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ALUMNI NEWS

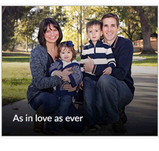
FRESNO STATE Alumni Association

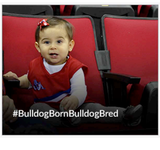
FEB. 2016

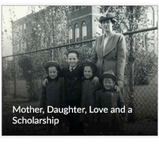
HISTORY and HER STORY

FEATURED

TOP STORIES


As in love as ever


#BulldogBornBulldogBred


Mother, Daughter, Love and a Scholarship

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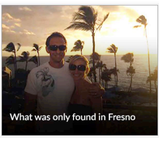
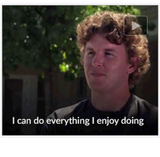

What was only found in Fresno


I can do everything I enjoy doing

Other top news...

- New grants allow for produce safety research and consumer education
- Geomatics Engineering Club to celebrate 55 years of connecting students with professionals
- Brazilian delegation to tour Fresno State, attend AG workshop
- Castro honors Ray Steele Jr. with Medal of Distinction
- Salinas named Fresno State's director of governmental relations
- Lyles Center kick off Global Innovation Academy
- Madden Library partners with StoryCorps to record stories of area Latino families
- Valley economic index climbs in first month of 2016

CLASS NOTES

Joe Joralemon (2013) and ***Krista Ellsworth (2011)*** are engaged to be married. They met as students at Fresno State; he was active in Phi Delta Theta and she was active in Delta Zeta. No wedding date has been set, yet.

Richard "Rick" E. Boles (2008) and Danny E. Lara were married on August 14, 2105 in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. They are currently living in New York City.

Juan Pablo Moncayo (2008) and Benn Haitsma became engaged on August 29, 2015; after three and a half years of courting. Moncayo was a double-major with bachelor's degrees in both physics and finance. He also served two terms as president of Associated Students, Inc.

Vicki Hurd (Alumna) and Stacey Hubbard were married on January 6, 2016. The couple has been dating for three years, and is making their first home together in Fresno, California.

Nick Yovino (1971) and Laura Whitehouse became engaged on Christmas Day 2015. No wedding date has been set yet, but "Love is in the air!"

Ilich Lopez (2008) and Jessica Lyon of Santa Clara, California are pleased to announce their engagement. They plan to wed August 6, 2016, in Yountville.

Corey Liggans (2014) and Shawn Miller were married on July 25, 2015 in Boulder Creek, California. The couple had been dating for four years, and met each other while performing in a Cabrillo Stage production of "Hairspray" in 2011.

Gerry Arneson (2016) and Tai V. Nguyen are engaged to be married on October 8, 2016, possibly at Yosemite National Park. The couple has been dating for two and a half years, and will make their first home in Fresno.

Will Cantrell (2005) and ***Jeremy Carrillo (2007)*** were married on September 19, 2015 at Una Bella Giornata of Cardella Winery in Mendota, California. They met as students at Fresno State, and have been dating since 2004.

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EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAR 5

CDDS Continuing Education Course

The Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies Alumni Chapter would like to invite you to the California State University, Fresno Distinguished Alumni Workshop: Enhancing Communication for Individuals with Communication Disorders in Health Care and Educational Settings.

LOCATION

Fresno State, Engineering East 191
5241 N Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93710

MAR 8-9

Grad Fest

Join us at the 13th Annual Grad Fest, presented by your Fresno State Alumni Association. Grad Fest is the official kick-off to graduation season so you don't want to miss out. Attend Grad Fest on March 8th and 9th with your friends, have some food, and tell us where you're going after that glorious walk across the stage!

LOCATION

Fresno State, Memorial Garden Grass Area
5241 N Maple Ave, Fresno, CA 93710

MAR 14

The CSU New York/Tri-State Alumni Reception

Join other alumni from the California State University system for a great networking opportunity in your area! This is the perfect opportunity to reconnect with Fresno State and professionals and friends in your area.

LOCATION

The University Club of New York
1 West 54th Street New York, NY 10019

APR 25

CSB Alumni and Friends Annual Spring Golf Tournament

We invite alumni and the community to play in the The Craig School of Business Alumni and Friends annual golf tournament and/or be a sponsor of the event. All tickets are $200 per player. We offer additional activities including an opportunity drawing with prizes from a wide variety of Central Valley businesses as well as our exciting Helicopter Golf Ball Drop!

