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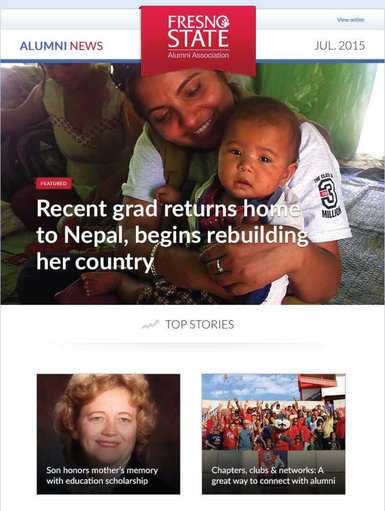
ALUMNI NEWS JUL. 2015

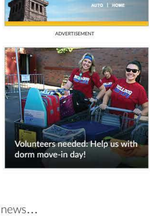


FEATURED

Recent grad returns home to Nepal, begins rebuilding her country

TOP STORIES

Son honors mother's memory with education scholarship



Chapters, clubs & networks: A great way to connect with alumni

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Other top news...

- Victor E. Bulldog III makes Fresno State debut
- First-generation grad receives Educator of the Year award
- University to offer professional development courses downtown
- University among top 25 in awarding degrees to Latinos
- School of Nursing faculty, alumnae recognized with Nurse of the Year awards
- New Innovate Fresno State program to focus on community ventures
- Chancellor White joins effort to improve federal college aid programs VIDEO

CLASS NOTES

B-K Lighting

FEATURED

Several Bulldogs work at B-K Lighting, designing products that are used around the world, from Dubai to Las Vegas to right here in the Central Valley... READ MORE

Teaching abroad and traveling the world

After Nina Eakins graduated in 2014, she left Fresno to teach in South Korea in hopes of fulfilling her unsatisfied feelings of wanderlust. Eakins' degree is in health administration, and she said that although it doesn't relate to teaching, she uses skills that she learned from her degree every day, like public speaking. **Read Nina's story >**

Bettering families' educational journeys, bettering families' lives

"I fell in love with the program from the first time I heard about it," says Olga de la Nunez (2003) as she remembers learning about the Parent Institute for Quality Education. In her eight years of working at the nonprofit, her love for PIQE has only grown. **Read Olga's story >**

Bringing justice as a deputy D.A.

Stacey Phillips (1989) is a deputy district attorney for Fresno County, where she reviews police charges and decides which of them will go to court for prosecution. Working for the County of Fresno for over 20 years, Phillips is one of about 100 district attorneys. **Read Stacey's story >**

Johnny Mendez (2012) has been hired as an account executive with the Houston Dynamo. Most recently, he held the same position with the Seattle Storm.

Richard Whittaker, Jr. (1951), one of the original five architects for The Sea Ranch, a planned community in Sonoma County, had one of his homes highlighted in the New York Times real estate section in the weekly feature "What You Get," by Mike Powell.

Marcos Flores (2015) started BaySick Leather, a leather goods company that ships goods such as iPad covers, belts and firefighting accessories all around the world.

Tim Hensleit (1970) celebrates 35 years of providing commercial construction and construction management services throughout California with his company T.K. Hensleit Co.

Jim Boren (1972) was named Fresno City College's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus.

Dana Ferris (2012) is the 2015 Valley Children's Healthcare Education Nurse of the Year.

Marguerite Daubert (1952) passed away on May 19, 2015, in Camarillo, Calif. She is survived by her husband, Henry (Harry) Daubert.

Stacy Kumishige (1985) is managing partner of the new restaurant KuniSama. It is a casual, full service Japanese restaurant offering teppanyaki and traditional dishes located on the border of Fresno and Clovis. As a student, she was a member of the Bulldogs' softball team.

Michael Allen (1994) was promoted to managing broker at Century 21 Jordan-Link & Co.

Carter Wells (2011) has been promoted to vice president of banking and finance at Central Valley Community Bank in Sacramento.

Terea A. Giannetta (1983) is the 2015 Valley Children's Healthcare Advanced Practice Nurse of the Year.

Terra Dawn Schmidt (2004) is the head athletic trainer at Yavapai College.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUL 15

Ag One and Fresno State Alumni Assocation North Bay Alumni & Friends Dinner

Join us for wine tasting and dinner featuring Fresno State farm products and a silent auction. Farm tour starts at 4p.m., 5p.m. social and dinner at 6:30p.m. Tickets are $45 per person through July 8. $60 thereafter.

LOCATION

Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm
7450 Steve Olson Lane, Forrestville, CA 95436

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#FSDogDays is in full swing! Welcome to campus, incoming students! We're so happy you're here! #AlumFromDayOne.

@FresnoStateAlum · 11:00 AM - 25 Jun 2015

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Excerpt about Fresno State's home to Nepal, begins rebuilding her country

By TARA FAGHIHNIA, Author, Writer

Posted Contributed by Sara Nazari

Pat and Fresno State graduate, post-conscientious activities include a cheerful children's home in Nepal, which she established and helps to run. Her home for girls in the Kathmandu Valley provides lodged different. It was there concerned the Rights and a decision to leave her country from her journey, arrived at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2001.

Pat, which comes from the small, rural village of Chitwan, Nepal, the third day of the trip, the earthquake and tsunami her country has suffered since it was struck with a devastating earthquake in 2015.

The initial earthquake hit at 11:56 am on April 25 lasted for 50 seconds and had a magnitude of 7.8 and more than an one injured. Continued aftershocks devastated the country in the following weeks, including a major one on May 12 with a magnitude of 7.3 that killed 200 people and injured thousands more.

The disaster spurred her to 10 years old into action volunteer work just a few days after returning to Nepal, and she has been a tireless advocate for her country's neediest since then.

