

Celebrating **BULLDOGS** Who Make Us Proud



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As we near the close of Fresno State's 114th fall semester, it's the perfect time to reflect on the remarkable achievements that have shaped this academic year – and the legacy of our university. This edition of the Fresno State Magazine is a celebration of all that makes our university and our community the Pride of the Valley.

The cover story highlights the brilliance of our faculty, whose use of social media to educate audiences around the world has brought Fresno State to the global stage. This innovative approach to education underscores the far-reaching impact of our institution and the extraordinary talent of our faculty.

In these pages, you will also read about the exciting Wings of the City exhibit that brought world-renowned

art and culture to our campus, captivating students, faculty and visitors alike. You'll also discover how we are breaking ground on new student housing for the first time in 50 years, transforming the student experience and providing an affordable and dynamic environment where parent-scholars can thrive.

We are proud to showcase the incredible contributions of our alumni – from generation to generation – through the stories of Francisco Licea and Pat Hillman, whose dedication is making a difference across industries and communities. The achievements of alumni like these two continue to weave the thread of pride that ties our university to the Valley and beyond, ensuring the ever-present impact of a Fresno State education.

This edition of the Fresno State Magazine captures the essence

of what we value most – our deep connection to this community, our commitment to excellence and our shared Bulldog spirit. As you reflect on the stories in this issue, I know you will be reminded of the profound ways in which we are all connected through our shared pride in our university. As we close this semester and welcome the new year, I extend my gratitude to you – your support, commitment and spirit are the essence of the pride we celebrate at Fresno State.

Go 'Dogs!

Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Ph.D.
President, Fresno State



CONTENTS

Red Eye	2
Fresno State News Briefs	4
Engineering Summer Camp	10
Wings of the City	12
Influencers of Education	14
New Dorms	22
Advancing Nursing	24
Sports	26
Alumni Connections	32

Cover: Fresno State physics professor Dr. Raymond Hall leverages his social media following of 2 million people to expose the world to daily physics demonstrations using his collection of physics toys.

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Left: Hall's @physicsfun Instagram page has exploded in popularity since 2015, when he first noticed how much interest there was in his demonstrations.

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Fresno State serves the richly diverse region of Central California. We are proud to have the U.S. Department of Education designate our university as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution.

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

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Back in Black

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Fresno State debuted a new set of black uniforms for its "Fright Night" homecoming game on Oct. 26, a resounding 33-10 win over longtime rival San Jose State. It was the first time the Bulldogs have worn black uniforms since 2015.

Tarlton & Son construction, based in Fresno, played a significant role in making the new uniforms possible. The look featured a never-before-seen twist – a black helmet with a red Bulldogs script logo. Mini helmets are available for purchase at retailers including Kennel Marketplace and Bulldog Locker.

An above capacity crowd of 41,343 watched the Bulldogs win back the Valley Trophy, marking the Bulldogs' third sellout in their first four home games this season. Fresno State leads the Mountain West and Group of Five in attendance.



**Fresno State's
Economic Impact:
\$1 billion**

Fresno State is a powerful engine of prosperity for the San Joaquin Valley, generating close to \$1 billion dollars of annual economic activity, according to a new economic impact report produced by the Craig School of Business.

Among the key findings in the report – economic activity by Fresno State and its auxiliaries generates an annual average of \$954 million in business sales and \$391 million in worker income, while supporting nearly 11,000 jobs. University-related activities generate over \$49 million in annual tax revenue for the State of California and the San Joaquin Valley counties of Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare.

The report also found that Fresno State is a profitable investment for California taxpayers – the annual rate of return on state support for the university equals 6.23%.

“We’re deeply proud that Fresno State is a catalyst for economic growth in our region – our educational mission is foundational for even greater long-term success,” says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. “From increasing the earning power and social mobility of our students to educating the innovators, knowledge workers and business creators of the future, Fresno State is the keystone to uplifting the lives of everyone in the Valley. This report confirms the transformational power of Fresno State.”



The economic impact report, conducted by Dr. Antonio Avalos, chair of the Economics Department, researched the total effect of university spending and employment on San Joaquin Valley business sales, worker income, job creation and tax revenue. The study was based on average data from the 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal years. Student spending was also included as part of the economic activity of the university.

The report measured not just immediate economic impact, but also the ripple effects caused by Fresno State’s economic activity. When the university pays salaries to its employees, these employees spend their earnings at local businesses, adding to the Valley’s business earnings and supporting more local jobs, and workers from these local businesses in turn create more economic activity. University purchases from local vendors create the same ripple effects. Fresno State is at the center of a dense ecosystem of economic activity that nourishes the entire Valley.

“By measuring the ripple effects of a university’s economic impact, which capture business sales and job creation beyond the campus,

institutions and policymakers can make informed decisions, justify investments and better understand the broader economic and social benefits of higher education,” Avalos says.

Fresno State’s large impact on the regional economy is in part because of the sheer size of the university. With more than 25,000 students and about 2,400 faculty and staff, the Fresno State community represents 1.5% of the inhabitants of the San Joaquin Valley – the equivalent of a city the size of Dinuba or Corcoran.

As the Valley’s leading public university, Fresno State provides a long-term lift to the regional economy. Avalos cites U.S. Census Bureau data showing that every 10% increase in the number of bachelor’s degrees produces an increase of more than \$17,500 in state median income. Better education also produces better social outcomes in terms of health, general wellbeing and community involvement.

For students, a Fresno State education means a lifetime of higher earnings – the equivalent of an investment paying 8.21% annual interest.

– *Jaguar Bennett*

**Mandela
Monument
Unveiled**

The joyful sounds of the African Drum Interactive moved through the Fresno State Peace Garden like a chorus of exuberant heartbeats on Sept. 12, kicking off the unveiling ceremony for the latest addition to the monument statues honoring peacemakers from around the globe.

A life-sized bronze statue of anti-apartheid activist, former South African president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela stands just east of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. statue, facing the Fresno State Library from in front of the Professional Human Services building. This is the first new statue added to the garden in nearly 20 years.

“Nelson Mandela is a magnificent addition to our Peace Garden, as he believed in the power that education has to forge a socially conscious individual who works for an equitable world,” says Fresno State President

Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. “With his core belief in the power of the individual, Mandela will inspire our students to reach new levels of excellence, which in turn will enrich all of our diverse communities and world.”

The statue design was initially led by Colorado artist Ed Dwight, a military fighter pilot with the U.S. Air Force and America’s first Black astronaut candidate. When Dwight was unable to continue with the project, Jose Lopez – a Fresno State graduate art student – carried Dwight’s vision to completion with support from art and design professor Ed Gillum.

The statue features incredible details, from the intricate designs on Mandela’s African-patterned shirt to the laces on his shoes. Mandela’s trademark broad grin lights up his face as he raises his right fist in solidarity with his country men and women in the struggle against oppression.

The Mandela statue joins those honoring Mahatma Gandhi (installed in 1990), Cesar Chavez (1996), the



◀ Nelson Mandela statue

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1999) and Jane Addams (2006).

Dr. Siyabulela Mandela, a human rights scholar, delivered a keynote address titled “Reconciliation: Fostering Peace Through a Search for Common Grounds.”

Dr. Veena Howard, a philosophy professor, chair of the Department of Philosophy and endowed chair in Jain and Hindu Dharma and the director of the M.K. Gandhi Center: Inner Peace and Sarvodaya, wrote an op-ed column for The Fresno Bee, explaining the significance of the Mandela Monument at Fresno State. Howard organized the unveiling event and acted as emcee.

“Mandela may have lived thousands of miles away, but his lessons on truth and reconciliation resonate globally and locally, here in the Central Valley,” Howard wrote. “His lifelong commitment to justice, unity and healing transcends geographic boundaries, offering valuable guidance for communities everywhere. Fresno State’s Peace Garden with the new monument to Mandela offers powerful examples to our students and community of how the path of resistance to injustice, reconciliation, open communication and empathy can help bridge divides and foster lasting change, right here at home.”

– *Lisa Bell*



▶ Dr. Siyabulela Mandela

Cary Edmondson

DONOR IMPACT

Second-highest Fundraising Year on Record

Thanks to the generous support of Fresno State alumni, partners and community organizations, gifts to the university during the 2023-24 academic year hit the second-highest amount ever – \$38.8 million.

The total includes \$28.9 million for academics and \$9.9 million for athletics. That’s a 34.52% increase in overall giving from the year before.

“Our alumni, friends and community support us because they value the great contributions of Fresno State, and they clearly see how their donation is meaningful in helping to transform the educational experience of our talented students. This support is thanks to donors who understand that Fresno State elevates our region’s quality of life; the stronger our investment in the education of Fresno State students, the stronger the social and economic vitality of our region.”

– Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval
President, Fresno State

Philanthropy touched all areas of the university last year from college-specific programs such as those in science and mathematics to student scholarships, student needs and professional development. **Here’s a look at some of the noteworthy gifts from the past year:**

- **\$5 million from alumnus Larry Phillips** via a planned gift to support endowed scholarships in the Craig School of Business and athletics.
- **\$500,000 from the Tcherkoyan Family Trust**, honoring the lives of Greg and Seta Tcherkoyan, to establish a scholarship for students transferring to Fresno State from community colleges.
- **\$100,000 from the Person family**, in honor of their parents, to establish the Molly and Bill Person Mathematics Outreach Fund supporting enrichment, outreach and engagement activities benefitting K-12 students in the community.
- **\$50,000 via a donor-advised fund** recommended by alumni Chris Morse and Ken Wittwer to support the Moss Adams Series for Student Professional Development in the Craig School of Business. Through the program, students learn business etiquette along with interviewing, communication and networking skills to successfully navigate today’s competitive workplace.

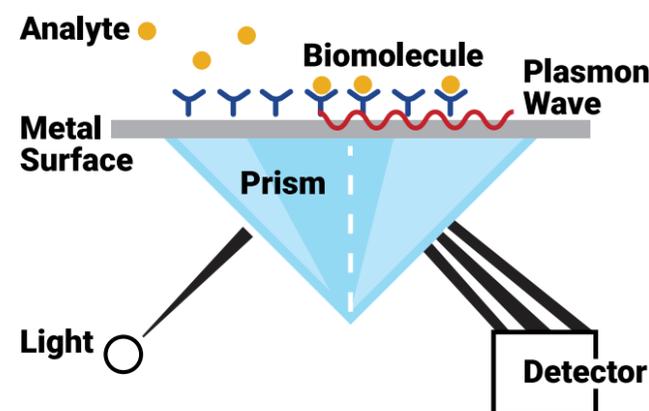
“Fresno State has achieved remarkable success this year, celebrating the second-best fundraising year in its history,” says Brady Crook, vice president for University Advancement at Fresno State. “This accomplishment reflects the incredible generosity of our community and the unwavering spirit of support that fuels our mission to empower students and transform lives. For that, we are deeply grateful for the tremendous support of our philanthropic partners.”

– BoNhia Lee

New Research Funding Record

Dr. Cory Brooks (pictured, right) and his colleagues are a step closer to creating a facility at Fresno State where researchers from across the California State University system and the greater community can measure protein interactions.

Thanks to a \$242,073 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Brooks and three other Fresno State biochemistry faculty were able to acquire a surface plasmon resonance instrument platform. Think of it as a fancy laser system with a prism, Brooks says. A sample is placed on the surface, a light shines through it and the reflected light intensity is measured.



▲ Illustrative example of surface plasmon resonance

The award was one of 434 grants and contracts that Fresno State received during the 2023-24 academic year for a total of \$78.3 million, setting another research and grant funding record for the sixth consecutive year.

That’s a 10.8% increase in funding over the previous year to support academic research, provide internship opportunities, offer mentorship programs, purchase equipment and more.

Brooks, who has taught biochemistry at Fresno State since 2013, specializes in researching antibodies for treating pancreatic cancer. In the past, he has had to collaborate with other universities and institutions to measure protein interactions.

“Now, we can bring that capability here. That’s very exciting,” Brooks says. “These instruments have been around for a long time but most of the instruments have very expensive maintenance associated with them. This one, because of the design, requires basically zero maintenance, so it’s perfect for undergraduate research.”