LOCATION

San Joaquin Country Club & Golf Course
3484 W Bluff Ave, Fresno, CA 93711

SEE MORE EVENTS

Proud to have so many great #FresnoStateAlumni at @World_Ag_Expo! #BulldogForLife

@FresnoStateAlum 1:15 PM - 11 Feb 2016

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Update your information and stay connected to your alma mater through our monthly newsletter and on social media!

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- Last Updated February 29, 2016
- Last Updated Mar 15, 2016

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GET UPDATES

Image by Marisa Mata

By Leland Martin Atkins, Marisa Mata and Ezra Hashem

In 1943, with the United States fully engaged in World War II, Martha (Hood) Atkins (1920) saw a lot of her friends getting wrapped up in romantic relationships, but she, a sophomore in college, was focused on her schooling—wanting to graduate and get a job so she could support herself. Leland Atkins (1943), patient and persistent with Martha, finally got a date with her during the winter break of his senior year.

Martha and some friends were working in a lab on campus when Leland walked in and started asking them to go ice-skating with him. That same day, his invitation was rejected, and then he stopped in front of Martha. With some nervousness, Leland looked at her and said, "I want you."

"I might," was Martha's reply.

The two went to the ice rink not knowing the long-term results of the date—their marriage and family as well as their mutual love for ice skating, dancing to found and maintain Atkins Farmlab for 47 years.

A fourth grade teacher's blackboard sketch of a volcano awakened Martha's interest in geological and mineralogical features of vacation trips. We saw Crater Lake and its porous pumice, "milky" glacier water from Mt. Rainier, Columbia and Snake Rivers' massive basalt layers, limestone caves, beach agates, and magnetic iron oxide from lava sheets.

At Fresno State in the fall of 1941, a semester of Chemistry 1-A with Dr. Robert Du Bois convinced me to major in chemistry. Before the semester ended, The Pearl Harbor attack and subsequent entrance into World War II led to military enlistments of many students.

Leland:
I was born and raised in Fresno. When I was 13, we moved to an 80-acre grape ranch south of Fresno where, during my school years, my work experiences—planting, plowing, irrigating, harvesting, and getting rained on—taught me to "stick-to-it" and to an agriculture-related career many years later.

In high school my interest in science began with chemistry and biology, and continued through college with chemistry and physics majors.

Photo courtesy of Martha Atkins

Other classes were taken at Huntington Lake in the summers of years 1940 to 1940 in the high Sierras, where Fresno State had their summer school program. One summer, I was employed by the United States Engineering Department.

I had a small laboratory at Hammer Field airport, which contained equipment to analyze core samples taken from runway in surrounding towns near Visalia and Livermore. We measured density, bitumen content, and included sieve analysis to determine if the runway was strong enough to support military aircraft.

Martha:
In September 1943, I was the only female chemistry major in our Quantitative Analysis class. It was a congenial group where I felt no discrimination.

We used free-swing analytical balances, plus a hand-cranked calculator, slide rules, or logarithm tables for calculating. We worked, usually, until the old McLane Hall closed at 9 p.m.

Senior chemistry majors, Andy, George and Leland, sometimes came to see how we were faring. Leland came most often.

Leland:
When I graduated in 1943, in the middle of World War II, most of my classes were small because many students had left for the military service. I obtained a position in the physics department of Shell Development Company in Emeryville, California. I was deferred from the draft since my job was classified as a vital war related project, which consisted of development of synthetic rubber from petro-chemicals.

Martha:
Fresno State wartime enrollment had dropped to about one-third of its peacetime level. I remember a math class of four girls, three of whom composed a physics class. One fellow and I shared a chemistry class, and I, alone, glassblowing. June 1945 graduation ceremonies on the East Lawn celebrated a class of 124.

Several weeks after an interview, and shortly after the end of the war, I received notice of acceptance as a Junior Chemist in the Physico-Chemical-Analytical Division of the USDA Western Regional Research Laboratory in Albany, California.

That fall, we attended an assembly of a few hundred chemists, physicists and others who were forming the Northern California Association for Chemists to influence Congress to place atomic energy matters in civilian rather than military hands. This effort resulted in the formation of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In May 1946, we were married in Fresno, and after renting in Oakland, purchased a lot in Orinda and made plans for building a home there. Many weekends and vacation hours were spent on the project.

Leland:
In the last several years with Shell, my work involved instrument development. My work overnight shift at the carbon-arcs work in the analytical laboratory.

Martha:
Late in June 1949, I phoned my supervisor that I was not coming back. I was in the Fresno Hospital. Many hours later we welcomed a wee son, and I resigned from my job at the lab.

