

Kevin Kodama

Senior

"Low-key charisma may be what it takes to get the job done, or at least it has helped Kevin Kodama," says a CSU, Fresno professor. "He's ambitious and assertive, yet soft spoken and easy going." This unusual combination of personality traits has helped Kodama, an undergraduate senior, to succeed in many diverse areas, such as university course work, biomedical research, and academic politics. Says one administrator, "Kevin definitely gets things done!"

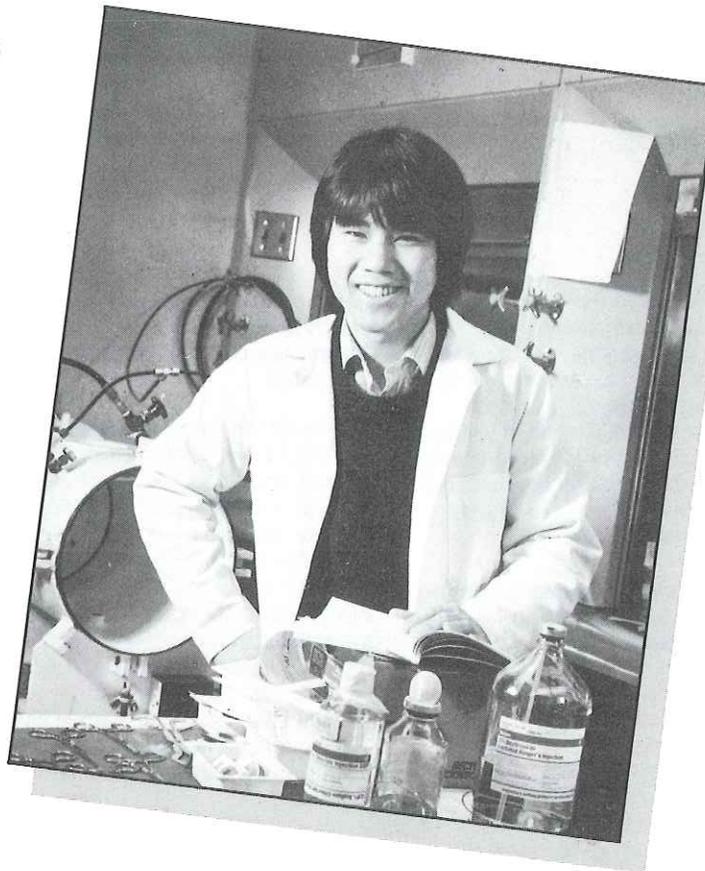
As a triple major (biology, philosophy, and liberal studies), Kodama not only completed 48 units of course credits in his last two semesters but also maintained a cumulative 3.93 GPA. He is the founding editor of *The Journal of Natural Sciences*, and he has published biomedical research findings in another journal and has two articles in press.

During the same period, Kodama has served as an Associated Students senator and as the student representative on the faculty's Academic Policy and Planning Committee (AP&P). He was honored as the recipient of the Leon Peters Leadership Award for 1985-86 and is a member of three national academic honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi. He also was named to the 1986 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Aside from his academic studies, biomedical research, and on-campus political involvement, Kodama enjoys physical activities such as fly fishing, foil fencing, martial arts, and downhill skiing. According to Kodama, "There's more to my life than just school."

You say you're interested in academic medicine. Are you a pre-med major?

No, not really. Pre-med [*pre-medicine*] is not a major. Being pre-med, which I am, simply means that a student is interested in becoming a medical doctor. Usually



pre-med students choose natural science majors. But I recommend that natural science students take more non-science courses. Not so much to make them better human beings, but simply to cultivate broader interests. What better opportunity to do this than in college?

Why did you choose three majors?

Biology is a natural interest of mine, one which began with the toy dinosaur collection I had when I was four years old. I was not content with just collecting various kinds of dinosaurs. I wanted to learn their scientific names and about their natural history. My early biological interest soon spread to studying insects and finally to doing biomedical research. So I knew long before coming to CSU, Fresno that I was going to major in biology. *Philosophy*, on the other hand, is a major I did not pick up until my junior year. Although I have a deep-seated interest in philosophical questions, such as *How do we know what is right? What can we know?*, I never expected to study philosophy seriously. But my expectations changed after my first philosophy course. The professor who taught it, Dr. James Smith, impressed me

with his broad knowledge and with his reasoning skills. My third major, *liberal studies*, attracted me because it fit one of my goals for coming to college: getting a diverse education. This diversity is important because different fields of study offer different perspectives, broadening one's understanding. Although my biology, philosophy, and liberal studies majors may seem an unusual combination, they all require critical and analytical thinking.

Can you describe your research with UC San Francisco's biomedical program on campus?

I worked with a research group that was composed of members of both the University of California, San Francisco's Fresno Medical Educational Program and CSU, Fresno. Dr. David Grubbs, a CSU, Fresno biology professor, coordinates many of these joint enterprises between the UC program and ours. In this particular group project, we studied why people who suffer smoke-inhalation injuries, during house fires for example, are susceptible to pulmonary edema. We presented the results of our research to the American Burn Association and the 6th annual