Nepal relief efforts became her immediate passion, and she quickly realized that the country's children were the most vulnerable victims of the disaster, suffered, lacking clothes and engaging with community leaders to support the country.

She shared her story, from a Fresno State international student to a resident of Nepal, with us. Since it is, in her own words.

Photo by Nicholas S

How did you first learn of the earthquake?

I was in Kathmandu when the earthquake hit. I talked with my sister in Chitwan and she phone was off. Where I woke up in the morning and checked my Facebook. I was shocked to see the devastating scenes of Nepal. Unbelievable. I was in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal, Durbar Square. The temple was destroyed. Nepal mostly that area.

How did you first think when you heard about the earthquake?

I was totally shocked. I was very sad. I was scared to contact with family and posted a status to Facebook. I was very worried about my family. I was very worried about my family. I was very worried about my younger sisters who were living in Chitwan, Nepal.

What emotions did you experience during that time?

Although my uncle and other people were saying that there is no need to be worried about my family in their voice. I tried to contact with them but it was very difficult because the communication was very bad in Nepal. I was very sad and very worried.

Since, I contacted to their relief. All the time I tried to spread Good Vibes and Positive Energy. I keep my the listener to know the situation of Nepal. I keep on telling them that Nepal is safe and it is safe place. Many people were dying, people were in shock. Many people were injured and thousands of shocks. I could see the trauma and I think it was really heartbreaking.

> *Rating away from home was the most difficult thing I had ever done. Nepal is fading, fading, fading the cloth of many people, the ruins of fallen monuments, and the trauma of family.*

As you prepared to graduating with a degree in Fresno, did you experience any conflict about leaving Fresno for your personal and professional and research, you returned, where people in Nepal need your help?

I have been very fortunate to achieve many goals in my life and I feel that I have been very blessed. I have been very blessed and college has helped me to pursue my studies. I think these honors were provided to me to return back to my home, my rural village to a graduate degree in USA and to be a teacher and to be a social worker and to be a leader and to be a social worker and to be a teacher and to be a leader. I attended the reception of these awards, I felt Nepal has been blessed and people like him are the strength of Nepal – that made me feel very proud and I felt that I should go back to my country and serve.

My graduation became memorable because of the inspiring speech of my professor in university. Professor Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Nepal has excellent experts throughout the world and I truly believe that I am blessed.

(Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Nepal has excellent experts throughout the world and I truly believe that I am blessed. Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Nepal has excellent experts throughout the world and I truly believe that I am blessed.)

How did Fresno State respond to the earthquake?

I send an email to President Dr. Carlos Montes and Dr. Ganesh Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Gurung, Professor Dr. Nepal has excellent experts throughout the world and I truly believe that I am blessed. Dr. Ganesh

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Son honors mother's memory with education scholarship

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Jeff Dandridge, son of Fresno State alumna Charlotte Dandridge, established a scholarship through the Fresno State Alumni Association in honor of his mother's memory.

"She passed away in January," Jeff said. "I wanted to honor her career as a teacher by rewarding students who are also pursuing that career."

The Charlotte J. Dandridge Memorial Scholarship endowment was established through a $10,000 gift and aims to support students majoring in education and/or liberal studies. It was founded by Jeff this spring.

It is one of seven newly-endowed scholarship agreements approved by the Fresno State Alumni Association after receiving $99,000 in donations during the 2014–15 academic year.

Charlotte Dandridge was born on October 11, 1939 in Sprague, Oklahoma. She moved to Chowchilla in 1951 and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1957. She earned a bachelor's degree in education cum laude from Fresno State in 1961.

Charlotte married Kenneth Dandridge, also a Fresno State alumnus, in 1962.

Charlotte had a 38-year career in the Cupertino Union School District, where she enjoyed teaching children primarily in kindergarten and grades one and two. Charlotte was awarded an Honorary Service Award in 1978 at Jollyman Elementary School and was PTA Teacher of the Year at Lincoln Elementary in 1991. She retired in 1999.

"She had a really amazing career as a teacher," Jeff said. "I did this to honor her and to reward students who are pursuing greatness through teaching. You have a huge opportunity to make an impact on so many lives as a teacher."

Jeff said his mother was especially fond of her college friends from Fresno State, the Bunco buddies and the Lincolnettes.

"I'm connected to the university through my parents and I wanted to honor my mom by helping others," Jeff said. "She was really big on helping others."

To learn more about how to support student success by giving, contact Peter Robertson at probertson@csufresno.edu. Those interested in donating toward the Charlotte J. Dandridge Memorial Scholarship can visit www.fresnostate.edu/alumni/support.html.

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Photo contributed by Ozeme Bonnette

Chapters, clubs & networks: A great way to connect with alumni

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

The Fresno State Alumni Association's 12 chapters and nine clubs are planning events and networking opportunities for the upcoming academic year after their recent renewals, which took effect July 1.

The purpose of the alumni association's chapters and clubs is to allow Fresno State alumni to stay connected with their alma mater.

"Really, the focus of these is to provide a way for our alumni—all 200,000 of them we've got—to be engaged with Fresno State in a way that they can make a natural connection," said Matthew Schulz, who oversees the alumni association's chapters, clubs and networks.

Chapters are academic-based groups, while clubs are based on areas of interest. Four networks—or regionally-based groups—are also maintained by the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The chapters and clubs recently underwent their annual renewal process, voting on officers and other leadership for the upcoming year. Each chapter and club has a minimum of four officers: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. They also have the option to develop larger boards at their discretion.

"That's one of the neat aspects of chapters and clubs," Schulz said. "They are fairly autonomous and can self-organize, developing boards and committees or groups of their alumni as they see fit, in order to accomplish their goals."