Sometimes, as housebuilding continued, I went to building supply stores with a baby in arms. We moved into our unfinished house in 1950 and continued to sand, paint, etc. as needed. Meanwhile, I wondered if I would ever be involved with lab work again.

A daughter was born in 1952, and our second son in 1954.

After 18 years with Shell Development Company, Leland's interest turned to agricultural chemical analyses. In June 1956, with our three children, and a moving van with some work benches and lab equipment, we arrived at our recently built home and laboratory facility in the Chico area, surrounded by nut orchards and other agriculture.

Our early months were spent acquiring equipment and becoming familiar with appropriate analytical methods. Some of the most frequently used ones were co-authored by the U.C. Davis Agricultural Extension Service Laboratory Director, our friend, and 1947 Fresno State graduate, James Quick. Then began Atkins Farmlab.

A second daughter was born in 1963.

Plant tissue analysis for fertilizer requirements was somewhat new to some growers, and business was quite slow at first. For some supplemental income, Leland did some work at the USDA Plant Introduction Station in Chico, and [1] corrected papers for a couple of schools. A couple of semesters we served as substitute chemistry lab instructors at Chico State College.

In 1964 we joined the California Association of Agricultural Laboratories. Our business grew through the years, and each summer involved long days of hard labor.

Occasionally, a college class would cheer.

It was not our goal to become a large operation. Two summers we hired another chemist for a few hours a week. Family members helped as they were able.

Life was not all work and no play. We included Boy Scouts (as Scoutmasters), Bachersfeld Harmony chorus, church choir, skiing, square dancing, sailing and some memorable trips in dark seasons. In 1995 we were at [70] 50-year graduation celebration.

Now, after a combined total of 22 years working for others and over 47 years of self-employment, we have sold our business and retired with a bit of sadness, but happy to have been useful in the vital fields of chemistry and agriculture. Thanks, in part to Fresno State, our dream came true!

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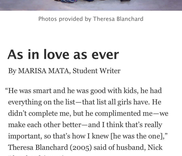
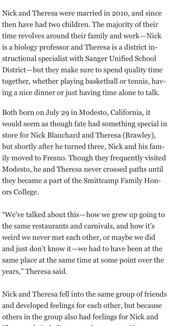


Photos provided by Theresa Blanchard

As in love as ever

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

"He was smart and he was good with kids, he had everything on the list—that list all girls have. He didn't complete me, but he complimented me—we make each other better—and I think that's really important, so that's how I knew [he was the one]," Theresa Blanchard (2005) said of husband, Nick Blanchard (2005).



Nick and Theresa were married in 2010, and since then have had two children. The majority of their time revolves around their family and work—Nick is a biology professor and Theresa is a district instructional specialist with Sanger Unified School District—but they make sure to spend quality time together, whether playing basketball or tennis, having a nice dinner or just having time alone to talk.

Both born on July 29 in Modesto, California, it would seem as though fate had something special in store for Nick Blanchard and Theresa (Brawley), but shortly after he turned three, Nick and his family moved to Fresno. Though they frequently visited Modesto, he and Theresa never crossed paths until they became a part of the Smittcamp Family Honors College.

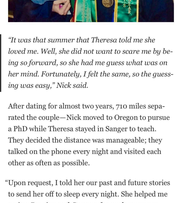
"We've talked about this—how we grew up going to the same restaurants and carnivals, and how it's weird we never met each other, or maybe we did and just don't know it—we had to have been at the same place at the same time at some point over the years," Theresa said.

Nick and Theresa fell into the same group of friends and developed feelings for each other, but because others in the group also had feelings for Nick and Theresa, their feelings were kept secret. However, they used their status as "twins" to keep a special bond throughout college. Their senior year, Nick and Theresa became more forward with their feelings.

"For our Secret Santa party that winter, I gave Theresa a Mad-libs-developed photograph of the Twinings Laboratory in downtown Fresno—using a play-on-words to suggest our connection as 'twins' and adding in my geeky love of science. By that spring, our group outings were starting to give way to more time alone. One night in May, we invited a few friends to see the Aquarid meteor shower—again, we're geeks. No one was able to join us, so we went by ourselves," Nick said.

That night, Nick and Theresa sat outside—watching shooting stars fall every minute. They spent the night talking, learning more about each other and, by the end of their time together, decided to date more formally.

With graduation nearing, Nick and Theresa realized how separate their futures were beginning to look. Not wanting to lose their relationship, Nick changed his plans of going to Humboldt State for his Master's, instead staying at Fresno State.