Maurice Ndole

The grants awarded to Fresno State varied in amounts and came from a variety of nationally known federal, state and private agencies. Among the notable grants and contracts from the past year are:

- **\$5 million from the Mellon Foundation** to the College of Arts and Humanities to design, implement and scale an internship program for humanities majors that will allow them to put theories learned during coursework into practice.
- **\$200,000 from the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship** to political science professor Dr. Lisa Bryant, who was named as one of 28 Andrew Carnegie Fellows. The stipend is to be used for research related to political polarization.
- **\$226,951 for continued funding from the California Department of Health Care Services** to Fresno Family Counseling Center’s Mentored Internship Program. The counseling center provides services to Fresno County residents and is a training program for Fresno State’s Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling program.

In 2022, Fresno State earned an R2 designation as a “Doctoral University – High Research Activity” by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, highlighting a significant commitment to growing research activities at Fresno State.

“I am energized by the remarkable strides our institution continues to make in research productivity. As an R2 institute, our dynamic faculty, staff, administrators and innovative students are driving impactful scholarship and creativity across disciplines,” says Dr. Joy J. Goto, interim dean of the Division of Research and Graduate Studies at Fresno State. “This growing momentum is a testament to our commitment to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment that fuels academic and societal advancements.”

– BoNhia Lee

CLUB HOPPING

Nothing Boring About Board Games

Since it began in fall 2021 after the pandemic, the Fresno State Bulldog Board Games Club is a space for people to socialize in a low-stress environment through the medium of board games. Students of any major who share a love for drawing cards, sinking battleships or rolling dice are welcome to play their hand at a wide selection of games. Even after graduating, some members

of the club maintain their friendships through the club’s Discord channel and continue to participate in the meetings.

In addition to meeting on Fridays, the club hosts a variety of gaming tournaments, not limited to board games. From Magic the Gathering to Super Smash Bros., the club offers a wide variety of games where there’s an option for anyone.

“Sometimes we’re playing games, sometimes we’re not,” says club president Tyler Boyd. “Sometimes

we’ll set out a game and not even really play it. We’ll just be going one turn every 10 minutes because we’re just chatting.”

– Olivia Pape



Scan QR code to watch a YouTube feature about the Bulldog Board Games Club.



Cheers, *Red Wave!*

Fresno State athletics and Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Company debuted Red Wave Light Lager, the officially licensed craft beer of Fresno State, this fall just in time for tailgating season.

Red Wave Light Lager is named in honor of the fan base that has backed Fresno State athletics for generations. The locally crafted lager represents the Bulldog Spirit and passion that permeates throughout the Central Valley and the beloved hometown team that unites the Valley.

“We are thrilled to introduce Red Wave Light Lager as the official craft beer of Fresno State athletics,” says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. “This collaboration with Tioga-Sequoia Brewing Company is a testament to the unyielding spirit and loyalty of the Red Wave fan base. It’s more than just a beer; it’s a celebration of our community, our traditions and the Bulldog pride that unites us all.”

Royalties from every beer sold will generate revenue to support university students and programs.

The Red Wave Light Lager can is easy to identify, adorned in red with Bulldog branding and a checkerboard stripe representing the pride and tradition of Fresno State athletics.

Red Wave Light Lager is available for purchase in select locations, such as Save Mart Supermarkets locations throughout the Central Valley and at bars and restaurants like Dog House Grill. It is also served at Valley Children’s Stadium during home football games and at Tioga Sequoia’s taprooms in downtown Fresno and Merced.

– Eddie Hughes



COURSE SPOTLIGHT

Biology 125: Plant Taxonomy

Biology at Fresno State is multifaceted, though a majority of students are interested in health careers. This was true for recent graduate Giovanna Munoz-Gonzalez, who wanted to become a dentist, until she discovered a love for plants after taking numerous biology courses.

One of her most influential courses, and one that solidified her confidence as a biologist, was Dr. Katherine Waselkov’s plant taxonomy class. In this course, also known as Biology 125, students conduct fieldwork and collect flowering plants to bring back to the lab for dissection and identification before they press, categorize and digitize them for inclusion in the Fresno State Herbarium.

The herbarium has a collection of 40,000 pressed flowers and plants on paper that represent the diversity of plant species in the Central Valley and surrounding environments, dating to

the late 1800s. The herbarium was established in 1925 by Dr. Charles H. Quibell, who was a biology professor at Fresno State.

Biology at Fresno State covers everything from the workings of molecular and cellular biology to the structure, conservation and restoration of ecosystems. About 75% of the students who take Waselkov’s courses are interested in health careers while the other 25% are attuned to other possibilities, she said.

– BoNhia Lee

Scan the QR code or visit stories.fresnostate.edu to learn more about this course.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Ag Business Student Receives CSU Trustees’ Award

Anthony Agueda recalls Christmas mornings of his childhood – spent working on his family’s dairy farm with his siblings, cousins, uncles, father and grandfather. “Cows, and agriculture, in general, require around-the-clock care,” Agueda says. “It isn’t a job, it’s a way of life.”

Located in Stanislaus County, Alberto Dairy has been in Agueda’s family for three generations.

Agueda says, “My grandfather immigrated here at 19 from the Azores

islands in Portugal, with nothing but his suitcase. He worked three jobs in agriculture and went back after five years, to marry my grandmother. They moved back to America and started the dairy in 1981.”

Agueda and his family have maintained a close relationship as they’ve worked together to run the family farm. It was Agueda’s grandfather who taught him how to properly feed cows and his father who taught him about cow care.

When Agueda was notified he had been selected as one of the recipients of this year’s CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement, his grandparents were the first people he shared the news with.

Established in 1984, the CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement is the California State University’s highest recognition for students, awarding superior academic performance, personal accomplishments and community service.

Agueda was recognized by the California State University system as one of 23 students (one from each campus) to receive this award, at a formal ceremony at the CSU Chancellor’s office in Long Beach on Sept. 24.

While a student, Agueda has been active in the agricultural community, serving with Fresno State’s Agricultural Business Club and Dairy Science Club and California Dairy Leaders Program, as well as volunteering with Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and California Milk Advisory Board.

Through his volunteer work, Agueda has hosted virtual dairy farm tours for students nationwide and coordinated milk drives during Hunger Action Month for five years, personally delivering thousands of gallons of milk to local food banks to support nutritional needs of Valley children.

– Marisa Mata

AROUND THE FOUNTAIN



54-ever

A two-time All-American linebacker at Fresno State, Ron Cox had his No. 54 jersey added to the Ring of Honor at Valley Children’s Stadium on Oct. 26, becoming the first full-time defensive player to earn the honor. Cox’s 28 sacks in a season in 1989, and 50 sacks overall, are perhaps the most untouchable marks in the Fresno State record book. Cox went on to play six years for the Chicago Bears and one year for the Green Bay Packers, winning the 1997 Super Bowl.



Supporting Student-Parents

The Student Health and Counseling Center supported more than 450 children of Fresno State students with school supplies. With an estimated 1 in 5 college students being student parents, parent-scholars face unique challenges. By offering items like backpacks, pens, pencils, highlighters, crayons, notebooks and binders, the effort ensured these families have a few less things to worry about.



‘Happiness’ Docuseries

The philosophy of Ubuntu, the African form of wisdom that emphasizes interconnectedness and community as a way of life, was featured during Fresno State Africana studies professor Michael Onyebuchi Eze’s appearance on Max Joseph’s “Happiness” docuseries on YouTube. Eze makes an appearance on the third episode of the series titled “Happiness: The Philosophical Secret to Happiness.”

Wellness Vending Machine

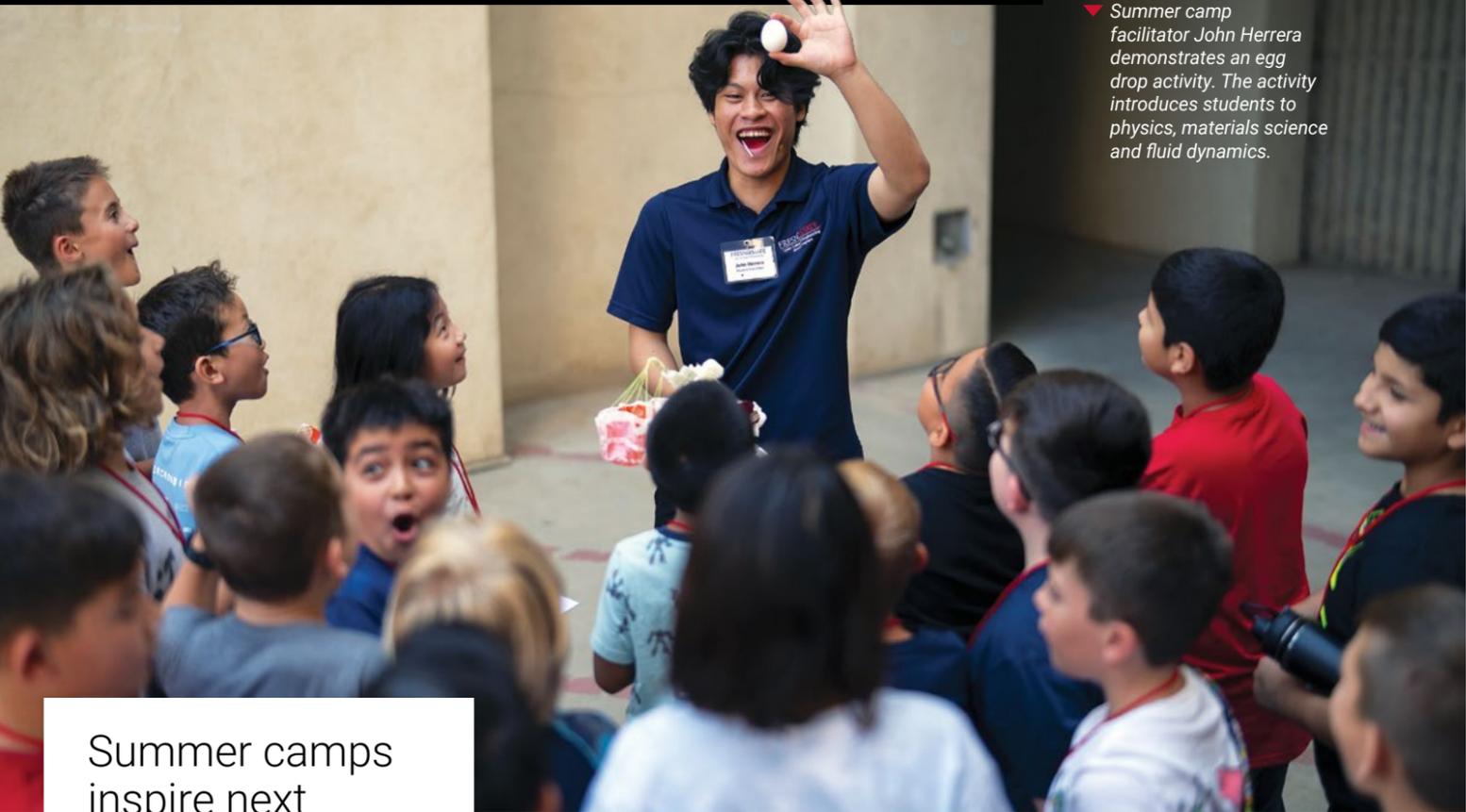
Fresno State introduced a new wellness-to-go vending machine this fall, located in the Resnick Student Union. Students can access over-the-counter medications; hygiene supplies like menstrual kits, chapstick, deodorant; at-home COVID tests; and harm-reduction products including Narcan and fentanyl test strips, for free or at a low cost.



Judge and ‘PAW Patrol’

Fresno State alumnus and New York Yankees home run king Aaron Judge appeared on an August episode of the “PAW Patrol” spinoff, “Rubble & Crew.” Judge voiced himself in the Nickelodeon airing, saying he understands the importance of reaching kids and teaching teamwork.

Students of Today, Engineers of Tomorrow



▼ Summer camp facilitator John Herrera demonstrates an egg drop activity. The activity introduces students to physics, materials science and fluid dynamics.

Summer camps inspire next generation of engineers

By Yesenia Fuentes ('18)

For many, summer break is a time for vacation and relaxation. For the Lyles College of Engineering, it's a time to demonstrate the endless possibilities in engineering to K-12 students.

Over four weeks in June and July, elementary, middle school and high school students participated in hands-on activities combined with academic lectures and field trips covering various topics such as engineering, construction management and architectural studies.