Most chapters and clubs hold two main events a year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Many do tailgates at a Fresno State home football game, auctions, a wine tasting event or a golf tournament. Chapters and clubs may also hold smaller networking or social events throughout the year.

Often times events hold a dual purpose, providing alumni and friends the opportunity to connect with each other, while also raising money for endowed scholarships they have established to support students. In total, chapters and clubs have raised $930,500 as endowed scholarship funds. For the 2015–16 academic year, the Fresno State Alumni Association will award $146,000 in scholarships to students.

David Hoff, president of the Lyles Center of Entrepreneurship Alumni Chapter, said his chapter is already planning its fall events: a "casino night" fundraiser, in which participants will play casino games (without betting real money) for a grand prize and a speaker series.

"We invite friends and supporters of the Lyles Center and its programs to our events," Hoff said, adding that the chapter's purpose is "to provide networking opportunities and maintain connections among graduates of the Lyles Center's various programs."

Hoff said the chapter has a young and diverse alumni base.

"We're an emerging chapter," he said. "The chapter was launched in 2008 … there's lots of room for growth and opportunities for developing new alumni connections."

Ozeme J. Bonnette is president of the African American Alumni Club, which is also filling its schedule with events. She said the club is planning a meeting during Homecoming weekend, as well as activities in Los Angeles and/or the Bay Area soon.

She said the purpose of the African American Alumni Club is centered around maintaining connections with former classmates, building friendships with other alumni and supporting current Fresno State students.

Though she admits Homecoming and other events are a great time to reconnect, Bonnette said the most rewarding part of the club is helping current students through mentorship and scholarships.

"We hope to be more involved with students on campus next school year," Bonnette said. "We are also looking for more people willing to take on a leadership role with our students and with the group."

> *"College years were important years in our overall development," she said. "We were able to learn more about who we were and who we wanted to become. We networked with people who could help us accomplish our goals. Being involved in the club now will enable those relationships to continue to flourish as well as enable us, as alumni, to be mentors for the next generations."*

Bonnette invites interested individuals to contact her directly at oreme@triquet.biz.

Schulz said he is currently in discussions with different alumni to explore or establish nine new chapters, clubs or networks, including a College of Science and Mathematics chapter, a parent and family club, and an LGBTQ club.

Chapters and clubs are open to all and free to join. For more information on existing chapters and clubs, visit www.fresnostatealumni.com/chapters.

Click below to visit our chapters, clubs and networks on Facebook and LinkedIn!
African American Alumni Club
Beach Cities Alumni Network (Long Beach, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach)
Bulldog Pride Club
Communicative Disorders & Deaf Studies Alumni Chapter
Criminology Alumni Chapter
Lyles Center for Entrepreneurship Alumni Chapter
Lyles College of Engineering Alumni Chapter
Mass Communication & Journalism Alumni Chapter
San Diego Alumni Network
Social Work Alumni Chapter
Washington D.C. Alumni Network

Interested in establishing a chapter, club or network? Contact Matthew Schulz at mschulz@csufresno.edu.

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College of Science & Math: alumni + students = unlimited potential

By ESRA HASHEM, Student Writer

Photo by Matthew Schulz

The College of Science and Mathematics is on the brink of creating an official chapter with the Fresno State Alumni Association.

The chapter is being founded with the help of Dr. Andrew Lawson, interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, student ambassadors in the alumni association's Discovery Program as well as other science and math alumni.

"We're trying to get a group of alumni together to be interested in starting it," Lawson said. "We've got a core group reaching out, just about to get it started."

With almost 16,000 alumni from the college, 7,600 of which live in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and Kern counties, if established, the College of Science and Mathematics Alumni Chapter would be the thirteenth chapter under the Fresno State Alumni Association. Chapters are official academic-based groups under the alumni association's purview.

"There are a number of departments within colleges on campus that have chapters," Lawson said. "We really don't have a strong involvement [with the alumni association] right now, and I don't think our departments necessarily will be able to do individual chapters. A college-wide chapter is probably the best way to really engage with our alumni. We thought that would give us a pretty broad base."

Departments within the College of Science and Mathematics include biology, chemistry, computer science, earth and environmental sciences, mathematics, physics and psychology.

Lawson said the efforts of student ambassadors in the Discovery Program have helped foster interest in the future chapter. As a part of the program, these students conduct outreach efforts to alumni and interview them about their own student experience, their life-path since graduation and their interest in further engaging with Fresno State. The Discovery Program has three student ambassadors from the College of Science and Mathematics, each working an average of five hours per week.

"I have talked to quite a few alum who have expressed an interest in the chapter," said Student Ambassador Samantha Sharp. "We found quite a few alum who are interested and we are continuing to try to find more, so that we have a strong chapter base as a whole."

Sharp is a College of Science and Mathematics student herself, majoring in geology. She said an alumni chapter for the college could be especially useful for students and young alumni.

> *"When a person is about to graduate, it will be good to have that background—especially as a young alum who might be wondering, 'What am I going to do? What is my next step?,'" she said. "Having that alumni chapter as a place to go to that has people, professionals you can talk to—you've got that help."*

Lawson said he hopes the chapter will be launched this fall. The chapter could be involved with organizing events traditionally put on by the College of Science and Mathematics, such as the Alumni and Friends Tailgate held each year during Homecoming.

> *"It would be really nice to have a good critical map of the number of involved alumni who could help coordinate some of our events and pull people in," Lawson said. "We're just really looking for ways to more deeply engage with our alumni and connect with them after they have graduated."*

If you are interested in helping establish, or in participating in a College of Science and Mathematics alumni and friends chapter, please contact Matthew Schulz at mschulz@csufresno.edu.