"It was that summer that Theresa told me she loved me. Well, she did not want to scare me by being so forward, so she had me guess what was on her mind. Fortunately, I felt the same, so the guessing was easy," Nick said.

After dating for almost two years, 710 miles separated the couple—Nick moved to Oregon to pursue a PhD while Theresa stayed in Sanger to teach. They decided the distance was manageable; they talked on the phone every night and visited each other as often as possible.

"Upon request, I told her our past and future stories to send her off to sleep every night. She helped me review Russian and German for my language exams. We exchanged handmade cards whenever we were apart on a special day. Theresa also peppered my suitcase, backpack and books with love notes every time I came home to see her. Sometimes, I would find notes tucked inside my jacket weeks after I had left Fresno."

With his time in Oregon coming to an end, Nick began to imagine ways of telling Theresa that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her.

Two days before Theresa was supposed to go to the east coast for a teacher's workshop, she got a call from Nick—he had locked his keys in his truck and needed her help. When Theresa got to the truck, Nick was nowhere in sight, but there was a note on the windshield instructing her to go to a balcony where they had one of their first dates.

"I knew something was going on," Theresa Blanchard said.

On the balcony, she found a note guiding her to the house where she stayed during their first summer together. The note awaiting her there read "I love you" in Russian—Nick hoping she remembered their lessons on the phone. This note led her to Popolo's, their favorite pizza place, where she asked for the "Theresa special," and was then given another note, this time leading to the Twinings Laboratory.

When they met at the laboratory, they smiled nervously at each other. Nick took Theresa by the hand and led her to the shade. He looked at her and said, "I know you've been running all over town, and I won't have you wait any longer," he showed the ring and asked, "Resa, will you marry me?

And though it may sound cheesy, they remain, today, as in love as ever. ❤

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Photo by Claire Takahashi

#BulldogBornBulldogBred

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

Born and raised in Fresno, Brian Ekmanian (2001) grew up feeling part of the Fresno State community. He and his father, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, often attended sporting events and tailgated together. When it was time for Ekmanian to attend college, he applied to a few places but ultimately decided to stay in Fresno. He too joined Sigma Chi and was able to find his place at Fresno State both socially and academically, and over the years his love for the university has continued to grow.

> *"I wanted to go other places, but I hung out with some people, especially at the fraternity house, engaged at Fresno State games and I was just like, 'This is the place, it's home away from home.'"*

Ekmanian remembers the best parts of his college experience including Vintage Days, having a nationally ranked football team led by David Carr, tailgating with friends and late nights at the library–the peaceful, and at times eerily, quiet moments of sitting in a corner, studying before a big test.

After graduating, Ekmanian moved to Los Angeles to work in advertising, but after a few years, made the decision to return to Fresno, settle down and start a family.

"I moved back and, I didn't get married right away, but I met my wife literally the first weekend I moved back, but one of my buddies had a thing for her, [so] it prevented me from asking her out. About a year later, I found out that he never asked her out, so I asked her out. From there, we got married a couple years later, and we had a baby girl who's [now] 11 months old."

When Ekmanian moved back to Fresno, he began a career in commercial banking and also decided that he was going to get involved with Fresno State.

"I feel like the thing to do in and around Fresno is to engage yourself around Fresno State. Become that good alumni... [Stay] involved–[volunteer] in and around the Alumni Association–stuff like that will reap you benefits, it'll give you the inside track on–if you're staying here locally–some pretty good opportunities."

Ekmanian became a board member on the Craig School of Business Alumni and Friends Board, and currently serves on the Fresno State Alumni Association Board. He wants to get more people engaged with Fresno State, and wants to support both athletics and academics. He still attends basketball and football games–this season, taking his daughter to her first Fresno State football game.

Photo by Cary Edmondson

> *"She was 10 months old. We tailgated as a family for the first time, which I'll never forget. We got pictures of her watching the game–she's got no clue what's going on, but she's having a blast. I would definitely love for her to come here–just because of my experiences and my love for anything and everything Fresno State."*

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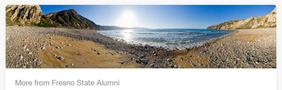

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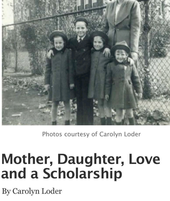


Photos courtesy of Carolyn Loder

Mother, Daughter, Love and a Scholarship

By Carolyn Loder

In 1997, Carolyn (Clark) Loder (B.A. 1975, M.A. 1978) made a charitable contribution to establish the "Mary Beekman Clark Memorial Grant" as an endowed fund to provide financial support for single mothers attending Fresno State.