"Our goal is to expose a community of students from diverse backgrounds to engineering disciplines and Fresno State," says Hernan Maldonado, director of the Lyles College Pathways Student Services. "Through these camps, they are hearing from our professors firsthand about what they can do in the industry with a degree in engineering or construction management."

Engineering summer camps at Fresno State began in 2010 with just 20 high school students. Maldonado says the lack of engineering pathways programs in high schools at the time sparked the creation of the camps.

A middle school session was soon added and, in 2021, the camps expanded to include sessions for elementary school students. Over the years, enrollment has grown to reach a maximum capacity of 42 students per session with waiting lists of up to 20 students.



This year's summer camp brought students from as far as San Diego, Riverside and the Bay Area to the Valley.

"We get a lot of great feedback from the students and their parents, and we have had many students who are excited to come back and participate multiple times," Maldonado says. "We also always get a good number of students from the camps that end up enrolling and being part of the Lyles College of Engineering, so that's really exciting because we're seeing that it's making an impact, and it's actually producing students for our college."

Maldonado works closely with Lyles College faculty to develop camp activities that incorporate hot topics such as cybersecurity, aerospace, automotive engineering and structural activities. This year's camp included a field trip to the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Whether it's something completely new or something they've seen on TV, Maldonado aims to keep it exciting for the students. He says Fresno State student facilitators also play a key

role in the camps because they bond with the K-12 students and share what college life is like.

Yue Yang is an international student from China who is pursuing a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering. She served as a facilitator for this year's camp as a way to give back to the college for helping her grow professionally and personally.

"This college is the best decision I made to start my engineering journey as an individual with a limited background in this country," Yang says. "I want to give back, and I hope more and more young generations are interested in studying technologies and engineering at Fresno State."

For Mariano Gutierrez, 6, his favorite moments of camp were building his own drawing robot, eating at the dining hall and meeting Victor E. Bulldog IV, Fresno State's live mascot.

"Our child has always been a hands-on learner and intrigued with how things work," says Lorena Calderon, Mariano's mother. "He enjoyed learning how things are built through trial and error. The program really showcased the many careers in engineering and

opened the possibilities of so many future paths."

Calderon says the camp builds self-confidence at this age level. Learning new material and then getting to apply it on a project along with student staff really helped her son believe in himself.

"As someone who works in education, and as first-generation parents, we appreciate Fresno State's programs," Calderon says. "We know what a difference the program makes on students, especially at a young age when they are just starting their educational journey. What a great way for them to start building a good foundation for their future successes."

— Yesenia Fuentes is a communications specialist in the Lyles College of Engineering at Fresno State.



Scan QR code to watch a YouTube feature about the Engineering summer camp.



▼ Campers glue together plastic straws and paper parachutes to assemble a shield to protect an egg and prevent it from breaking when dropped an activity.

"Our goal is to expose a community of students from diverse backgrounds to engineering disciplines and Fresno State."

— Hernan Maldonado

Director, Lyles College Pathways Student Services



Cary Edmondson

Spreading Their Wings

International public art exhibit 'Wings of the City' lands at Fresno State

By Benjamin Kirk ('22)

Bronze, mythical creatures have taken perch on Fresno State's campus, silently watching the bustle of campus life. With wings unfurled or caught in mid-motion, the beings invoke curiosity, potential and empathy while inviting individual interpretation and meaning in their existence.

The five bronze sculptures are centrally showcased along the Maple Mall and will remain for the enjoyment and enrichment of students and community through August 2025.

"The fact that California State University, Fresno, is exhibiting, for the first time, an exhibition by a Mexican sculptor and that, in addition, it chooses to place the pieces in an iconic place on campus, shows that the university understands and recognizes that the Mexican and Latino community constitute a significant part of the region's culture," artist Jorge Marín says. "It is my hope that students of all disciplines find in my work an open window towards self-knowledge and universal artistic culture, generating knowledge and ways to promote diversity."

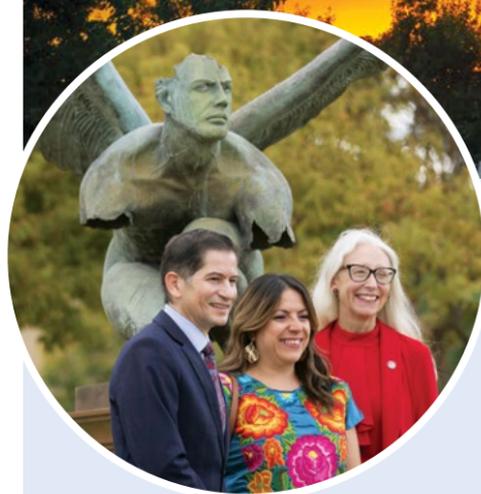
"Wings of the City" was officially introduced to the community on

Sept. 16. In 2010, "Wings of the City" was originally exhibited in Marín's home country of Mexico and since then, has traveled around the world through cities in the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and, now, Fresno.

"We are elated to host the year-long exhibition 'Wings of the City' along our Maple Mall, showcasing five stunning bronze sculptures by renowned Mexican artist Jorge Marín. The exhibition provides us with an educational and cultural opportunity to further understand modern Mexico," says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. "This is a tremendous honor, and I am thankful to the Consul Nuria P. Zuñiga Alaniz and the Center for Creativity and the Arts for bringing this unique experience to the Central Valley."

Hosted by the Center for Creativity and the Arts at Fresno State, "Wings of the City" expands beyond the walls of museums and galleries and becomes embedded into the community.

"The wonderful 'Wings of the City' installation along the Maple Mall reminds me of what many Greek and Roman cities must have looked like in their heyday, with great public sculptural programs to inspire the people with the myths and legends of their gods and heroes," says Dr. Honora Chapman, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at Fresno State. "I find our students' hope, inspiration, freedom and dreams



▲ Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval was joined by Nuria P. Zuñiga Alaniz, head consul at Consulate of Mexico in Fresno, and Dr. Honora Chapman, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at a press conference introducing the public to the art exhibition.

"The wonderful 'Wings of the City' installation along the Maple Mall reminds me of what many Greek and Roman cities must have looked like in their heyday, with great public sculptural programs to inspire the people with the myths and legends of their gods and heroes."

– Dr. Honora Chapman

Dean, College of Arts & Humanities

about to take flight in these gorgeous bronze sculptures."

The exhibition enables a vital link between student artists and community members, facilitating an environment in which visitors can unexpectedly engage with art and reflect on its significance. Through exposure to art and culture on campus, students and the greater community can explore new avenues of creativity that can shape their professional trajectories.

"The symbolism of wings has a strong association with mythology and spirituality that transcends cultural and religious boundaries," says Chris Lopez, director of the Center for Creativity and the Arts at Fresno State. "I am looking forward to inviting K-12 groups and other local art organizations to see this exhibit on campus."

The exhibit is sponsored by México Consulado en Fresno, Diplomacia Cultural de México and

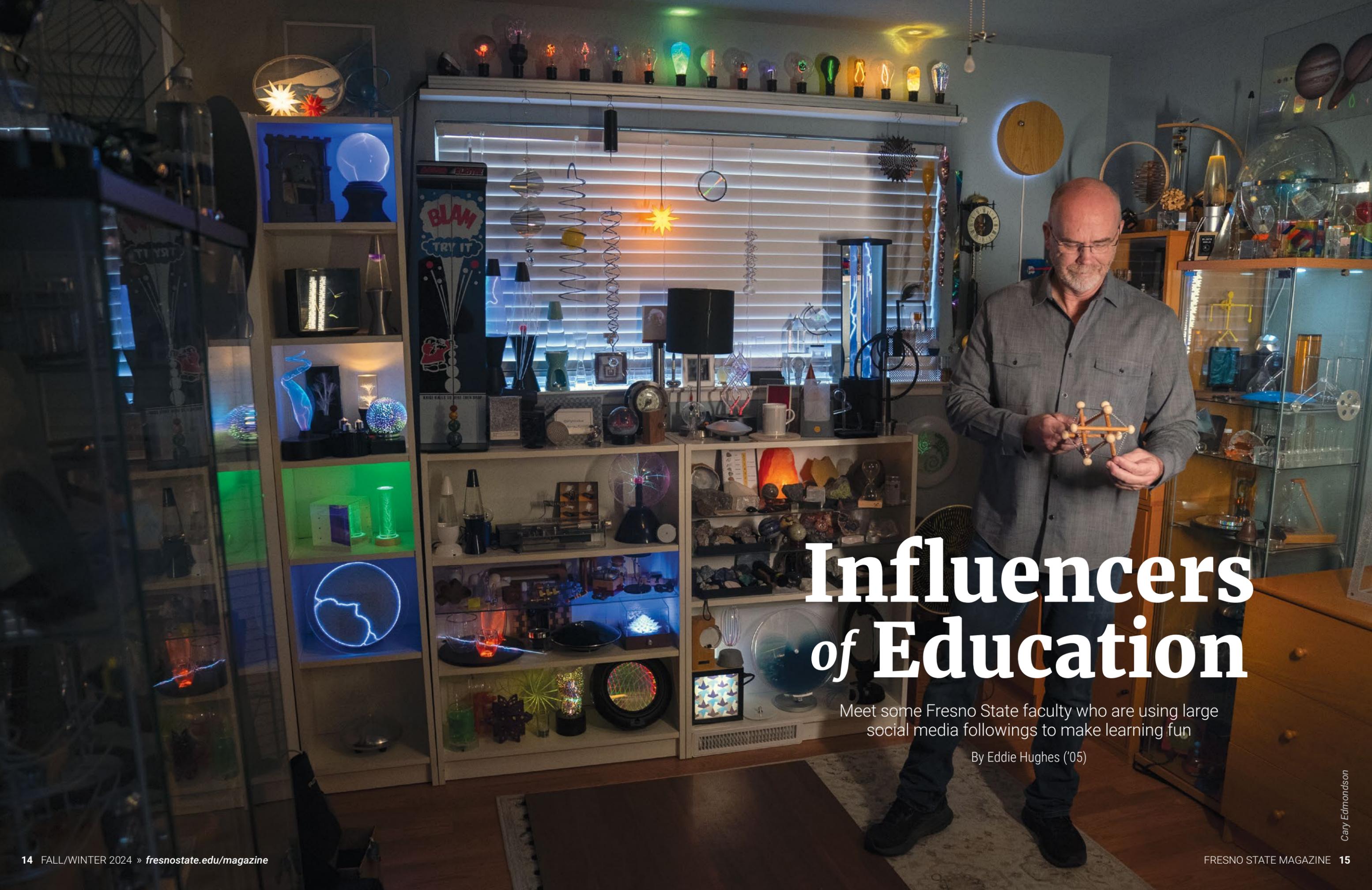
the Instructionally Related Activities program at Fresno State.

– Benjamin Kirk is a communications specialist in the College of Arts and Humanities at Fresno State.



Scan QR code to find out more about the Wings of the City exhibit.



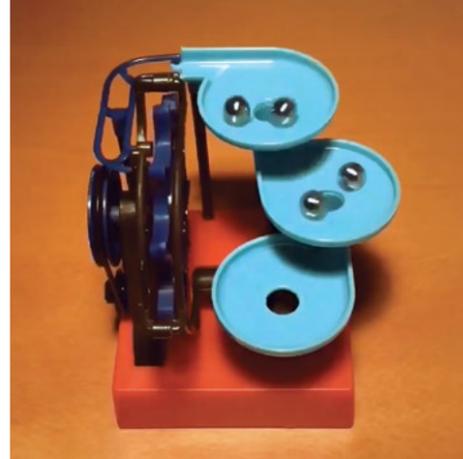


Influencers of Education

Meet some Fresno State faculty who are using large social media followings to make learning fun

By Eddie Hughes ('05)

Cary Edmondson



▲ Dr. Raymond Hall estimates he has the largest collection of physics and math toys in the world with more than 1,500.

Inside a spare room of his Fresno home, Dr. Raymond Hall stands amid hundreds of physics toys on display, eager to share them with anyone who shows curiosity.

Along the wall sits a light brown piece of IKEA furniture – with a wood-grained top that has become a trademark of sorts for Hall’s demonstrations on Instagram, where his @physicsfun account has 2 million followers. *Yes, 2 million!* He also has a Facebook presence with 731,000 followers and a YouTube channel with 610,000 subscribers.