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VICTOR E. BULLDOG III MAKES FRESNO STATE DEBUT

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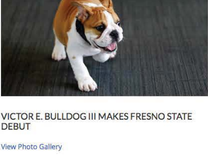

VICTOR E. BULLDOG III MAKES FRESNO STATE DEBUT

View Photo Gallery

Fresno State's new live mascot, Victor E. Bulldog III, enjoyed a warm welcome from University President Dr. Joseph I. Castro and a gathering of supporters Thursday in the Student-Athlete Village on campus.

Victor E. III is filling the paw prints of Victor E. Bulldog II, who passed away in March. The three-month-old English bulldog will carry on the proud live mascot tradition set forth by his predecessors. He will support the University and make his way around the Valley to meet Red Wavers, pose for photos and interact with alumni and friends.

"Having Victor E. Bulldog III join our Fresno State family makes this a very special day for our University and the entire Valley," Castro said. "As our mascot, he is beloved by the Red Wave and holds a special place in all of our hearts. Today is also a bittersweet day as we think about the sudden loss of Victor E. II who leaves a big 'collar' to fill. We'll remember him and celebrate his spirit as we welcome the newest Fresno State Bulldog."

The popular canine, who generated more than 500 followers @VictorEBulldog on Twitter and Instagram in just two days, will attend as many sporting events and University functions as possible as a goodwill ambassador. His first official appearance will be at the Sept. 3 home football opener at Bulldog Stadium.

Victor E. III will be under the care of the Fresno State Alumni Association. He will spend lots of time at the University and a number of staff members will assist in handling Victor E. for his campus, athletic and community appearances.

Born in a litter of seven puppies to parents Itchky and Ruby on March 14, 2015, he currently weighs 13.5 pounds and has a projected adult size of 45-50 pounds.

He was chosen when the University concluded that finding a bulldog puppy was the best way to bring a new mascot to the campus and the Valley.

Members of the staff went on a fact-finding mission to locate the best bulldog breeders on the West Coast. Ten breeders met the initial criteria and were interviewed by the University. After thorough conversations with several breeders, Hollywood Bulldogs was chosen. From that point the breeder shared pictures and information on puppies with the committee and Victor E. Bulldog III was picked to be the new mascot.

The $4,000 purchase price was provided by a donation from John and Lollie Horstmann of Fresno, longtime University friends and generous philanthropists.

History of the Bulldog mascot, condensed from Fresno State's Centennial book "A Century of Excellence":

Legend goes that student President Warren Moody and others were greeted by a white bulldog on campus each lunch time during 1921. Soon students were bringing the nameless pooch to football games, and by November the Fresno Morning Republican referred to Fresno State's Bulldogs. The nickname stuck, but there was no official mascot until 1935.

The first was Touchdown (real name: Lord Casey McFadden), a white purebred.

In the mid-1950s, Moose (Reldae's Knave of Sherwood) debuted on the sidelines. Tragedy struck in 1958 after an emotionally charged game with rival College of the Pacific and Moose escaped his student keeper's grasp and ran under the wheels of the visitors' rooters train.

Upon hearing the news, the Marine Corps donated Moose II (real name: Winnie, for Winston Churchill), who died of a heart ailment. His replacement, Diamond, was the subject of a dog napping hoax in 1962 that was intended to raise school spirit, but drew widespread criticism, instead.

Moose III (Van's King's Ransom), lived longest (13 years), but was retired in 1973 after 10 years because he feared the firecracker cannon that celebrated Bulldog scores. Moose III was described as "a shy version of

[Fresno State's] ferocious mascot."

Moosifour was donated in 1973, but attracted little enthusiasm from student trainers during a time when campus turmoil upstaged student spirit.

Costumed-character mascots came to Fresno State in the 1970s. The first was a gray fur suit with a papier maché bulldog head and a large, round dog tag that read "Scooby."

Student Gary Johns designed the familiar gray-and-white TimeOut costume with a lighter Fiberglas head. Business student Charles Mugredechian was the first to wear the outfit. Joined by cheer and dance teams, TimeOut became a fixture at games, off-campus charitable and community events and University events. In 2007 a trimmer, more-athletic and child-friendly character debuted but the new look was promptly rejected by fans and was replaced the next year by a character more like the traditional TimeOut.

It was the 1980s before the live bulldog tradition was revived with Halftime, purchased by football Coach Jim Sweeney.

Victor E. Bulldog (real name Norman) was chosen in 2006 from a field of more than 90 dogs to carry on the live mascot tradition. He was a fan favorite and continued his role until succumbing to cancer in 2012 at the age of 8.

Victor E. Bulldog II, or VEBII, a 5-month-old puppy, made his debut at the Sept. 15, 2012, football game and was much beloved. He was not quite 3 years old when he died tragically from a bee sting in March 2015.
[ngallery id=72]

By Shirley Armbruster | June 10th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: bulldogs, Victor E III | 1 Comment

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FIRST-GENERATION GRAD RECEIVES EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

FIRST-GENERATION GRAD RECEIVES EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Teresa Huerta, associate professor of Literacy, Early, Bilingual and Special Education at Fresno State, was recognized by the Association of Mexican American Educators as the 2015 Educator of the Year.

A first-generation graduate and the only member of her family to earn a doctorate, Huerta was born in Fresno and raised in Visalia. She earned her bachelor's degree and teaching credential at Fresno State, then taught in Fresno Unified School District for a couple years before earning her master's at San Diego State.

Her interest at the time was in bilingual education and the instruction of linguistically and culturally diverse students.