Carolyn felt there were many scholarships for academic achievement but few for those mothers, like her mother, who struggled to raise a family and get an education.

Mary Beekman

Mary Beekman was born in 1910, the oldest of 13 (11 living), in Dubuque, Iowa. In those days, the term "living" was commonly used as many children were lost at childbirth or infancy. She was a child during World War I and graduated high school in 1927.

She went to nursing school and married the head of [a] local school. They had four children in five years.

World War II broke out in 1939 and her husband enlisted in the Army. He returned home safely and the family relocated to southern California.

Beekman's husband was diagnosed with lung cancer [as a result of World War II gassing]. He died in 1942 and was buried with full military honors, but left behind her and her four children.

Beekman worked full time and placed the children in boarding school, so as not to break them apart. She always wanted a college education but had the financial burden of providing for four young children at a time when programs were not offered to women to help with child care and expenses.

Carolyn (Clark) Loder

Loder established the scholarship in her [mother's] name, but 10 years after it was established, the university's legal counsel contacted her and said the scholarship could not be limited to women; it [also] had to be open to men. Loder agreed to open it to both genders.

It now focuses on Beekman and her second husband, John Clark, who worked for the California Division of Forestry, recognizing his career and Beekman's life as a mother raising six children in the California Conservation Camp system.

John Clark

Beekman met Clark as a blind date set up by her friends. During World War II, Clark was Assistant Fire Chief for Kern County Forestry and Fire Control.

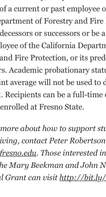
They married, raised her four children [and] had two children together—John Nichol Clark Jr. and Carolyn Valeria Clark (Loder).

Loder was born in Woodlake and was raised at the Mt. Bullion Forestry Camp and the Inyo-Mono Conservation Camp. She obtained her Associate in Science degree in Geology from Merced College and her bachelor's and master's in Geography from Fresno State, with a minor in Geology. She worked for the U.S. Forest Service for seven summers while attending Fresno State.

She received the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Merit Award for her contribution to the national minerals/energy program. She was president of the California State Mining and Mineral Museum in Mariposa and the first woman president of the California Mining Association, on its 100 year anniversary.

Loder was named person of the year by the National Association of Women in Construction in 2010, and by the California Mining Association, the New Mexico Mining Association and the Arizona Rock Products Association. She was recognized by the California Women's Legislature on their 100th anniversary with their Women's Pathfinder Award.

She received Fresno State's Top Dog Award in 1995, and is a life member of the Alumni Association.



Carolyn Loder with TimeOut

For the John Nichol Clark and Mary Beekman Clark Memorial Scholarship, recipients must be a Family member of a current or past employee of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or its predecessors or successors or be a current or past employee of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or its predecessors or successors. Academic probationary status or low grade point average will not be used to disqualify an applicant. Recipients can be a full-time or part-time students enrolled at Fresno State.

To learn more about how to support student success by giving, contact Peter Robertson at probertson@csufresno.edu. Those interested in donating toward the Mary Beekman and John Nichol Clark Memorial Grant can visit http://bit.ly/FSAASupport

This story was edited by Marisa Mata.

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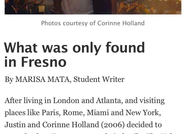


Photos courtesy of Corinne Holland

What was only found in Fresno

By MARISA MATA, Student Writer

After living in London and Atlanta, and visiting places like Paris, Rome, Miami and New York, Justin and Corinne Holland (2006) decided to move back to Fresno to start their family. The Valley had something that they couldn't find anywhere else.

When Justin and Corinne first met they were freshmen in the Smittcamp Honors College, living a floor apart from each other in the dorms.

"What did I first think of [her]? I thought she was very pretty. I thought she was very chatty. She seemed way too cool for me," said Justin Holland.

"My first impression was that he was cute too, but he was a lot more fun than me—I was kind of a nerd and he was really fun. But because we were dating other people we were just friends for the first year and a half…and then sophomore year, we were next door neighbors, we had a ton of classes together, we had the same friends and then we started dating. We used to always take walks on campus; we were poor college students so we went to the dining hall together," said Corinne Holland.

"Actually, our first date was in the dining hall."

Justin and Corinne's engagement photo

"We did the dining hall a lot…and we graduated in May 2006 and got married in August 2006. Then, we moved to the Bay Area for eight years."