Hall estimates he has the largest collection of physics and math toys in the world – more than 1,500. He maintains a spreadsheet to account for every one of them.

At any given time, Hall keeps plenty of the physics toys on hand in his McLane Hall office on campus at

Fresno State. Currently, about 60 toys from his collection are on display as part of the “No Prior Art” exhibit at the Los Angeles Public Library.

But the overwhelming – emphasis on overwhelming – majority of his toys are on display in a spare room at his home that doubles as his video studio for his social media posts. “One room has all the toys laid out,” Hall says. “The full view of my eccentricity is on display here. There may be a bit of madness going on here.”

The madness has captivated quite the audience. He uses toys, both new and vintage, to demonstrate concepts like magnetic levitation, holography and rotational kinetic energy. Toys like a tippy top, clacker or gyroscope may look familiar, while others may be more unique or rare. Regardless, viewers will gain deeper insight into the science behind the demonstrations, what properties or scientific laws make

things work the way they do and, oftentimes, who designed the toys or discovered the principles behind them.

“Physicists are kind of like kids who never grew up, in some ways” Hall says. “Our curiosity just never faded. We never stopped asking why.”

Origin of the Physics Toys

Hall’s collection of physics toys started when he was a graduate student. After earning his bachelor’s degree at Fresno State in 1988, he attended University of California, Riverside for his doctoral degree. While visiting his uncle in Occidental, he noticed a small toy store. “I went in there and saw some of the interesting toys they had on display. They were earthy, organic toys. I found a few that I realized, ‘oh, I could really demonstrate physics with that.’”

Later, while serving as a researcher and lecturer at University of California, Irvine, Hall applied to teach night classes at nearby Saddleback College to gain experience in the classroom. During his job interview, he used a clacker toy to demonstrate Newton’s third law – for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

When he interviewed for his first faculty job at Fresno State in 1999, he gave a similar teaching demonstration.

“I think that part of the interview really helped me get both jobs. I passed the toy around. It’s my enthusiasm and using physics toys as a teaching tool that got me my university teaching gigs,” says Hall, who also serves as chair of the Academic Senate at Fresno State.

Hall spent his early high school years in Covina, before moving to Boulder City, Nevada. His father and grandfather were mechanically inclined,

but Hall and his brother, also a Fresno State alumnus, are first-generation graduates. Hall has three children and four stepdaughters, including his youngest daughter who is now a physics professor at Chico State.

During his undergraduate years at Fresno State, Hall was further inspired by physics professor emeritus Dr. Manfred Bucher. “His class was centered on every five minutes being another demonstration,” Hall says. “You don’t just write it on the board, you manipulate something, and you get the students to invest – what do you think is going to happen next?”

Discovering Social Media

Hall, who is married to Dr. Katie Dyer, a child and family science

professor at Fresno State, remembers the day he showed his stepdaughter a toy called a tippy top. When spun, it eventually jumps up on its stem. “I demonstrated this on a tabletop, and she took a video and posted it on her Instagram. Being a high school kid, she had a few hundred friends on social media, and she goes, ‘Look, 800 people liked this post!’”

“I soon after took a more controlled video and posted it. It got some likes, and I thought, ‘I have some other things just as interesting as that.’”

By the time he made 50 posts, in 2015, he had about 6,000 followers. Then, one of his videos went viral on Reddit. “I went from 6,000 followers to 20,000 followers in like three days. That’s what convinced me to start posting on a daily basis and it started to grow organically.”



▶ Dr. Raymond Hall’s first social media post was a demonstration of a tippy top. When spun, it eventually jumps up on its stem.

@physicsfun    

Cary Edmondson



▲ Dr. Raymond Hall's post showing a perpetual motion simulator, in which a ball rotates in a circle before rolling down a ramp and shooting back up to the funnel, generated hundreds of millions of views across platforms.

By 2017, his Instagram had grown to 1 million followers – including Elon Musk, Adam Savage and Neil Patrick Harris.

Hall is able to monetize some of the content he produces, like his post of a perpetual motion simulator in which a ball rotates in a circle before rolling down a ramp and shooting back up to the funnel that got millions of views. "Any money I do make feeds the loop and exacerbates the madness," he says. "I'm running out of space to put things in my house."

Hall says the whole point of these demonstrations is to surprise people and spark curiosity about why things work the way they do. "All the CGI and movies these days, with Harry Potter levitating things and flying about, people think they've seen it before. That's fake. That's pretend," he says.

"Physics is the real magic."

For followers of his Instagram page, that quote is the one that sums it all up – it's the tagline on his page, after all.

"Physics is the real magic."

– Dr. Raymond Hall

Physics professor,
chair of Academic Senate,
Fresno State



▲ The professor's collection of physics toys started when he was a graduate student visiting his uncle in Occidental. He noticed some interesting toys on display at a small toy store and realized, "Oh, I could really demonstrate physics with that."



Giving Math Social Appeal

Hall isn't the only Fresno State faculty member – or the only one in the university's College of Science and Mathematics – influencing the masses on social media.

Howie Hua is so excited to announce that he is a math instructor at Fresno State. Go Bulldogs!

Anyone who frequents Hua's social media channels might recognize that as one of Hua's favorite running jokes. Any time he visits another campus, be it Maryland, Northwestern or Wisconsin, he posts a photo and says something like, "I am SO excited to announce that I am now a math instructor at the University of

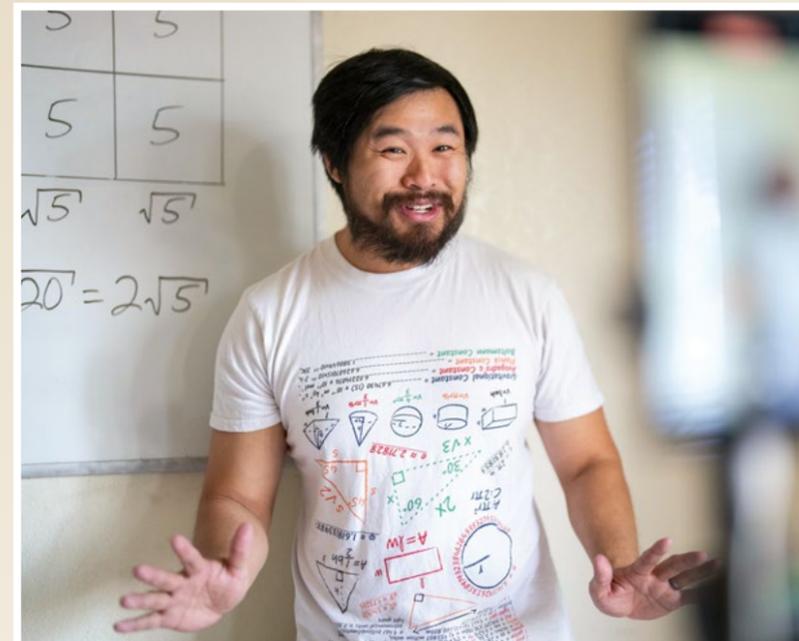
Maryland! Go Terrapins! I didn't get a job here or anything, I'm just a math instructor physically on their campus."

But Fresno State is the campus he truly calls home. He earned a bachelor's and master's at Fresno State while playing clarinet in the Bulldog Marching Band and wind orchestra, and has taught math on campus full-time since 2016.

Perhaps most impressively, Hua has built a following of almost 100,000 on TikTok and 90,000 on X (formerly Twitter). "I teach math to future elementary school teachers at Fresno State. I make math memes and explainer videos," reads the X bio for @howie_hua.

▲ Howie Hua, who teaches math at Fresno State, was honored with the Provost's Award for Outstanding Lecturer earlier this year.





Cary Edmondson

“I make videos that make math understandable because I think math is so much more than tricks. In a lot of my videos, I explain why things work.”

– **Howie Hua**
Math lecturer,
Fresno State

@howie_hua

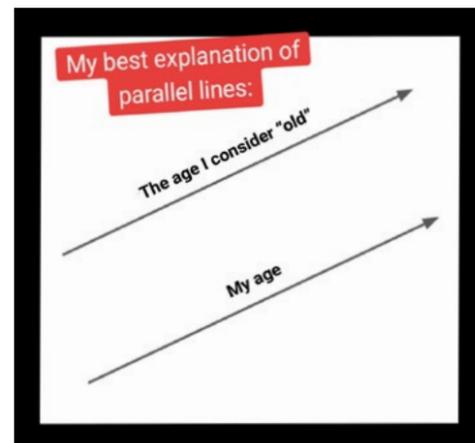
“The kids are already there anyways, I might as well teach them something,” says Hua of social media. “I like to be a lifelong teacher, so I like to teach my past students. I have a newsletter of around 500 past students where I still keep in touch with them. I emailed them saying, ‘hey, if you still want to learn from me, follow me on TikTok.’”

His social media presence is both fun and informative, featuring short, interesting math lessons and tricks. In many videos, he is wearing a funny math-related shirt, and he is also known for his math memes.

Hua films most of his content in the living room of his northeast Fresno apartment. He has a small, vertical whiteboard on the wall near his sofa. He sets his phone on a tripod with a mic and presses record. As soon as he writes the equation or formula on the board, his bubbly personality takes over, and he starts and stops himself until he delivers the day’s lesson exactly how he wants to.

“I’m just tired of a lot of education being behind a paywall, so I try to give everything I know for free,” Hua says.

He started using Twitter in 2017, and added TikTok in 2020 because



▲ In addition to his quick, informative social media math lessons on a whiteboard, Howie Hua is also known for his funny math memes, like the one above.

he thought math could be marketed better. He estimates there are about 20 people teaching math on social media. Hua has found his niche in sharing new or unique ways of solving problems.

“I make videos that make math understandable because I think math is so much more than tricks,” Hua says. “In a lot of my videos, I explain why things work. For example, why does ‘keep, change, flip’ work when we’re dividing fractions? Or why does the long division algorithm work? Just multiple ways of doing math.”

Earlier this year, Hua was awarded the Provost’s Award for Outstanding Lecturer at Fresno State – an honor he could hardly believe.

An Emphasis on Education

Hua grew up in Hanford, where his parents owned and operated a Chinese restaurant from 1986 to 2006.

Hua and his sister, also a Fresno State alum, are first-generation college graduates. Their parents moved to Missouri from Vietnam in 1980. Their mother had a fourth-grade education before stopping school amid health challenges, and their father had an eighth-grade education before getting a job at a rice factory to help support the family.

“I think access to education is very important,” Hua says.

Hua points out that his father is very good at mental math, a concept Hua often promotes on his platforms. One of his biggest hits has been teaching people to subtract from left to right.

“I taught students, did you know you can subtract from left to right?” Hua says. “They were mindblown, and they were showing their friends and their family. We can think of math like that. It can be surprising.”

To Hua, math is an art and should be appreciated for what it is – the same way a poem or a piece of music would be. “I’m against the idea of everything needing to be applicable in math because math can be beautiful by itself,” Hua says.

While his following is growing larger by the day, his social media presence has helped him make a name for himself and develop a stream of supplemental income. He’s spoken to organizations in 20 states and four countries. In October, he was invited to be the closing keynote speaker for the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics in Chicago. He also recently presented at nine school assemblies in two days in Redding, and spoke at a conference in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Those experiences are nice, but Hua is most passionate for shared experiences and collaboration in the classroom. “I’m very big on multiple representations, multiple ways of doing something,” Hua says. “A lot of it is what I actually do in the classroom.”

And what an opportunity it is for Fresno State students who have the chance to take classes in person from educators like Hua and Hall with worldwide followings.

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

NEW

Dorm is the NEW Norm

Fresno State embarks on first new student housing project in over 50 years

By Lisa Bell ('95)

Fresno State broke ground this fall on a new affordable student housing project, the first major housing initiative at Fresno State since 1968. This project will add 228 apartment-style beds to the portfolio for Fresno State Student Housing.

The new 80,000-square-foot building will be four stories high and include one- to four-bedroom units. It will also offer a limited number of apartments for students with children. The new building will be located on the corner of Shaw and Cedar avenues, adjacent to existing residence hall buildings.

"With the construction of our last new student housing buildings 56 years ago, this project is long overdue," says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. "It's important

to recognize the unique challenges these students face on their path to obtaining a transformational college education. Providing affordable housing for student-parents is being intentional about student success."