> *"I thought I wanted to become a principal, because I really wanted to make a difference for all children, but particularly language minority children," Huerta said. "When I was a teacher, I saw a lot of capability in these kids, and progress. However, the research highlighted the challenges of teaching language and culturally diverse students. This piqued my interest in learning more about this disparity and as a result led me to want to be a researcher."*

A friend encouraged Huerta to apply for doctorate studies at Harvard University so they could study there together. "It changed my life," she said. "I couldn't let that idea go."

Although her friend never applied for admission to Harvard, Huerta did, and was accepted.

> *"In many ways I am a trail blazer," she said. "I come from the Valley. San Diego was a big move, and now here I was at Harvard. Very few people I know have been there before me. I was determined. I got my doctoral degree."*

Huerta completed post-doctoral work at Arizona State and joined the faculty at Fresno State eight years ago.

She was nominated for the recognition from the Association of Mexican American Educators by her Fresno State colleagues Dr. Susan Tracz, professor of educational research and administration, and Dr. Berta Gonzalez, emerita professor of curriculum and instruction.

Huerta was active with the Association of Mexican American Educators throughout her career. "The Association of Mexican American Educators is about the Mexican-American struggle," she said. "That's very close to my heart."

Working with Gonzaelz and Tracz, Huerta wrote a proposal for a master's in education with an option for multilingual/multicultural education, which is now offered at Fresno State. She is also part of the Bilingual Authorization Program, which provides future teachers with skills to teach in bilingual and dual language programs.

"It's one of the few programs of its kind offering Hmong certification in the nation," she said.
Huerta also is part of a teacher residency program in partnership with Fresno Unified School District to help prepare teachers to meet needs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

> *"I try to get them excited about teaching and looking at what other successful teachers have done in working with linguistically and culturally diverse students," she said. "This is a way to help build the Valley."*

Related link:

- Association of Mexican American Educators

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UNIVERSITY TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES DOWNTOWN

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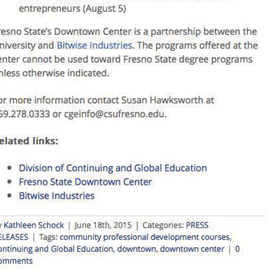
UNIVERSITY TO OFFER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES DOWNTOWN

UPDATE (July 20, 2015): *Please take our **quick survey**: what non-credit classes or workshops should we offer at #FresnoStateDowntown? https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DowntownCenter*

Fresno State is expanding its presence in downtown Fresno this summer. The Division of Continuing and Global Education will begin offering the community professional development courses this summer at the new Fresno State Downtown Center (700 Van Ness Avenue inside of Bitwise South Stadium).

The non-credit courses are ideal for those seeking to learn more about intellectual property law, enhance their professional skills in grant writing, and improve their ability to communicate effectively in a business environment. Classes on



additional topics are currently under development, including digital marketing, nonprofit leadership and management and business skills.

Classes are open to anyone and admission to Fresno State is not required, but seating is limited and early registration is encouraged. While course fees will vary by program, all of the courses this summer are $125.

Registration is now open for the following classes:

- Business communication for professionals (July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1)
- Certificate award in advanced grant writing and management (July 24, 31 and Aug. 7)
- Protecting your ideas: intellectual property law for entrepreneurs (August 5)

Fresno State's Downtown Center is a partnership between the University and Bitwise Industries. The programs offered at the center cannot be used toward Fresno State degree programs unless otherwise indicated.

For more information contact Susan Hawksworth at 559.278.0333 or cgeinfo@csufresno.edu.

Related links:

- Division of Continuing and Global Education
- Fresno State Downtown Center
- Bitwise Industries

By Kathleen Schock | June 18th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: community professional development courses, Continuing and Global Education, downtown, downtown center | 0 Comments

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UNIVERSITY AMONG TOP 25 IN AWARDING DEGREES TO LATINOS

Fresno State is among eight CSU campuses ranked in the top 25 universities in the United States for the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to Latino students, according to Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education's annual "Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics" report.

Fresno State was ranked 21st nationally in bachelor's degrees awarded to Latinos and fourth for bachelor's degrees in agriculture.

Other CSU campuses in the top 25 are Fullerton (No. 5), Northridge (No. 7), Long Beach (No. 8), San Diego (No. 10), Los Angeles (No. 11), San Bernardino (No. 17) and Pomona (No. 22).

A number of other California State University campuses were also recognized by the publication, which annually studies the top 100 predominantly Hispanic-serving, four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The rankings were based on 2013-14 data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

Dr. Victor Torres, president of the Fresno State Latina/o Faculty and Staff Association, said the rankings reflect the commitment of University President Joseph I. Castro to improve the graduation rate of all students and in particular of Chicano/Latino students.

"But it's also a testament to the dedication and commitment of many faculty, staff, student and community activists during the past 50-plus years to make higher education more accessible to the Chicano/Latino community," Torres said.

> *"While there is still much work to be done, this recognition is an indicator that we are going in the right direction. Equally as important, it also keeps us motivated to continue our efforts in this endeavor," added Torres, who is a professor in the Department of Chicano and Latin American Studies and director of its Mexican folkloric dance troupe, Los Danzantes de Aztlan.*

The report also ranked a number of CSU undergraduate academic programs in the top 10 nationally for awarding bachelor's degrees to Latinos.

Among them, Cal State Fullerton is No. 1 in the nation for awarding communication and journalism degrees to Latinos, and Long Beach State awards the most degrees in visual and performing arts.

In other categories, Fresno State was 38th for graduate student enrollment and 54th for undergraduate enrollment (two- and four-year schools).

In fall 2014, Fresno State's Latino enrollment was 10,049, or 43 percent of the student body. In 2013-14, degrees were conferred on 1,809 Latino students.

The CSU granted nearly 28,000 degrees to Latinos in 2013-14, and now serves more than 160,000 Latinos – about 35 percent of the total student body. Eighteen of 23 CSU campuses are currently recognized by the Department of Education as Hispanic-Serving Institutions, colleges and universities with a Latino student enrollment of at least 25 percent.

