fresno.

Eddie Gifford (2002) is now assistant vice president for GEICO in Fresno.

Brandon Gonzales (2003) was recognized as a Top Producer by Coldwell Banker Premier R.E. Fresno for 2013.

Bryan Harley (2005) is facilities and operations manager for the Community Media Access Collaborative in Fresno.

Brenna (Wylie) Hughes - 20 (2006), team lead in acute speech-language pathology at Community Regional Medical Center, organized the first Central Valley Concussion Symposium.

Ash Knowlton (2005) of "The Mountaintop," a provocative play about the imagined final night of Martin Luther King Jr.

Gary McKenzie (2002) is now assistant vice president for GEICO in Fresno.

James Medina (2006) was named managing editor of the Ventura County Star.

Gary McKenzie (2002) is now assistant vice president for GEICO at the Fredericksburg, Virginia office.

Kate Mcknight (2003) portrayed Lady Macbeth in the Woodward Shakespeare Festival’s “Macbeth.”

Chantaia (Fleming) McIntyre (2004), former Fresno State basketball standout, was crowned Mrs. California.

Mike Nelson (2001) opened a new Nelson’s ACE hardware store in Kingsburg.
2000s continued

Connie M. Parker (2003) is now partner in the law firm Klein, DeNatale, Goldner, Cooper, Rosenlieb & Kimball LLP.
Heather Federsen (2006), neuropsychologist, has joined Northwestern Mental Health Center, Inc.
Oscar Ramos (2003) is owner of Ramos Torres Wines, the only winery in Kingsburg.
Briana Rempel (2009) was promoted to project manager at Vasquez Marshall Architects.
Nathan Sloan (2007) is now president of B-K Lighting and TEKA Illumination in Madera.
Marion Spearman (2004) was appointed warden at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Correctional Training Facility in Soledad.
Adam B. Stirrup (2003, ’05) of Baradat & Paboojian, Inc. has been named a Rising Star by Northern California Super Lawyers.
Andrew Ueland (2000) is now owner of the Hook & Ladder, a firefighter-themed establishment in Clovis.
Miles Gaston Villanueva (2008) recently appeared in two primetime television shows: BONES and NCIS.
Jennifer Vogt (2005) is now controller for Catalyst Marketing Company in Fresno.

2010s

Davante Adams (Alumnus), wide receiver, was drafted 53rd overall by the Green Bay Packers.
Jason Anthony (2010) won the 67th Fresno City Amateur golf tournament. He played for the Bulldogs from 2004-06.
Brenna Blagg (2011) is now a media buyer with Jeffrey Scott Agency in Fresno.
Roe Borunda (2014) was named College Entrepreneur of the Year from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce and has an 18-month contract as photo editor for USA Today Sports.
Nigel Burton (2014) is founder of the “Just Be Dope” company, a line of hats and a few T-shirts centered around a positive, be-yourself vibe.
Coreen (Aguilera) Campos (2012) was named CEO for Focus Forward, which serves youth in Fresno County.
Derek Carr (2013), quarterback, was drafted 36th overall by the Oakland Raiders and signed a four-year contract.
Jakeob Cooper (2014) was hired by O’Dell Engineering in Fresno to work in land surveying.
Chris Haynes (2011) is now Cleveland Plain-Dealer beat writer for the NBA’s Cleveland Cavs.
Jennifer Herges (2012) is the recipient of the 2014 Scouten Endowed Intern in English Literacy at Rochester Institute of Technology.
Francisco Marquez (2013) was named Yosemite High School band director.
Johnny Mendez Jr. (2012) is now a group sales account executive with the Seattle Storm of the WNBA.
Matt Morse (2010), of KMPH Fox 26, was named Professional of the Year by Fresno Advertising Federation.
Jason Sengsongkham (2012) is now community relations coordinator for the Marjaree Mason Center.
Priska Shirilalian (2012) is now owner of D&L Flowers on Blackstone and Minarets in Fresno, as well as two retail “huts.”
Russell Spafford (2011) is now executive director for the Highland Family YMCA.
Michael Vaughan (2012) is now teaching at Yosemite High School.
Jose Vera (2014) is a member of the inaugural class of California Health Sciences University in Clovis, the Valley’s first pharmacy school.
Michael A. White (2013) was selected as Woodward Community College president.

CURRENT

Denise Barnes, a military air transportation specialist, was named 2014 Miss Fresno County.
Jill Nolen attended the Transplant Games in July in Houston.

‘40 Under 40’ includes 16 alumni

Fresno’s Business Street Online “40 Under 40” Class of 2014 includes 16 Fresno State alumni who are honored as outstanding business professionals under age 40 in Central California:

Rocio Andrade (2012), Downtown Fresno Partnership
Sergio Cortes (2010), Agape Creative Studios
Michael Cruz (2009), Tioga-Sequoya Brewing Company
Cody Dixon (2009), Multi Marketing Corp.
Eddie Hughes (2005), senior editor/writer for FresnoState Magazine
Heather Jones (1999), Fresno County Superior Court
Henry Liang (2008), AECOM
Hilary Malveaux (Alumnus), Bertz-Rosa Design and Creative Fresno
Byron Mancilla (Alumnus), Fernando High School
Bill Perry (2005) was named research analyst for University Development.
Peter Robertson (1992, ’95, ’05) LEGACY delivered the keynote address titled “Agents of Change” at Fresno State’s inaugural LGBTQ Graduation Recognition Ceremony in May.
Melissa Tav (2007) is now communications specialist for the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State.
Cynthia Teniente-Matson (2013) was honored with the 31st annual Top Ten Professional Women and Top Business Award.
Jenny Toste (2011), is now social media specialist for University Communications. She was previously an Emmy Award-winning anchor for CBS 47.

Also included in the 2014 class is Lyndsey Scully Quist, associate director of development for Fresno State’s Craig School of Business.
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C5317
Fresno State’s softball stadium was renamed Margie Wright Diamond in May in honor of the 27-year Bulldogs coach. Wright is the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history, amassing 1,457 wins and leading the Bulldogs to a 1998 national championship, 10 Women’s College World Series and 17 conference titles.

– Joel Beery is a graphic designer for University Communications. He created this original oil painting.