Justin worked for Ernst & Young, an international company, as a certified public accountant while Corinne worked for Visa as a director in corporate strategy. Busy work schedules still allowed the couple time to travel together, with trips along the coast. Then, Justin was transferred to London. Corinne was able to continue her work remotely, in London, making the move easy.

"It was kind of like the experience of a lifetime… and we had weekends free and we just tried to travel and live it up," said Justin.

"We [visited] Paris, Barcelona, Amsterdam, Ireland, Rome," said Corinne.

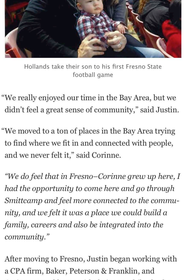
"It was a good experience."

After a few months in London, work carried Justin to Atlanta for a national project.

"We tried to travel on weekends: Miami, Nashville, Chicago, New York," said Corinne.

"And then I joined Square, when Square was pretty small–not a lot of people had heard of Square at that point, and I was there. I got to see the company grow from a really small company to the kind of company that it is today," said Justin.

Corinne was pregnant with her and Justin's first child, and in her final stages of pregnancy they decided to move back to Fresno to start their family.



Hollands take their son to his first Fresno State football game

"We really enjoyed our time in the Bay Area, but we didn't feel a great sense of community," said Justin.

"We moved to a ton of places in the Bay Area trying to find where we fit in and connected with people, and we never felt it," said Corinne.

"We do feel that in Fresno–Corinne grew up here, I had the opportunity to come here and go through Smittcamp and feel more connected to the community, and we felt it was a place we could build a family, careers and also be integrated into the community."

After moving to Fresno, Justin began working with a CPA firm, Baker, Peterson & Franklin, and Corinne stayed home with their son while also beginning to apply to start a nonprofit called Dress for Success.

"It's a closet that provides clothes for women who can't afford it, that are going on interviews and don't have clothes to wear. They can be referred to us and we provide an interview suit so they have something to wear. We're still applying, it's been a long process," said Corinne.

"I'd say we both definitely have a sense of [responsibility]. I feel that the community has given me a lot, like my education at Fresno State, going through the Smittcamp program—those were things that changed my life, changed the course of my life. I met my wife at Fresno State! So I do feel this sense of wanting to give back to the community that has given us so much, and that was a big driving force of moving back," said Justin.

Since their return to the Valley, Justin and Corinne have been able to find where they fit in. They stay busy with work but also have time to focus on getting involved in the community and family life. They are expecting their second child to join them any day now.

Corinne Holland said, "We had a dinner a couple of nights ago, so our car wasn't out, and [our neighbors] texted me 'Are you having the baby,' they know what's going on, and everyone's friendly…and people are so supportive and helpful. It's just a good community."

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NEW GRANTS ALLOW FOR PRODUCE SAFETY RESEARCH AND CONSUMER EDUCATION

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NEW GRANTS ALLOW FOR PRODUCE SAFETY RESEARCH AND CONSUMER EDUCATION

Two grants were awarded to Fresno State's Food Science and Nutrition Department for produce safety research and consumer education, the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology announced.

Made possible by a $100,000 grant from the Center for Produce Safety, Dr. Steven Pao, department chair, and Dr. Erin Dormedy will oversee a one-year study to evaluate and improve sanitizing treatments in stone fruit packinghouses. The study will begin this month and will be conducted in partnership with the California Fresh Fruit Association and area stone fruit producers.

> *"This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to work with the fruit industry," Pao said. "The Central Valley is the leading producer for stone fruit nationally, and our research facilities and faculty can study and help implement new sanitizing technologies. Utilizing our faculty, students and food science laboratory to develop novel food safety methods reflects our college's emphasis to be a leader in agricultural research."*

The research aims to determine natural microbial levels on contact surfaces in the sorting and handling process. It will also evaluate potential pathogens and their growth on surfaces in different temperature and humidity conditions, and the effectiveness of cleaning treatments.

Pathogens will be measured on sorting and sizing machinery to develop new methods for sanitizing the equipment on-site during the production process. Carriers and equipment are currently sanitized using time-consuming methods that require disassembly and cleaning in other locations.

Microbial samples will be tested by Fresno State staff and students at the campus food microbiology laboratory.

Study results will be reported through industry meetings, workshops, publications and technical journals.

The grant was awarded after Pao and Dormedy conducted a preliminary study in 2015 of surface microbial levels of peaches taken from packing lines in area stone fruit packinghouses.

They have also worked on a related study that used hot water immersion to decontaminate surface Salmonella on mangoes and was funded by Citrofrut S.A. de C.V. (Monterrey, Mexico). The study is nearly complete, and results will be presented at the Institute of Food Technologists in July in Chicago.