The HSI designation makes campuses eligible for federal grants and other programs aimed at strengthening Latino student success.

For more information about the rankings, visit www.hispanicoutlook.com.

Related links:

- CSU press release

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SCHOOL OF NURSING FACULTY, ALUMNAE RECOGNIZED WITH NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Fresno State School of Nursing faculty members Dr. Terea Giannetta and Dr. Kathleen Rindahl were recently recognized with Nurse of the Year awards for their work in the field.

Giannetta, an associate professor at Fresno State and chief pediatric nurse practitioner at Valley Children's Hospital, was awarded the Nurse of the Year – Advanced Practice honor. Nominated by peers and staff members, the annual award is given to a nurse who exhibits Valley Children's core values of excellence, integrity and compassionate care.

Rindahl, an assistant professor at Fresno State, received the Nursing Leadership Coalition's Nurse of the Year – Education award. The coalition, a professional organization that facilitates the progression of nursing through recognition of excellence, honors a registered nurse each year whom is nominated by peers.

Also receiving honors from Valley Children's were Fresno State alumni Shelly Reyes (Nurse of the Year – Clinical Practice) and Dana Ferris (Nurse of the Year - Education).

Giannetta's career at Valley Children's spans more than 23 years.

In the May Nursing Excellence Annual Report, Valley Children's says of Giannetta, "Terea has inspired generations of nurses to achieve more than they thought possible. Hundreds of nurses at Valley Children's and throughout Central California have been touched by her influence. The majority of master's prepared nurses at Valley Children's were taught by Terea. They frequently acknowledge her ability to inspire, challenge and link theory to practice."

Giannetta has achieved numerous accolades at Valley Children's and was instrumental in the establishment of the Nursing Research Council which promotes the understanding and use of research to enhance evidence-based nursing care. She is also credited for advancing the care of pediatric patients locally, nationally and internationally due to her expertise in multiple research studies.

Giannetta joined the faculty of Fresno State's nursing program in 1984, just one year after receiving her master's in nursing from the University. For the past three decades, she has taught courses that include basic nursing concepts, pharmacology in nursing, advanced pathophysiology, graduate theory and practicum. In 2012, she received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Brandman University, becoming the first nurse in Valley Children's history to earn that degree.

Rindahl joined the faculty at Fresno State in 2013 after serving as a migrant health nurse with the Fresno County Office of Education for 10 years.

She became an impassioned advocate for addressing the health needs of the underserved in the Central Valley. Through outreach clinics and leading a mobile health care team, Rindahl and a team of nurses were able to provide screenings and services to populations in rural areas where health access was not readily available.

When Rindahl arrived at Fresno State, she brought the idea of the health care mobile unit. The School of Nursing mobile unit, which got its start this past spring, allows nursing students to travel around the Valley providing preventative screenings, coordination of care and much-needed health education services.

Through Rindahl's efforts, the School of Nursing received a nearly $149,000 Song-Brown grant to fund the "Spirit of Health" clinic – an onsite clinic located at the Spirit of Woman shelter. The clinic opened in fall 2014 and provides free health care services to women recovering from substance abuse issues, and their children. Under Rindahl's supervision, bachelor's and master's students in the nursing program are able to get first-hand experience in community health and psychosocial health.

"I never thought I would earn a degree that would allow me to educate nurses, but it is rewarding helping students reach their goals," Rindahl said. "I want to make sure they have the knowledge, skills, and most importantly, empathy to be great nurse. I frequently tell my students there will be a point in time when you will be taking care of me, and I want to feel safe in your care."

Fresno State's School of Nursing was ranked among the top 25 nursing programs in the nation by the Nurse Journal's 2015 Western Rankings for America's Best Nursing Schools. The program offers undergraduate, graduate and doctorate degrees.

Related links:

- School of Nursing
- Valley Children's Hospital
- Valley Children's Healthcare May 2015 Nursing Excellence Annual Report
- Nursing Leadership Coalition of the Central San Joaquin County
- Song-Brown Grant
- Spirit of Woman
- America's Best Nursing Schools

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NEW INNOVATE FRESNO STATE PROGRAM TO FOCUS ON COMMUNITY VENTURES

The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship announced Innovate Fresno State, a new program focused on finding, developing and funding community ventures. The initiative launched on June 1.

In its first year, Innovate Fresno State will coach three prototype teams with the goal of bringing their creations to market and being profitable. Innovate Fresno State is currently looking for one more team to participate in this program.

Working with Fresno State's Small Business Development Center, the Lyles Center created a commercialization ecosystem of academic, government and private-industry stakeholders to work with the three teams on developing their venture.

"Innovate Fresno State is designed to provide ventures that have a product, legal business structure and intellectual property, with a team of coaches and project specialists to increase their opportunity to be successful in the marketplace," said Jeff Macon, technology commercialization program manager at the Lyles Center and director of the development center. "Innovate Fresno State will achieve that by helping qualified ventures with product, marketing, financial and leadership components."

The Lyles Center will provide participants with program leadership, as well as a connection to private industry and the University. By linking ventures with potential funding, the program will benefit startups and help grow existing businesses.

Innovate Fresno State will also create a commercialization certification program for coaches and project specialists.

For more information, or to find out how to participate, contact Jeff Macon 559.278.3763 or jeffmacon@csufresno.edu.

By Eddie Hughes | June 11th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES | Tags: community, Innovation, lyles center for innovation and entrepreneurship | 0 Comments

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Alums' work shines around the world

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo contributed by B-K Lighting

"Through these doors walk the finest manufacturers in the world!" reads a sign above a doorway in B-K Lighting. Employees, several of whom are Fresno State alums, file through the doorway smiling and chuckling at each others' jokes, amiable and comfortable, happy.