More than 700 Fresno State students requested priority registration, a benefit available to student-parents. Nationally, the Institute for Women's Policy Research has found that about 20% of college students have children.

The building — designed by architectural firm SVA — is planned to be completed in summer 2026, with fall 2026 being the target move-in date for students. The construction manager/general contractor is Quiring.

The project is being funded by an affordable student housing grant from the state (\$33.7 million) and about \$20 million of funding through California State University systemwide revenue bonds (debt service) that will be the responsibility of the California State University, Fresno Association, Inc. (Student Housing) to repay over the life of the bonds.



"We are excited for this new affordable housing building for Fresno State students. Students who live in the residence halls average a 3.1 [GPA] and graduate sooner than those who live off campus."

— Erin Boele
Director, Student Housing

The CSU Board of Trustees approved the schematic design in July 2023, and approved financing in November.

The family units will have two bedrooms with a kitchen and living room. Housing will provide child-friendly flooring and furniture. The new building will also feature an outdoor play structure and a family gathering area within one of the first-floor

common spaces. Each floor of the new building will have laundry facilities.

"We are excited for this new affordable housing building for Fresno State students," says Erin Boele, director of Student Housing at Fresno State. "Students who live in the residence halls average a 3.1 grade-point average and graduate sooner than those who live off campus."

With the new building's 228 beds, Student Housing's capacity will increase to a total of 1,543 beds across 10 buildings, when the new project is complete. Existing buildings include Baker, Birch, Graves, Homan, Ponderosa, Sequoia, Sycamore and Apsen halls.

This semester, due to the demand for more on-campus housing, Student Housing provided space for more students by converting some double rooms to triple occupancy. This allows students to live on campus and benefit from the amenities, programming and learning communities offered through Student Housing. Depending on demand after the new building opens, some triple-units may convert back to double occupancy, which would lower the overall Student Housing capacity.

— Lisa Bell is the public information officer for Fresno State.



Advancing Nursing Education



Cary Edmondson

New partnership elevates pediatric care in Central Valley

By Melissa Tav ('07)

Andrea Carr is a perioperative registered nurse at Valley Children's Healthcare and has found fulfillment in the role, but she always envisioned advancing her nursing career.

Now Carr will be among 14 students to enroll in the ASN to BSN Pathway Program – a first of its kind partnership with Fresno State and Valley Children's.

The partnership will allow registered nurses at Valley Children's, who have an associate's degree in nursing, the opportunity to advance their nursing education at Fresno State while still working full-time. An added bonus for cohort participants is that the program is fully funded by Valley Children's, in addition to receiving paid education time to focus on their academics.

"Health care changes daily, so we need to continue to learn," Carr says. "Being able to do this program without going into even more debt is going to be huge."

Since 2004, Valley Children's Healthcare has achieved Magnet designation five times, most recently in 2024. The designation is among the highest nursing credentials attainable and is awarded to health care organizations that demonstrate excellence in nursing practice and patient care, and who exemplify a commitment to advancing nursing education, particularly among BSN-prepared nurses.

The ASN to BSN Pathway Program is one way Valley Children's is putting its employees and patients first.

"The importance of offering this program to our workforce is that it allows associate's prepared nurses to start working and get some clinical experience under their belt, but going back for advanced degree attainment," says Vicky Tilton, chief nursing officer at Valley Children's Healthcare. "The program focuses on leadership, professional growth and career development for the students; and, in turn, we provide ongoing mentorship and support."

For Fresno State faculty, this partnership provides a unique opportunity to work directly with incoming students to create the curriculum from scratch utilizing a pediatric focus.

The ASN to BSN Pathway Program is an extension of Fresno State's already existing RN to BSN program, which typically admits one cohort per semester. An exception will be made in the spring semester to include both its regular cohort along with the Valley Children's cohort of 14 additional students, bringing its total number of students up to 24.

The Valley Children's cohort addresses a longstanding issue in the San Joaquin Valley – a shortage of qualified registered nurses who have a bachelor's degree in nursing.

"Increasing RN to BSN numbers is very important for our region," said Dr. Janine Spencer, coordinator of the RN to BSN program at Fresno State's School of Nursing. "An enhanced education greatly benefits hospitals and health care agencies in this area, as these students are likely to stay and serve local after completing their bachelor's degree in nursing."

The three-semester RN to BSN program is designed for those who have completed their associate's degree in nursing and are currently registered nurses. It provides students the opportunity to complete upper division nursing courses that fulfill the bachelor's of science degree in nursing requirements without having to repeat lower-division nursing coursework.

Courses are online with the exception of one community health clinical. This online medium allows students in the cohort the opportunity to balance their career and family responsibilities with their educational goals.

"A lot of research shows that bachelor's prepared nurses produce better outcomes in the hospital,



"The importance of offering this program to our workforce is that it allows associate's prepared nurses to start working and get some clinical experience under their belt, but going back for advanced degree attainment."

– Vicky Tilton
Chief nursing officer,
Valley Children's Healthcare

including reduced hospital stays and lower rates of readmission," said Dr. Kara Zografos, dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State. "Our graduating nurses are also better equipped to handle the emerging health care needs of our diverse region."

The ASN to BSN Pathway Program will begin in the spring of 2025.

– Melissa Tav is a communications specialist in the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State.

▲
Andrea Carr is among the first 14 students to enroll in the ASN to BSN Pathway Program, which allows registered nurses at Valley Children's the opportunity to advance their nursing education at Fresno State while still working full-time.

PAC-12

BOUND BULLDOGS



x

Fresno State joins Pac-12 Conference in 2026, ushering in a new era for Bulldogs athletics

By Eddie Hughes ('05)

In a landmark decision that marks a new chapter for Fresno State, the Pac-12 Conference Board of Directors unanimously voted to admit Fresno State, along with Boise State, Colorado State, San Diego State, Utah State and Gonzaga (non-football member) into the Pac-12 Conference.

The addition of these six institutions will take effect on July 1, 2026, with competition beginning in the 2026-27 academic year. This expansion unites Fresno State with Oregon State and Washington State University to drive innovation and growth in both athletics and academics.

"Joining the Pac-12 Conference is a transformative moment for Fresno State," says Garrett Klassy, Fresno State's first-year director of athletics. "This move not only elevates our national profile but also brings tremendous opportunities for our student-athletes to compete at the highest level. We are committed to upholding the values and traditions of both Fresno State and the Pac-12 while embracing the innovative future ahead. Together with our new conference peers, we will continue to grow, succeed and lead in both athletics and academics. The Red Wave is ready for this historic journey."

Pac-12 Commissioner Teresa Gould and the conference board of directors strategically evaluated each university's application using five prioritized measures and established criteria, which included academics and athletics performance; media and brand evaluation; commitment to athletics success; geography and logistics; and culture and student-athlete welfare.

"For over a century, the Pac-12 Conference has been recognized as a leading brand in intercollegiate athletics," Gould says. "We will continue to pursue bold, cutting-edge opportunities for growth and progress to best serve our member institutions and student-athletes."

"An exciting new era for the Pac-12 Conference begins today."

This alignment of values and aspirations positions Fresno State to elevate its impact on the national stage. "Fresno State has always been a university of opportunity and grit, and joining the Pac-12 Conference reflects our dynamic vision for the future of our Valley," says Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval. "This historic move both enhances our competitiveness on the field and further amplifies our academic prestige, advancing our mission of empowering students to succeed and lead."

With Oregon State and Washington State continuing to compete as part of the Pac-12 through the 2025-26 season, the new eight-member alliance sets the stage for future conference expansion and innovations that will shape the collegiate landscape for decades to come.



Getting to Know **GARRETT KLASSY**

Fresno State Magazine sat down for an exclusive interview with Klassy, who began his role as Fresno State athletics director in July, to discuss the Bulldogs' move to the Pac-12 as well as his vision for the department.

Fresno State Magazine: What does it mean for Fresno State get an invitation to the Pac-12?

Garrett Klassy: Going to an iconic conference like the Pac-12, that has been around for over 100 years, immediately enhances the brand of not just our athletic department but our entire university. Yes, athletics is going to benefit immensely playing against elite competition week in and week out, but I also believe academics is going to benefit through more opportunities like the potential for increased enrollment and new grant opportunities. Being able to partner with this group of schools is going to help the whole university succeed.

FSMag: What will it take to compete at this level?

Klassy: As we look at our overarching goals as a university, and as an athletic department, we want to compete against the best, but one of the things I want to caution the Red Wave about is this is just the start of the journey. We're not going to sit here and just celebrate because we're members of the Pac-12 Conference. That means we have more work to do because we're going against schools with much larger budgets than us, and we need to make sure we give our teams the resources they need to win championships. That's part of the challenge, but it's also an opportunity.



▲ Garrett Klassy (right) was formally introduced to the community as the new Fresno State director of athletics at a press conference on campus on June 28.

Where we're situated budgetarily, we're going to have to work really hard to find unique revenue streams outside of the typical buckets of ticket sales, donations, corporate sponsorships and TV revenue, and we're going to have to figure out how we can monetize all the assets we have, including our facilities and other areas. The revenue piece is going to be a huge part of it.

FSMag: What made Fresno State such an attractive addition?

Klassy: The Fresno State brand was strong way before I arrived here. The reality is the TV networks, the conferences, they want to partner with the best brands in the country. It's really the people of the Valley that are the reason why we got into the Pac-12 Conference. It's the coaches, the incredible student-athletes, and the incredible fan support. Attendance matters, TV viewership matters, and all those things helped us get into the Pac-12.

FSMag: What's your vision for Fresno State athletics?

Klassy: To be an elite athletic department, we want to look at three areas. We want to provide a world-class education for our student-athletes, which Fresno State provides. We want to be able to win championships at a high level, and we want to be able to give back to the community by producing amazing leaders and creating an environment where we're preparing student-athletes for the next 40 years of their lives.

FSMag: How does athletics fit into the university's overall mission?

Klassy: I've seen it, I've witnessed it firsthand, what athletics can do for a university. Universities invest in athletics for two reasons – one it's to build the brand of the university as a marketing tool to increase enrollment, and the other piece is it creates an incredible student experience for all students on campus. There are a lot

of students who come to Fresno State because they want to come to these home football games six or seven times a year. That adds to the student experience. We want to make sure we're putting a winning product on the field so it adds value to the brand of the university.

FSMag: How important are football and men's basketball to your overall goals?

Klassy: With the landscape changing in the NCAA environment, those sports are going to become increasingly more important because those are our two revenue-producing sports, so we need those sports to compete and win at the highest level. Not just for the visibility, but the reality is the revenue that those two sports create allows us to fund our Olympic sports at a high level, too. We want to be a broad-based athletic program where all of our sports succeed, and we can't do that unless football and basketball are winning at a high level.

With the history of our Olympic sports here, primarily with softball and baseball both winning national championships, it goes to show



Hungry for insight into this year's uptempo Fresno State basketball team?

Scan the QR code for a behind-the-scenes video and interview highlighting Bulldog hoops under first-year coach Vance Walberg.



the Valley that we can win national championships here in any sport that we want to. But that doesn't happen by just wishing and hoping. We have to fund those programs in a competitive manner. Coach Natalie Benson in water polo is one of the best water polo coaches in the country. We have amazing coaches in all of our sports. At the end of the day, for me being the leader of this athletic department, I want to make sure we have a culture of competitive excellence. And you

can't create a culture of competitive excellence if you don't have the mindset that we can win every single game we compete in. And how do you have that mindset? By recruiting high-level athletes and giving the coaches the infrastructure and resources they need to compete at the highest level. That's what we're going to focus on for our Olympic sports.

FSMag: For Fresno State to rise to the next level, it's going to take resources and investment. How do you tackle that?

Klassy: First we're going to look at what core revenue opportunities exist. Are we maximizing everything from a ticket sales standpoint? Are we maximizing all our resources and inventory from corporate sponsorships? Do we have a productive plan for the Bulldog Foundation for people giving back? Are we showing them the impact they're making? Are we articulating the vision? Are we making the asks, are we doing everything we can do? Those are the things we can control that are right in front of us.



▲ Under coach Natalie Benson (left), Fresno State has won four straight conference championships and advanced to the NCAA tournament all four years. The Bulldogs finished with a program-best 21 wins this past season.

