



GRADUATING CLASS OF 1918

CAMPUS DEDICATION, 1958



FRESNO STATE COLLEGE
THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS, 1911-1961

1911 The Legislature authorized the establishment of Fresno State Normal School, April 10. On September 11, the first day of operation, 150 students enrolled in classes held on the Fresno High School campus; faculty totaled eleven members. Charles L. McLane was the first president. There were 33 students graduated at the close of the first year in June 1912.

1916 The college moved into new buildings on a site, at University and Van Ness Avenues, a half mile north of the city limits.

1921 The Legislature changed the "state normal schools" to "state teachers colleges." The Fresno State Normal School was renamed Fresno State Teachers College.

1923 The college was authorized to grant bachelor of arts degrees with majors in elementary and junior high school education. A year later special secondary credentials were added to the offerings.

1926 Ratcliffe Stadium was dedicated, October 9.

1927 President Charles L. McLane retired. Dr. Frank W. Thomas, who joined the staff of the normal school as vice president in 1917, became president.

1935 The Legislature changed "state teachers colleges" to "state colleges" and authorized courses for students in fields other than teacher education. Fresno State Teachers College was renamed Fresno State College.

1946 The college was authorized to offer a graduate program, comprising a fifth year of work leading to the general secondary credential in several teaching fields.

1948 President Frank W. Thomas retired. Dr. Arnold E. Joyal was named to succeed him as president.

1949 The college was authorized to grant the master of arts degree in teaching fields.

1950 Groundbreaking ceremonies were held October 17, on the new 880-acre site on Shaw and Cedar Avenues, 5 miles northeast of the University Avenue campus.

1953 First buildings on the new Shaw Avenue campus were occupied; classes were conducted on both campuses.

1956 Off-campus Bakersfield Residence Center was established, offering upper division courses for bachelor of arts degree and credential in elementary education. Name changed to Bakersfield Center in 1959.

1958 The new Shaw Avenue campus was dedicated, May 9. The State Board of Education approved research and broadened master's degree policies for the state colleges.

1959 Ninety-five percent of classes were given on the new Shaw Avenue campus. Three new residence halls, first for the college, housing 414 women and 207 men were dedicated November 1. Total enrollment was 6306; full-time faculty totaled 312 members. There were 1237 students granted degrees (1149 bachelor's, 88 master's) at the close of the year in June 1960. The University Avenue campus was sold to Fresno City Unified School District for Fresno City College.

1961 On July 1, the administration and control of the state colleges transferred from the State Board of Education to the Trustees of the California State Colleges as provided by Chapter 49, Statutes of 1960, First Extraordinary Session.