B-K Lighting is a family-owned outdoor lighting company that started here in the Central Valley in 1984. Their office, in the countryside of Madera County near Valley Children's Hospital, has a family atmosphere feeling—taxidermy bucks line the walls from the owner's hunting trips, American flags and war memorials hang proudly throughout the entire building, the company holds season tickets at Bulldog Stadium which employees share every football season.

(From left to right) Nathan Sloan (2005), B-K Lighting and Teka Illumination President; Dionna Smith (CSB, Accounting, 2001), B-K Lighting Controller; Shaun Cuaron (2005), Engineering Manager for Blue Dolphin Design & Engineering; Chris Lessley (Arts & Humanities, Art, 2005), B-K Lighting Documentation Specialist; Toni Eamigh (JCAST, Industrial Arts, 1993), Creative Director; Raghu Vasanth (JCAST, Industrial Technology, 2010)

The entire B-K "family," including B-K's partner companies Blue Dolphin Design and Engineering, Star Finishes and Teka Illumination, totals about 105 total employees. Of those, six are Fresno State alumni, with degrees ranging from mechanical engineering and industrial art, to accounting and computer science.

Nathan Sloan (2005), president of B-K Lighting, has worked for the company for over 20 years. "It's a family company and the atmosphere lends itself to family," Sloan said. "We can joke around with each other, we get to have fun.

"You come to work and there's that camaraderie, but we know when to get down to business and get work done."

And B-K Lighting has done some impressive work. Fresno State alums there design products that can be found around the world—Dubai, South America, Europe. Almost every hotel in Las Vegas gets its glow from B-K, including the Bellagio. They've done lighting jobs for war memorials across the country, including the Flight 93 Memorial, in Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania. Their catalogs and promotions, designed by Fresno State alum Toni Eamigh, have won multiple ADDY awards.

The quality of their work worldwide is reflected internally at their Madera headquarters. Each of the Fresno State alumni noted how much they appreciate working for a family-oriented company and how strongly B-K Lighting encourages and supports their personal and professional growth.

Shaun Cuaron (Lyles College of Engineering, computer science, mechanical engineering, 2005) noted that when he was fresh out of college and started working at B-K Lighting, he was put in the position to start developing product right away.

"I learned really fast and I think I was able to accelerate in my career faster than I would have in most other places," he said.

"You spend most of your time at work, but there's still a personal life that we know everyone has to be able to grow," Sloan said. "If we can help in some way—whether it's time off or financially—we're behind your personal and professional development."

B-K Lighting supports Fresno State athletics and the Madera High Robotics team, and many employees are still connected with clubs they participated in as Fresno State students. The company also sends care packages to soldiers, sending one every month for the last ten years, and participates in "Sea of Red" Fridays, where employees wear red shirts in support of American troops.

Are there a bunch of Bulldogs at your company?

Contact Matthew Schulz at mschulz@csufresno.edu to be featured in Alumni News.

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Photo contributed by Nina Eakins

Teaching abroad and traveling the world

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

After Nina Eakins graduated in 2014, she left Fresno to teach in South Korea in hopes of fulfilling her unsatisfied feelings of wanderlust.

Eakins' degree is in health administration, and she said that although it doesn't relate to teaching, she uses skills that she learned from her degree every day, like public speaking. Eakins teaches at a kindergarten-8th grade private school (called a *hagwon* in Korean). She teaches mainly science, history, and writing classes to younger grades.

She chose to teach in South Korea because of all of the benefits they offer to English teachers, the amazing culture, and the opportunities to explore.

So far, Eakins' favorite place in South Korea is Jeju island, which is off the Southern tip of the mainland and is called the "Hawaii of South Korea."

"By working abroad for a year (at least in Korea), I'll be able to see so much of what I want to see on this side of the world," she said.

Her favorite part of her South Korean experience so far has been the food. "I am an avid food lover and being in this country has just multiplied my love for it," she said.

Of the many differences between life in Fresno and life in South Korea, two main ones stick out to Eakins—public transportation and night life.

"The public transportation here is absolutely wonderful," Eakins said. "I live about 30 minutes south of Seoul (the capital of South Korea) and can easily hop on a bus that will take me there for less than two U.S. dollars. There is really no need for a car here."

About the differences in the cities' night life, Eakins said, "They don't call it the 'land of the morning calm' for nothing." She said that most coffee shops don't open until around 10 a.m., but then stay open until around 2 a.m.

"If you want a hot cup of coffee at the local cafe at 7 in the morning, you'll be out of luck," Eakins said. "While that may be a downside for some, the nighttime makes up for it. It's exciting to walk down the street at 12 a.m. on a Tuesday and see a lot of people walking about, eating street-food, and drinking soju (the alcohol of choice here). That is definitely something you would never see back in Fresno."

Eakins acknowledged that the thought of moving to a foreign, unfamiliar city was scary before it turned exciting as she got her plans settled, but she recommends travelling abroad to anyone who is considering it.

"Experiencing the every day life of another culture is both humbling and incredible," Eakins said. "Plus you get to see things you have never seen before, taste things you wouldn't taste back home, and meet people who previously you've had zero contact with."

"In the end, we only have this one life," she added. "Don't spend it wondering 'what if?'"

Do you have an interesting story to share?

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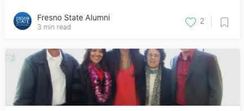

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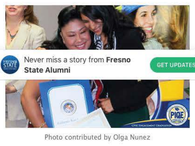


Photo contributed by Olga Nunez

Bettering families' educational journeys, bettering families' lives

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

"I fell in love with the program from the first time I heard about it," says Olga Nunez (2003) as she remembers learning about the Parent Institute for Quality Education. In her eight years of working at the nonprofit, her love for PIQE has only grown.