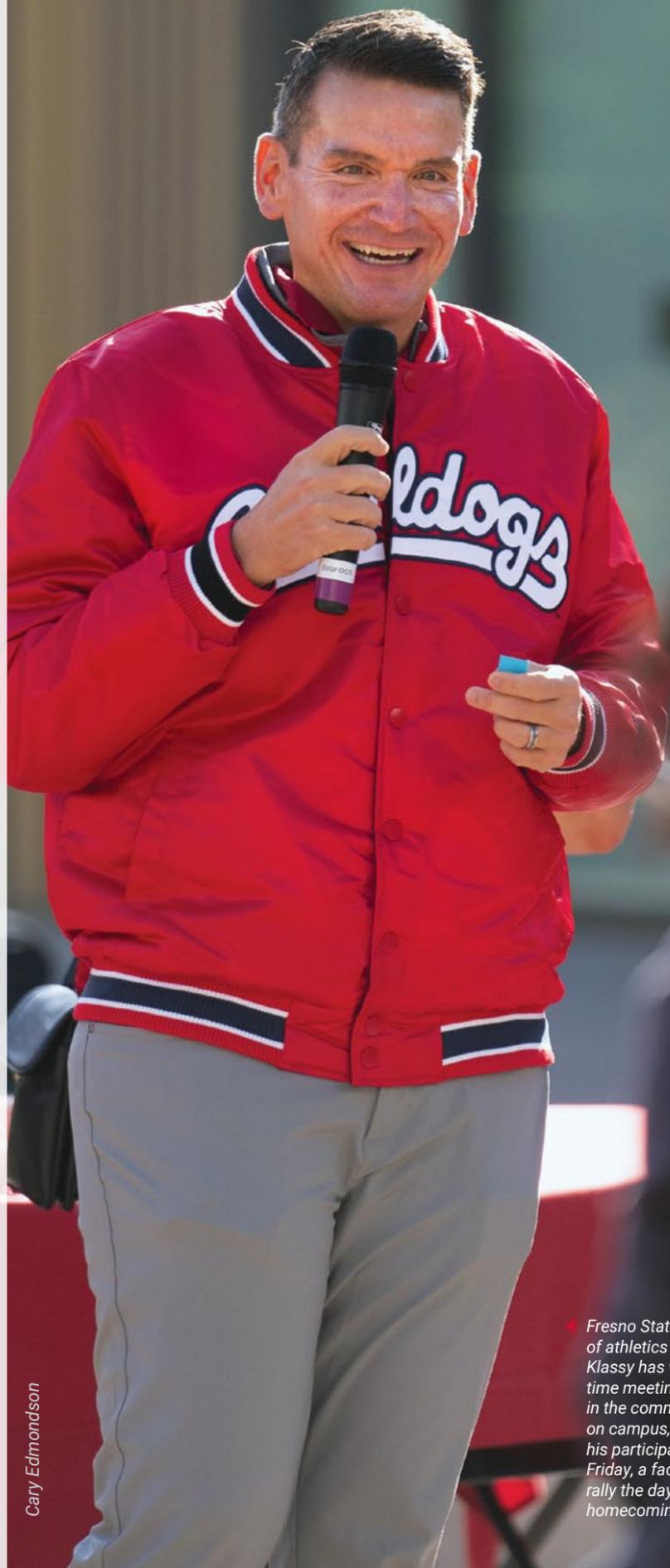
But part of the reason that I'm here is because I have a deep background in revenue generation and sometimes you have to look at non-traditional means. Before you can look at non-traditional means, you have to max out your traditional revenue streams. We need to look at how we utilize all of our facilities. It's not just how we are utilizing Valley Children's Stadium. How are we maximizing usage of the baseball stadium, the softball stadium? Those things all have to be explored. We're always going to be aggressive in looking at new revenue generating opportunities.

FSMag: What are your first impressions of Fresno and the Central Valley?

Klassy: It's not lost on me the great responsibility we have here as an athletic department and especially myself as a leader. Fresno State is the people's passion in this Valley. For a lot of people, the most important time of the year is when they get to come to our football games. Fresno is so much like where I grew up in Wisconsin. You had sports and you had agriculture. There's obviously more than that, but those are two of the priorities. This is a midwestern town dropped in the middle of California.

It's a huge responsibility, and I love that challenge because every day I wake up, I see Bulldog flags all over the place, Bulldog license plates all over the place, and I like the fact that Fresno State is the economic driver for the Valley and it's the great unifier of the Valley. To live somewhere so diverse as the Valley, and for six Saturdays out of the year, everyone comes together and everybody is family and everyone sets their differences aside, and everyone is there for one common goal and that's to watch Fresno State win.

Cary Edmondson



◆ Fresno State director of athletics Garrett Klassy has wasted no time meeting people in the community and on campus, including his participation in Red Friday, a faculty and staff rally the day before the homecoming game.

The Personal File:

GARRETT KLASSY

Tell us about your family.

Wife Lindsay and two boys Cade and Brody, 3 and 4 years old. They are my everything. Love my boys, love my wife. Husband and father first, athletic director second but I plan on being elite and being the best at both those jobs.



Mountains or beach?

Beach.



Wine or beer?

Wine. Fresno State Wine – it's in our suite for every home game.



Favorite local restaurant?

There's so many. I'm a seafood guy so Pismo's has been great. I've been to the Elbow Room a bunch, I love Heirloom, my wife and I went to Limelight the other night, the Annex, Anesso's, Saison, we've hit 'em all. We are floored by how amazing the restaurants are here.



What sport would you play professionally?

My favorite sport growing up was basketball. Because of my size I was a better football player, but I enjoy it all. My boys are in multiple sports. I think the most fun sport would be golf. Less wear and tear on your body and you get to travel the world.

Glass half-full or half-empty?

Positivity always wins the day, glass half-full always.



Favorite social media platform?

I use X exclusively (@KlassyDogs). I love it because it gives me a way to interact with the entire Red Wave. I want to be a very authentic, transparent leader.



Best day trip?

We've only done one day trip since we've been here. We took our kids to the Sugar Pine Railroad near Yosemite and the boys loved it.



Favorite pro team?

Milwaukee Brewers and Green Bay Packers, I love them both.



Car or truck?

Growing up on a farm I'm more of a truck guy, but I have a car, I have a beautiful Lexus from Mike Gibson of Fresno Lexus.

Best day on the job so far?

The most special was the day we announced we're going to the Pac-12 Conference.



First moment heard about Fresno State?

It had to be the Pat Hill days of **anybody, anytime, anywhere**. I just loved the attitude and demeanor of those teams. I had to research what the 'V' meant on the helmets. As soon as I realized that it represented agriculture and people of the Valley, I was a fan ever since.



Following the Family Standard

Nearly 100 years old, alumna continues to support students and community

By Benjamin Kirk ('22)

Escape and rescue from the trappings of the deep snow in the high Sierra Nevada mountains had been grueling for Leanna Donner. At just 12 years old, she had witnessed and endured such horrors it would take her over 80 years to talk about it. Now, on the cusp of returning to safety, she sat and ate her second to last tiny ration of “jerky.”

After walking all day in the trail-breaking steps of the group leader through deep snow in the biting cold while starving on the edge of death, she looked at her last finger-sized piece of meat and gave in to her overwhelming hunger – eating her final ration before going to sleep.



The next morning, as everyone else savored their morsels before the day’s hike, Leanna Donner, *pictured left*, regretted that decision. Her 14-year-old sister Elitha took pity on her.

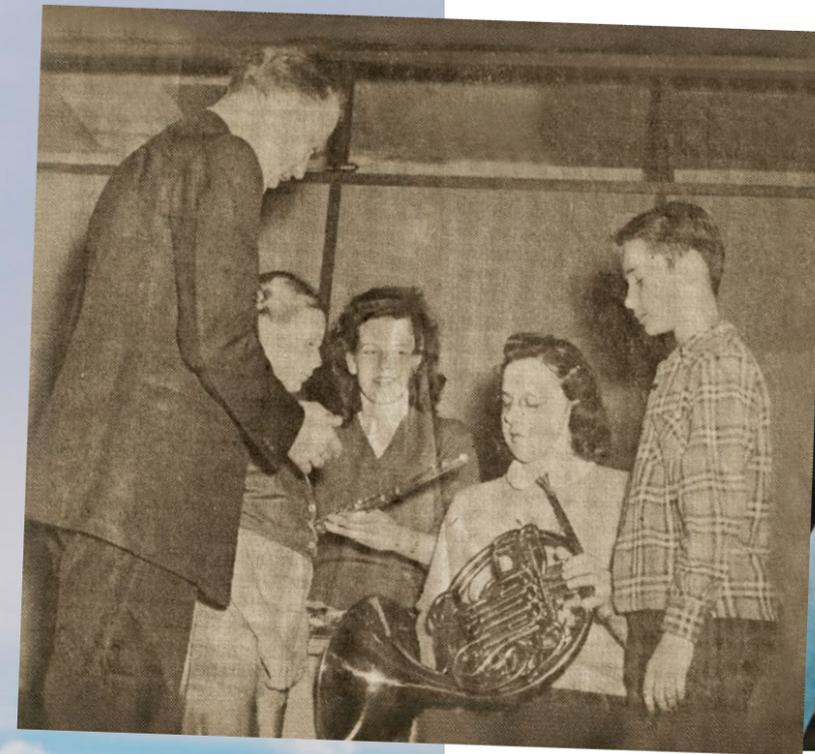
“Her older sister was...really good to her. Everybody was sitting around eating their breakfast piece, and she felt really sorry for her. She broke her piece and gave half to my great-grandmother [Leanna],” says Patricia Heiskell Hillman.

Hillman, a 96-year-old Fresno State alumna and supporter, reflects on her family history. She said both Leanna and Elitha had enough strength to eventually make their way into the safety of the Sacramento Valley with several others.

The story of the Donner Party is taught as part of the fourth-grade curriculum in California. Every year, Hillman visits classrooms to tell the story of her great grandmother,



▲ Dale and Pat Hillman with their children.



◀ Patricia Heiskell Hillman

In 1947, Patricia Hillman and her sister, Eleanor, demonstrated flute and French horn to interested elementary students.



▲ Fresno State alumna Patricia Hillman visits classrooms each year to tell the story of the Donner Party, including her great grandmother, Leanna Donner App.

Leanna Donner App, providing a personal connection to a tragic but important part of California’s history.

Valley roots

Hillman’s grandfather, Jefferson Davis Heiskell, moved to Tulare in 1886 to build a grain warehouse and eventually start a livestock feed business. That business, J.D. Heiskell and Company, Inc., grew into a thriving international company.

Born in Tulare, Hillman grew up around the business her father and aunts inherited. She attended Tulare Union High School, and, following in the footsteps of her mother and sister, she enrolled at Fresno State just as World War II was coming to an end. A flute player, she joined the Bulldog Marching Band and the Fresno State Symphony.

“There were not very many men because they were in the service. I usually played snare drum or flute, and I played bass drum in the marching band for a couple of years.” Hillman graduated summa cum laude in 1949

with a double major in English speech and music.

Hillman taught at Roosevelt High School in Fresno for four years. While living in Fresno, she met Dale Hillman on a blind date, and they married a short time later. Hillman came from a farming family in Tulare and had served in the Coast Guard during World War II.

Pat and Dale settled in Tulare and had four children. While raising them, Pat worked as a substitute teacher. She later taught and coordinated the program for gifted high school students. Additionally, she served on the board of directors of the family business, a position she still holds. After her father’s death, Dale became CEO of the company in 1972.

A legacy of support

Throughout her life, Pat Hillman has been deeply involved in her community in Tulare and beyond. She continued her passion for music as a founding member and musician in the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra, even performing





▲ 1903: Weighing and loading grain sacks at the Tulare warehouse.

“I think philanthropy is one of the most important things you can do. My grandfather gave to so many farmers. He gave the money to get the seed to plant their crops. He set the standard for the rest of us.”

— Patricia Heiskell Hillman



▲ 1920: First feed truck.

as a soloist. She was involved in the Tulare Ag Center and saw it become the International Agri-Center and expo it is today. She is a founding member of the Tulare Historical Society and Museum and is deeply involved with her local First Congregational Church. She was also a Tulare City School Board trustee for 26 years and sat on the Tulare County Board of Education for 25 years.

