

Central Valley Research Symposium and then later published our results in the *Journal of Trauma*. In addition to my work here, I worked the past three summers with a UC Davis otolaryngologist [ear, nose, and throat physician] on studies of various ear diseases. Some of the research results led to our presenting a paper at a national symposium. We expect to publish two research articles this spring.

Your extracurricular activities center on the academic aspects of the university. Could you talk about this?

As a freshman, I was critical of campus politics. And to a lesser degree, I still am. But I am basically idealistic, and I've learned that if you don't participate in the political process, you often lose out. Experience has taught me the value of creative exercises, such as research, interdisciplinary study, and meeting interesting people, to name a few. I feel these things are worth supporting, even if it means becoming a "campus politician." It would be a shame if we didn't have an undergraduate research program, an undergraduate science journal, and in the future, a biochemistry option and an honors thesis [currently, offered only in the Department of Anthropology].

As an Associated Students senator from the School of Natural Sciences, what do you do?

An Associated Students senator represents the students within his or her school and contributes to looking after their interests. Being an Associated Students senator for the School of Natural Sciences has given me more visibility and credibility to help put into action undergraduate research funding and help Associated Students organizations get monies, plan budgets, and represent the students' side at various faculty and administration meetings.

As the student representative on the faculty's Academic Policy and Planning Committee (AP&P), what has been your role?

I represent the student voice to ensure that the AP&P Committee considers student interests and concerns. This function, however, has not been that necessary this year because we have an excellent committee that is responsive to students. One example of this was the committee's willingness to change an earlier decision and move commencement from finals week to the following weekend, something the Associate Students pushed for. So my role has been primarily to serve as another AP&P member interested in the welfare of the university, rather than a champion of student rights.

Why did you lobby for funds for a research award?

My research experience has shown me that research is not only interesting, but also expensive. I think, however, that research is worth the expense and is an educational opportunity that more students should participate in. But as they say in *The Right Stuff*, "No bucks, no Buck Rogers!" So to give more students an opportunity to do research, I initiated and organized the Associated Students Educational Research Program and sent the proposal to the Associated Students Senate for approval. Fortunately, the membership recognized the need for and the value of the proposed program. As a result, we were able to fund 15 different student projects out of the \$6,000 the senate budgeted the program. I was extremely pleased with the senate's action because it showed that the Associated Students organization was interested in academic issues and, in this particular instance, diversified its student services.

Why did you start the Journal of Natural Sciences?

I saw the journal as a means to stimulate student interest in science, to give students writing and publication experience, and to

encourage research and innovative instructional programs. So I applied for funding from the School of Natural Sciences and the Instructionally Related Activities board. And we got \$7,000 total from both sources. This journal will feature student articles and scientific papers on a variety of scientific topics including cancer research, artificial intelligence, the geology of Devils Postpile National Monument, Galapagos deep-sea worms, and an interdisciplinary field study program: Man and the Natural Environment.

What do you like about CSU, Fresno?

Like other fine universities, CSU, Fresno has many excellent professors and educational opportunities, research for example. Although we don't do as much research here as some other places, we have many interesting research projects and quality investigators. A motivated student can usually find a professor to help on a project. Perhaps, this is why we are different from many other universities. More faculty members tend to help students for the sake of instruction, rather than personal gain. This willingness to help or teach is ubiquitous, extending from professors to administrators to support staff. I should know, I've pestered people all over this university!

What advice do you have for incoming students?

It depends on who the person is and what his or her goal is. In general, I'd say push yourself as hard as you can and explore as many CSU, Fresno opportunities as you can. For example, if you're interested in philosophy, but your main interest is in the sciences, take some philosophy courses anyway. Try to get to know some of your professors, too. And I think that you should participate in a creative activity such as musical performance, scientific research, or even campus politics.