A track runner and cross-country team captain at Fresno State, Nunez graduated with her degree in psychology in 2003. She thought she wanted to be a school psychologist, but as an undocumented citizen, she couldn't apply for any master's programs.

When she became eligible for documentation and her social security number in 2005, she began working at a physical therapy office. Although it didn't directly relate to her degree and was different than her goal job, Nunez enjoyed helping patients and seeing their progress. It was there, working with patients on their path to recovery, that she realized her passion for helping others.

In May 2007, Nunez felt ready to move on from physical therapy.

> *"I remember that day. I was in church and I prayed, 'I want to work where I could feel like I'm helping the community,'" Nunez said. "Something that fills me, something where I feel like I'm making a change."*

While grocery shopping later that afternoon, she met the executive director of PIQE. They quickly realized they had been in a few study groups together as students at Fresno State. The director told Nunez about PIQE and that there was an opening for an associate director. Nunez was immediately intrigued and began learning more about PIQE.

For the past 27 years, PIQE has worked directly with parents by putting on morning and evening workshops at schools, teaching parents how to navigate their kids' school system and be involved in their education, with the ultimate goal of their children attending higher education institutions.

Workshops are offered over a span of nine weeks. Schools contact PIQE to request their programs, and then PIQE contacts parents, inviting them to attend. They put on tailored workshops for every stage of school: elementary, middle and high school.

"The minute she started explaining it to me, I visualized myself working there," Nunez said. "I went home and I told my husband, 'I found my next job.'"

Nunez applied and interviewed for the position, and in August 2007 began working at PIQE as associate director.

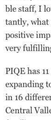
> *"From the first day, I just loved it. I can't believe that there's a job that's meant to help families move their kids into college, which was the dream of my parents. They wanted my brother and I to go to college, and now I'm being part of that. I was so incredibly happy for the opportunity," Nunez said.*

"The moment I got in front of a group of parents, that sealed the deal even more. I would see them as a reflection of my parents: they worked in the fields, were members of unrepresented communities who need help and just don't know how to navigate the system, and they love their children."

> *"I've always been very passionate about education," Nunez said. "I didn't know how much until I started working here. I've always thought education is the vehicle to get me out of poverty."*

Now, as the executive director of PIQE's regional office in Fresno, she says her favorite part about her job is "helping the community and bringing awareness to parents that they are the biggest advocates for their kids' education. The parent is the one that has the most influence on their kids' life."

Nunez said she loves getting to see the change that PIQE helps make in families' lives.



"Parents coming to us and letting us know, if it wasn't for PIQE, I wouldn't have had these types of conversations with my kids about financial aid, about what classes they needed to take in order to graduate from high school, get into college," Nunez said. "We know we didn't do it all—there's so many variables that contribute to the success of their students—but just the fact that parents are so grateful. And they say, 'My son got accepted to UCLA, or my son got accepted to Sacramento State, or my daughter got accepted here—any kind of higher education—we celebrate that!"

"It's very rewarding," Nunez said. "I have incredible staff, I love coming to work, but most importantly, what moves me every day is seeing the positive impact we're doing in the community. It's very fulfilling and rewarding."

PIQE has 11 offices throughout California and is expanding to other states. They put on workshops in 16 different languages across the state, and the Central Valley Region serves about 2,500–3,000 families every year at 50–60 school sites. To learn more about PIQE, visit piqe.org.

Do you have an interesting story to share?

Contact Matthew Schulz at mschulz@csufresno.edu to be featured in Alumni News.

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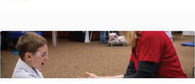

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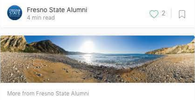

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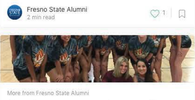

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Bringing justice as a deputy D.A.

By HANNAH POORE, Student Writer

Photo by Cary Edmondson

Stacey Phillips (1989) is a deputy district attorney for Fresno County, where she reviews police charges and decides which of them will go to court for prosecution.

Working for the County of Fresno for over 20 years, Phillips is one of about 100 district attorneys. She personally examines and processes about 150 cases per week, reviewing everything from misdemeanors to domestic violence cases. She's been especially busy lately, as Proposition 47 has caused some crimes to be reclassified as misdemeanors from felonies.

When asked about when she decided to become a lawyer, Phillips said she made the decision when she was 12 years old. After graduating from Fresno State with a degree in political science, Phillips attended the California Western School of Law in San Diego. During this time, she interned at a district attorney's office, and loved it.

Phillips is also one of the internship coordinators at the District Attorney's Office. She said that about half of the interns in the summer program this semester are Fresno State students. During the program, students get a little taste of what it's like to work in the law system.

Born and raised in Fresno, Phillips loved attending Fresno State, remembering how much fun she had as a student. She noted how great it is to have a higher-learning institute in your own hometown.

Her advice to students would be to have fun, but to remember to pay attention to grades, especially if they plan to attend graduate school. She also advises students to do internships, which allow them to give back to the community while "trying on" a career and seeing if it's the right fit.

Phillips said her career at the District Attorney's Office is very gratifying.

"A victim is never going to be completely whole once they're victimized," Phillips said. "But if I can bring someone justice, that's the most rewarding part of the job."

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Santa Rosa Junior College, Shone Farm

4 p.m. Farm Tour | 5 p.m. Social | 6:30 p.m. Dinner

For ticket information contact Ag One at 559-278-4266.

To register for the farm tour: please email shemsath@csufresno.edu with names of guests. For more information, contact Ag One at 559-278-4266.

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