Dr. Lisa Herzig, a food science and nutrition professor, also received a $5,000, six-month grant from the Produce for Better Health Foundation for its Grocery Store Tour public education program that fosters collaboration with university nutrition programs.

The program trains nutrition and dietetic students to host grocery store tours for college students and the community to share fruit and vegetable nutrition information and answer consumer questions.

An experienced supermarket dietitian will train Fresno State students about corporate marketing and private label products, lead a grocery store tour and teach them about consumer misperceptions about fruit and vegetables.

By Geoff Thurner | January 21st, 2016 | Categories: ACADEMICS, PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Center for Produce Safety, consumer education, Food Science and Nutrition Department, Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Produce for Better Health Foundation, produce safety, research | 0 Comments

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GEOMATICS ENGINEERING CLUB TO CELEBRATE 55 YEARS OF CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH PROFESSIONALS

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GEOMATICS ENGINEERING CLUB TO CELEBRATE 55 YEARS OF CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH PROFESSIONALS

The student-run Geomatics Engineering Club of Fresno State's Lyles College of Engineering will hold its 55th annual Geomatics Conference on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Fresno.

The Geomatics Conference will feature area businesses and agencies as they reveal the latest technologies in land surveying, photogrammetry, unmanned aerial systems, geographical information systems (GIS), and global positioning systems (GPS).

Nearly 20 industry, government and academia leaders will discuss topics such as business and land surveying, adjustment computation and surveying monuments.

The two-day event will be filled with networking opportunities for geomatics students and professionals, live raffles and auctions. Friday's dinner banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed with live music and scholarship presentations.

More than $1 million in scholarships have been awarded to geomatics students through the conference. Towill, Inc., a Concord-area surveying, mapping and GIS services firm, will award $5,000 at this year's banquet.

Ken Meme, board chairman and president of Towill, Inc., graduated from Fresno State's geomatics program in 1986. He is celebrating 30 years with Towill, Inc.

"Scholarship opportunities give students incentive, something to strive for and allow for a little financial breathing room while helping to advance their career," Meme said.

Meme has served on the Lyles College Geomatics Advisory Council since 1998 and continues to show support to students and graduates through mentoring and guest lectures.

> *"I believe this program is one of the best and broadest in the nation in terms of subject matter," Meme said. "It covers more than just land surveying. There's camaraderie amongst all the students and while you see them working hard, often times, they're helping each other succeed. Then they maintain those relationships throughout their careers. I truly believe those relationships foster excellence."*

The conference has connected students, faculty, survey industry professionals and researchers since 1961. It supports Fresno State's geomatics program and students.

For registration or more information about exhibit space contact Luz Garcia at 805.863.7601 or gmeconf.chairs@gmail.com.

Related links:

- Geomatics Engineering Club
- Geomatics program

By Rebecca Wass | January 20th, 2016 | Categories: ACADEMICS, PRESS RELEASES | Tags: Geomatics Conference, Geomatics Engineering Club, GIS, GPS, Ken Meme, Lyles College of Engineering, scholarships Eddie Hughes, surveying, Towill Inc. | 0 Comments

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BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO TOUR FRESNO STATE, ATTEND AG WORKSHOP

The Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Fresno State will host an agricultural technology delegation from Brazil beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, as part of the Lyles Global Innovation Academy.

The group will attend the International Agricultural Technology Workshop and tour Fresno State's Water, Energy and Technology Center and the Center for Irrigation Technology hydraulics lab.

Local agricultural technology companies will present to the group of academic and business representatives, and Fresno State faculty and staff will introduce research projects and innovations in irrigation and water management.

The Lyles Global Innovation Academy specializes in workshops, training and professional development opportunities centered on innovation and entrepreneurship for international constituents.

> *"We are pleased to host the ag technology cohort as part of our Lyles Global Innovation Academy," said Dr. Timothy Stearns, executive director of the Lyles Center. "This kind of opportunity directly links to our core values of education, collaboration, networking and training. We are very excited to see what comes of these connections."*

For more information, contact Dr. Timothy Stearns at 559.278.3735 or timothys@csufresno.edu.