Shortly after moving back to Tulare, she was invited by then-Fresno State President Arnold E. Joyal to join the President’s Advisory Board. That service was the catalyst to a lifetime of service and financial support at Fresno State.

From gifts to the Ag One Foundation and other areas in the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology to gifts to the Bulldog Marching Band and scholarships in the Music Department, her wide range of generosity represents the depth of her involvement in agriculture, music and education. A lifelong Bulldogs football fan, she also supports athletics through the Bulldog Foundation.

While serving on the Library Leadership Board, she saw its importance as a University resource and supported several areas of the library. In 2005, she and her sister Eleanor were recognized as Library Donors of the Year after funding a study room in honor of their mother. She received the first Top Dog Award through the Fresno State Library in 2006. In 2002, she

received the Common Threads Award from the Jordan College and Ag One Foundation, which honors women in agriculture. In 2024, she was awarded the Common Threads Tapestry Award, an honor only awarded three times in 28 years.

“I think philanthropy is one of the most important things you can do,” Hillman says. “My grandfather gave to so many farmers. He gave the money to get the seed to plant their crops. He set the standard for the rest of us.”

With a family history of great-great grandparents who endured incredible hardship establishing a new path to California and a great grandmother who narrowly survived to the grandfather who founded a company that would help feed the world, it seems fitting Hillman also supports efforts to alleviate food insecurity at Fresno State through the Bulldog Pantry.

“Food is such an important part of our existence.”

Hillman says she feels blessed to be able to help people and her community, but she also feels that giving back is an integral part of living a fulfilling life.

“I am so fortunate that I have lived this long,” Hillman says. “I get up in the morning and know that I’m going to

try and get through the day doing good for people and enjoying life at the same time. What could be better?”

— Benjamin Kirk is a communications specialist in the College of Arts and Humanities at Fresno State.



▲ Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire (left), dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, presents the Common Threads Tapestry Award to Pat Hillman.



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SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Finding a Pathway to Aerospace Engineering

Alumnus pursues dream of working in aerospace engineering

By BoNhia Lee

Fresno State alumnus Francisco Licea developed a love of engineering from his father, Cisco, an engineer himself who worked with the International Space Station program and instilled in his son a lifelong wonder about planes, flight and space.

That curiosity led the Bakersfield native to Fresno State, where he majored in mechanical engineering and worked closely with faculty like Dr. Deify Law to create a pathway to reach his dream of working in the aerospace industry.

Fresno State's undergraduate programs in the Lyles College of Engineering have consistently ranked among the top 100 by U.S. News and World Report since 2020. While Fresno State does not have an aerospace engineering major yet, Licea found mechanical engineering to be the next best thing in preparing for an engineering career.

Internship opportunities, extracurricular activities and engineering clubs gave him an experience like no other, Licea says. He made important connections with classmates who helped each other succeed and got

the important job and research experience that allowed him to travel, present and meet people, he says.

And with help from professor Law, Licea pushed his academic limits by getting involved in research and taking graduate level classes like computational fluid dynamics. Licea graduated in 2022 and is now a systems test engineer for Northrop Grumman, an aerospace and defense company, in Southern California.

— BoNhia Lee is a communications specialist at Fresno State.



▲ Alumnus Francisco Licea is a systems test engineer for Northrop Grumman, an aerospace and defense company. Above left, he admires a NASA 747 jet at Joe Davies Heritage Airpark in Palmdale. Above right, he examines a jet engine at Blackbird Air Park.



Scan the QR code or visit fresnostate.edu/magazine for Licea's full story and a documentary-style video on his career path.



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LEISURE CARE

A Personal Cause

Inspired by personal connections, alumna leads campus blood drive

By Katie Xiong

Kayla Ferreira remembers being a high schooler, sitting beside her mother's hospital bed and watching her receive blood transfusions. It was that experience that made the community need for donor blood a personal mission for Ferreira – and helped shape her career.

"My mom has an autoimmune disease and had to receive blood transfusions for multiple years," Ferreira shares. This firsthand experience with the life-saving power of blood donation sparked her interest in the cause.

The Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning at Fresno State partnered with the Central California Blood Center to host a campus blood drive in September. The blood drive is one of four hosted annually at Fresno State. Ferreira, a special projects coordinator at the Richter Center, is one of the driving forces behind the events.

"We had 432 successful blood donations – the highest number from a campus Blood Drive since September 2018," Ferreira says of the most recent campus blood drive. "This has the potential to save 1,296 lives. We're not just collecting blood; we're gathering hope for patients in need."



◀ Kayla Ferreira

Ally Barriga

Ferreira's involvement with campus blood drives began in 2021 when she started volunteering for the Central California Blood Center. Her initial role included distributing flyers, sharing social media posts and providing snacks to donors. As she became more comfortable with the process, she worked up the courage to donate blood herself.

"I remember being so nervous my first time," Ferreira recalls. "But the staff was incredibly supportive, and once I realized how easy and impactful it was, I became committed to being a lifelong donor."

Ferreira's commitment to the cause deepened when she lost her childhood friend, Asher Gallegos, to germ cell cancer in 2022. "Seeing that was a real shock. It was the first person I had gone to school with for so long that lost their battle," she says.

Understanding that cancer patients often benefit from blood donations, Ferreira found a way to honor her friend's memory.

"Losing Asher made me understand that behind every donation, there's a story, a life hanging in the balance," she says. "It pushed me to overcome my own fears about donating and to encourage others to do the same."

After graduating from Fresno State in spring 2023 with a degree

in liberal studies, Ferreira joined the Richter Center. In her role, she oversees campus blood drives, bringing her experience as both a volunteer and donor to inspire others.

Ferreira's personal connection to the cause allows her to empathize with first-time donors who might be nervous. "I recommend bringing someone with you," she says. "It's helpful to have moral support, preferably someone who has donated before."

She also encourages open communication with the staff. "Let them know you're nervous. They're incredibly supportive and can even let you watch someone else go through the process first if that helps you feel more comfortable."

As for the future, Ferreira and her team have ambitious goals. "We're aiming to surpass last year's total of about 1,300 donors over our four annual drives," she says. "We've already doubled our number of student blood drive ambassadors, which is really exciting."

"Whether you donated, volunteered, or spread the word, you were part of something bigger," Ferreira says. "You were part of a community that saves lives, one donation at a time."

– Katie Xiong is a student assistant in University Marketing and Communications.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

George Avila (1955) was interviewed by KSN-TV on his missions in the Air Force over North Vietnam.

Phillip V. Sanchez (1957) will be the namesake of the new Clovis Unified intermediate school feeding into Clovis South High.

1970s

Joe L. Del Bosque (1975), a Firebaugh farmer, was honored on the California State Assembly Floor by Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria as the 2024 Latino Spirit Award honoree for his work as an advocate for farmers and farmworkers impacted by water policies.

Florence T. Dunn (1975), founding president of California Health Sciences University, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Health Sciences from California Health Sciences University.

RoseMary Parga Duran (1976), alongside her husband, received the Merced College President's Medallion for leading the construction of many of the college's current buildings.

Don LeBaron (1971), a photographer, was honored for a lifetime of work with an exhibit in the Heritage Art Gallery at Tulare Historical Museum.

Sue Lemaire (1970) was inducted into the International Volleyball Hall of Fame, in Holyoke, MA, for her work as a premier volleyball official and referee.

Diane Milutinovich (1970) was named the recipient of the 2024 Nike Lifetime Achievement Award for dedicating her career as an advocate for Title IX and gender equity.

Laurie Lindley Muender (1978) published her novel "Joe, the Dog Who Forgot to Grow."

Gary L. Shapiro (1973), a researcher who cofounded Orangutan Foundation International, was interviewed by Mongabay News on what sparked his interest in the study of orangutans.

Michael Vaida (1970) established The Vaida Chair, the first endowed faculty position in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UC Davis.

1980s

Teri Bailey (1983) is an owner of Ivy & Owl Picnic Company, a luxury pop-up picnic company in Fresno.

Bill Bilbo (1988) is now principal at Ortiz Middle School in Santa Fe, NM.

Stefani Booroojian (1981) is retiring after 42 years of anchoring and reporting on KSEE24.

Daniel Chacon (1989) has published a short story collection titled, "The Last Philosopher in Texas: Fictions and Superstitions."

Ron Cox (1989), who set the NCAA record for sacks as a linebacker at Fresno State, was inducted to the Fresno State Ring of Honor on Oct. 26.

Ernie Diaz (1987) retired from Gracey Elementary in Merced after 35 years as a third-grade teacher.

John DiGirolamo (1987) published a new book, "It's Not About the Devil," focusing on attacking the vulnerable.

Suzanne Gifford (1989) is now executive director of Craven County Partners in Education in New Bern, NC.

Lesley Lang-Lopez (1989) is the senior loan and business development officer for the Cen Cal Business Finance Group's Santa Maria/Coast office.

Tom Mackey (1983), owner of Tom Mackey Cellars in Sonoma, was named winemaker of the week by The Press Democrat.

Jon Reelhorn (1985), owner of Belmont Nursery in Fresno, was

interviewed by Capital Press on his educational journey through agriculture.

Scott Severson (1985), owner of Severson Family Farms, was interviewed by West Coast Nut on his journey in farming.

Daniel Silva (1983), New York Times best-selling author of espionage and thriller novels, published a new novel, "A Death in Cornwall."

Jeff Smutny (1986) is now executive director of American Sweet Potato Marketing Institute in California.

LaDonna Snow (1980), CEO of Snowflake Designs, created custom leotards for two Egyptian gymnasts at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Dan Taylor (1980) is now executive director for the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame.

Timothy Zerlang (1983) is Stanford University's carillonneur, the person responsible for the melodic sounds that emanate from the Hoover Tower on campus.

1990s

Antonio Arreguin-Bermudez (1997) is the owner of La Flor de Michoacán Paletería y Nevería in Chico.

Michael Carr (1998) is now president and general manager of ABC13/KTRK-TV in Houston.

Susanne Chuhlantseff (1996), who specializes in working with three and four-year-olds who have autism, has been awarded Educator of the Week by Your Central Valley.

Keisha Cosand (1995), English professor at Golden West College, has been named one of the 2025 Orange County Teachers of the Year.

Roger Duncan (1991), UC Cooperative Extension pomology farm adviser in Stanislaus County, retired after 36 years.

John Etcheverry (1990) is the grants and contracts manager for the Educating Character Initiative at Wake Forest University's Program for Leadership and Character.

Tara Gomez (1998), the first Native American female winemaker, created Camins 2 Dream, a red blend wine.

Shonna Halterman (1991), retired from the City of Clovis as general services director.

Misty Her (1998) is the first female and Asian American superintendent in Fresno Unified's history, and she is the highest ranking Hmong American educator in K-12 education in the country.

Amanda Holder (1999) is the associate publisher for California Wedding Day, a premier luxury bridal magazine and website.

Phil Murillo (1991) created the agricultural-themed mural for the Children's Museum of Illinois.

Christina Orlando (1997) retired after serving 12 years on the Ripon Unified School District board.

Todd Rinder (1990) is the visiting assistant professor of kinesiology at Centenary College of Louisiana.

Wan Yang (1991), a professor of earth sciences and engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology, has been elected a fellow of the Geological Society of America.

2000s

Jeku Arce (2008), a public affairs officer in the U.S. Army, was invited to attend the White House celebration of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

Raj Singh Badhesha (2005) is now Fresno County Superior Court judge, and the first Sikh person to be appointed to the Fresno County bench.

Edward Bómbita (2004) is now California Cybersecurity Integration Center commander at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Sam Collup (2001) is now a regional sales manager for BAK Food Equipment, an equipment supplier in the food industry.

Chad Crivelli (2002), owner of Crivelli Ranch in Tulare, serves on the California Certified Organic Farmers Board.

Kurtis Douglas (2004) is the operations manager of Land Advisors Organization's agriculture group in Fresno.

Devonne Etcheverry (2005) is now the iHeartMedia area president for the Pacific area, which includes Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Bakersfield, Monterey, Riverside and Spokane, WA.

Eric Gallegos (2009) is now the director of vineyard operations for Cliff Lede Vineyards in Yountville.

Soreath Hok (2006), an award-winning multimedia journalist, was featured in The Business Journal for leaving news reporting to help her parents run their business, Sprinkles Donuts.

Heidi Kindorf (2006) was a guest on the Policing Matters podcast to discuss the Drone as First Responder program.

Casey Lamonski (2002) is executive director of the Shinzen Friendship Garden in Fresno.

Robert Mollison (2009) is now president and CEO of Valley PBS.

Khetphet Phagnasay (2000), an actor and filmmaker, was interviewed by ABC30 on his journey to breaking barriers on the big screen and creating a path for young aspiring talent in the Central Valley.

Robert Pimentel (2006), former Fresno City College president, is now chancellor at West Hills Community College District.

Christopher Renfro (2001) is the founder of the 280 Project, a nonprofit dedicated to making the wine industry more accessible for marginalized communities.

Mark Sanchez (2004) was appointed to the Board of Managers at Life Science Cares San Diego.

Jonathan Schlundt (2008) is the CEO/principal of Net Positive Consulting Engineers in Fresno.

Surdeep Shergill (2003) is now part of the Fresno City Council planning commission.

Alex Stewart (2008) is the head winemaker at Matthews Winery in Woodinville, WA.

Matt Tobin is now principal at Mountain Vista High in Madera.

2010s

Jacqui Bailey (2011) is one of the owners of Ivy & Owl Picnic Company, a luxury pop-up picnic company in Fresno.

Jamie Nakagawa Boley (2014), an interdisciplinary artist and writer whose artistic practice is connected to the landscape of the San Joaquin Valley, will take part in the art symposium "The Ocean Between VII" in Berlin, Germany.

Jamin Brazil (2015) has been named chief operating officer of Parsec Education.

Christopher Clark (2011) is now an orchestra representative for the Fresno-Madera County Music Educators Association and the New Horizons String Orchestra conductor.

Michael Cook (2015) was awarded the President's Award for Scholarship in Viticulture from the American Society for Enology and Viticulture.

Sergio Coronel (2019) created the nonprofit YoungSTers for Change where he mentors youth who are experiencing challenges.



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CLASS NOTES

Abhilasha Dave (2018), a digital design engineer at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, was interviewed by Mirage News on her daily routine as an engineer.

Audia Dixon (2016) was featured on ABC30 for shedding light on the power of Black art and paving the way for younger generations to pursue their artistic passion.

Tyler J. Donaghy (2018) is an attorney for Higgs Fletcher & Mack, working for the law firm's Business Litigation Practice Group in San Diego.

Tadeh Issakhanian (2013) is the U.S. General Services Administration senior adviser to the Administrator for Climate.

Jordyn Mahoney (2013) is now marketing and communications manager for the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno, Nevada.

Kirsten Messmer (2012) is now director of Parks and Recreation for the McKinleyville Community Services District.

Lauren Millard (2011), general manager at Madera Toyota-Chevrolet, was featured in Automotive News' 40 Under 40.

Leo Munzo (2010) is now the industry executive for food and agriculture at Western Alliance Bank.

Virginia Orozco (2018), assistant winemaker at Neely Wines in Portola Valley, created a carbonic chardonnay.

Kevin Piercy (2014), an experienced litigator, is the founding member and shareholder of the Ogletree Deakins Fresno office, a labor and employment law firm.

Stephanie Rovetti (2016), a former Fresno State basketball player, won a bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics as part of the USA women's sevens rugby team.

Steve Sanouvong (2018), chef and co-owner of Teriyaki & More, was featured on ABC30's "Dine and Dish."

Lauren Smith (2017) is the owner of Blitzy Bling Bandanas, a pet fashion line.

Cody Sturgis (2014) is the co-owner and brew master of Reborne Brewing Company in Clovis.

Robia Vang (2017) is the communication and engagement strategist at Brown County United Way in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Jacob Vazquez (2016), a former Fresno State offensive lineman, was named a 2024-25 EPIC Fellow at Stanford University.

2020s

Levelle Bailey (2023), an all-conference football player at Fresno State, signed with the Denver Broncos.

Robert R. Davila (2024), Gallaudet University president emeritus, received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

Amelia DiPaola (2024), a former hammer and shot put student-athlete, was nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year.

Mandeep Kaur (2021) is the second Punjabi woman to be sworn into the Fresno Police Department.

Michael Lynch (2021) gave a reading of his play "Crows Landing Gently, Gently" at Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture in San Francisco.

Darlin Macias (2023) joined Home and Land Agency as a new member to its residential and commercial real estate team in Selma.

Simranjit Mann (2020) was interviewed by California Health Report on the health barriers elderly Punjabi residents face in Fresno.

Grace Miller (2024) is the development officer for The California FFA Foundation.

Keyara Piri (2024) was one of six people nationwide to receive the Marcus L. Urann Fellowship from Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Orlando Robinson, a former Fresno State basketball star who previously played for the Miami Heat, signed a one-year basketball contract with the Sacramento Kings.

Merith Weisman (2020) is now director of Sonoma County Go Local, a community networking group that works to grow the market share of locally owned businesses.

Bulldog Born



Julie Becker (2008) and **Eddie Becker** (2005) welcomed their second child, Brielle Elizabeth Becker on Oct. 4.



Jessica (Collins) Piffero (2009) and **Ben Piffero** (2010) welcomed their second child, Henry Theodore Piffero on Oct. 11.

In Memoriam

'For thee, our hopes and memories'



Victor Manuel Alcazar (1976), Aug. 22, Auburn.

Conrad Peter Andresen III (1957), July 24, Pacific Grove.

Joe Avila (1974), June 22, Fresno.

Richard Vincent Babigian (1965), May 20, Fresno.

Barbara Nancy Bailey (1979), Aug. 6, Fresno.

Ross Stanley Banister (1972), July 23, Fresno.

Anthony Barcellos (1974), June 27, Porterville.

William Paul Barrie III (1972), March 31, Clovis.

Gregory Bellefeuille (1975), April 30, Hanford.

Janet Belli (1967), July 1, Firebaugh.

Steve Biggerstaff, Sept. 24, Eureka.

John Dravo Blackburn III (1958), June 22, Hollister.

Richard Andrew Boolootian (1951), Sept. 8, Santa Cruz.

James Ernest Bouskos, Sept. 13, Fresno.

Geraldine Gail (Yoshimura) Brady (1972), July 19, North Chesterfield, VA.

Frieda Bennett Brooks (1987), Aug. 25, Lacey, WA.

Kenneth Brose (1973), April 7, Glendive, MT.

Joyce Ida Toschi Busch (1991), Sept. 21, Fresno.

James P. Calandra (1963), July 22, Seaside.

Lloyd Carter, Aug. 24, Fresno.

Charles Edward Castro (1956), May 24, Three Rivers.

Josephine Cilluffo (1990), April 4, San Francisco.

Randy Cline, Sept. 25, Porterville.

Russell "Rusty" B. Cobb (1963), Feb. 2, Clements.

Carmelita Jarvis Conn (1976), April 25, Visalia.

John Russell Crookham (1993), Sept. 9, Fresno.

Ailene Marie Cross (1958), July 8, Turlock.

Richard Alan Crowston (1968), July 11, Ferndale.

James Dunaway (1962), March 26, Cupertino.

Norma Dunn, Sept. 2, Middletown, DE.

Pamela Jo Espinosa, Feb. 24, Mason City, IA.

Jerome Clayton Falls (1971), Oct. 5, Granby, MO.

Farris Dow Ferguson, Jr., May 18, Temple, TX.

Stephanie Lippold Fisher (1966), March 16, Fresno.

Robert Earl Fleming (1952), June 18, Fresno.

Kenneth Allen Foster (2005), March 28, Reno, NV.

Donn Furman, Oct. 23, 2023, San Rafael.

Dorothea Angela Gianopulos, July 3, Fresno.

George Gianopulos (1949), Aug. 11, Fresno.

Barbara Ann Goodwin (1976), April 6, Fresno.

Alice Tayeko Sasaki Gunderson (1970), June 16, Rancho Palos Verdes.

Margaret L. Gwinn (1957), June 15, Sanger.

Christine Joan Harrison (1944), Aug. 31, Fresno.

David Timothy Hoppers (1988), July 17, Santa Barbara.

Dennis Houlihan (1972), Sept. 5, Long Beach.

John S. Hunt (1943), April 6, Portland, OR.

Barry Jackson (1978), Sept. 12, Santa Cruz.

Urban L. Jensen (1958), Aug. 30, Fresno.

Bobbe Caroline Jones, July 11, Fresno.

Herbert Alvin Kaprielian (1951), July 16, Dinuba.

Scott Wesley Krauter (1988), Sept. 27, Fresno.

David W. Loeffler (1989), June 18, Ramah, NM.

Robert Paul Long (1995), July 23, Visalia.

Linda Lew Louie, June 6, Fresno.

Homer Lundberg (1958), Aug. 6, Richvale.

Sandra Boyajian Lynch (1986), June 8, Fresno.

Richard Malkasian (1949), April 13, Fresno.

Lewis "Earl" Mann, Sept. 23, Visalia.

Thomas Marshall, April 24, San Jose.

Berge Der Matoian, April 11, Fresno.

Judith Carol Mayfield (1940), April 26, Visalia.

Kenneth Alexander Maul (1966), June 11, Fresno.

Marvin Melikian (1964), June 11, Fresno.

Ronald Lee Miller (1973), Aug. 27, Fresno.

Aram Moradian (1953), July 12, Fresno.

Sandra Marie Oberti, April 13, Madera.

Mearlene Page (1959), April 12, San Diego.

Abraham Paregian (1957), June 12, Fresno.

Kathy Lee Hansen Patterson (1972), Feb. 28, Fresno.

Inman Perkins, April 8, Fresno.

Marcy Robison, Sept. 27, Merced.

Homer John Rogers (1947), May 14, Revelstoke, BC.

Donna Rae Rosenstein (1992), June 28, Fresno.

Patrice Sanders (1987), June 13, Fresno.

Cecilia "Janet" Seay, Sept. 21, Fresno.

Donald Gilbert Smiley, Jr. (1971), May 2, Stockton.

Mary Lynn Smith, Aug. 25, Fresno.

Maxine Jewel Smith (1985), June 3, Fresno.

Chris Sorensen, March 8, Fresno.

Donald Dean Stewart (1958), April 24, Dallas, OR.

Russell Sadao Takeuchi Sr. (1986), July 1, Fresno.

Christine Elizabeth Tessler, Aug. 15, Fresno.

Daniel L. Thomas (1964), April 14, Peoria, AZ.

Sharon Rae Townley (1962), June 16, Fresno.

Gordon Allan Turl (1968), June 19, Fresno.

James Wilson Turnmire (1965), July 19, Fresno.

Ester Azurdia Vaida, Sept. 17, Davis.

David Ernest Valdivia (2002), June 22, Madera.

Carol Ann Van Tuyl Scott (1985), Sept. 13, Fresno.

Duane Karl Vargas, Aug. 6, Visalia.

Winfred Walton, April 8, Detroit, MI.

David William Wilkinson (1978), July 4, Chico.

Conway Woo, July 28, Fresno.

William Woody (1960), May 2, Fresno.

Faculty/Staff

Myra Kathrine Bambridge, May 29, Madera.

Dr. Arthur P. Barnes (1930), Feb. 6, Stanford.

Casty Caudillo, July 18, Fresno.

Clift Cairncross Cullen (1971), April 13, Clovis.

Ramiro Estalilla Jr., Sept. 7, Fresno.

Dirk Hendrik van der Elst, Sept. 18, Fresno.

Rich Marshall, Sept. 20, Fresno.

Louis Donovan Volpp, May 4, Clovis.

Friends

Carmen Anthony Eanni, Sept. 14, Fresno.

Frank Espinoza Gallegos, Sept. 26, Hanford.

George F. Gruner, Aug. 25, Fresno.

Kevin A. Harley, June 1, Fresno.

Wayne Holm, July 31, Fresno.

Barbara Kaita Shingai, May 25, Palo Alto.

Robert M. "Bob" Stephenson, June 10, Fresno.

Ronald Brent Vaughn Sr., May 19, Fresno.

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Smelling Like Roses

The Bulldog Marching Band is preparing to perform at the Rose Parade in Pasadena for the second time in two years. The Bulldog Marching Band is one of 20 bands that will perform at the 136th Rose Parade on Jan. 1.