Related Links:

- Lyles Global Innovation Academy

By Angelica Cano | January 19th, 2016 | Categories: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY, PRESS RELEASES | Tags: agricultural Technology, Brazil, Center for Irrigation Technology, delegation, lyles center for innovation and entrepreneurship, Water Issues, workshop | 0 Comments

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CASTRO HONORS RAY STEELE JR. WITH MEDAL OF DISTINCTION

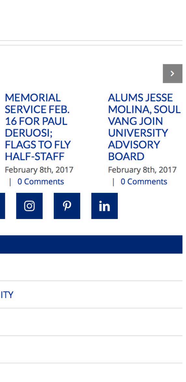
Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro announced today that retired Fresno Bee president and publisher Ray Steele Jr. has been awarded the President's Medal of Distinction. The announcement was made before a crowd of more than 400 during Castro's State of the University address at the Save Mart Center.

Established in 1993, the President's Medal of Distinction is the highest non-degree award presented by Fresno State. It is given to citizens of the region, state or nation whose contributions in the area of professional achievements or public service are of national or international significance.

Steele, a Fowler native, graduated from Fresno State in 1968. He worked at the Associated Press Fresno bureau while attending classes, and joined The Fresno Bee as a reporter in 1967. He rose to metro editor before accepting a series of executive assignments for The Bee's parent company, McClatchy Newspapers (now the McClatchy Company), headquartered in Sacramento.

He was appointed publisher and president at The Fresno Bee in 2001 and retired in 2008.

> *"Ray is an extraordinary leader, serving as chair of our Foundation Board of Governors," Castro said. "He has been instrumental in raising financial support for student projects and takes the time with his wife, Mary Lou, to personally make a difference in the lives of our students."*



Ray Steele

Steele has served on the boards of the California State University, Fresno Foundation, Fresno Business Council, Fresno Metropolitan Museum and Economic Development Corporation of Fresno County.

He was the Fresno State Alumni Association 2005 Top Dog Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Arts and Humanities. In 2015, Steele was awarded the Leon S. Peters Award for civic leadership.

Past recipients of the President's Medal of Distinction include Justice Armando Rodriguez (2015), Justice Marvin Baxter (2014), John "Phil" Larsen (2014), Jim Nielsen (2012), Richard D. Hovannisian (2012), Satoshi "Fibber" Hirayama (2009), Ulises Ruiz Ortiz (2006), His Holiness Karekin II (2005), Robert E. Coyle (2003), M. Victoria Kazan (1998), Kenneth L. Maddy (1998), Meline Kalfayan (1998), Joe Williams (1994) and George Kauffman (1994).

By Eddie Hughes | January 12th, 2016 | Categories: ALUMNI | Tags: alumni, medal of distinction, President Joseph I. Castro, The Fresno Bee | 0 Comments

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SALINAS NAMED FRESNO STATE'S DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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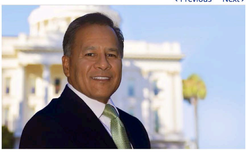

SALINAS NAMED FRESNO STATE'S DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

For Lawrence Salinas, a Fresno State alumnus with 30 years of political and public affairs experience, coming home to serve as the University's new executive director of governmental relations is an opportunity to advocate for his alma mater.

Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro announced Thursday the appointment of Salinas to the vacant cabinet position, effective Feb. 1.

The 54-year-old Salinas will leave his position as associate director of institutional relations and advocacy for the University of California that he has held since fall 2010 in the Office of the President, which is the systemwide headquarters of the UC. He has served as an adviser to numerous candidates and elected officials.

At Fresno State, Salinas' primary role will be to develop and manage strategies to inform and influence public policy at the local, state and federal levels in areas of interest to Fresno State. He will report directly to the president and advise the campus on legislative matters that may affect the University.

Castro said he is "ecstatic" that Salinas, a 1986 Fresno State graduate with a bachelor's degree in political science, is joining the Fresno State senior leadership team.

> *"He brings a long and successful track record in governmental relations and a passionate love for Fresno State that will serve our campus and region very well," Castro said.*

In his UC role, Salinas coordinated advocacy efforts and served as a liaison between the Office of the President, the UC's 10 campuses, alumni affairs, Academic Senate and the Board of Regents.

He said his decision to leave his current job with "one of the premier university systems in the world is a result of my regard for Fresno State and the incredible promise it holds to make an even more significant impact on the thousands of people it serves."

Governmental relations provides the opportunity "to share the amazing things that our higher education institutions do for students and the state," Salinas said. "I get to come to work every day and be amazed by the dedication and talent of the people I work with. It's so vital that elected officials know of these tremendous contributions."

Salinas said he looks forward to working with Castro and "supporting his enlightened vision for advancing the entire University community."

Salinas previously worked at UC Merced for 10 years as director of governmental relations and later as assistant vice chancellor of governmental relations.

From 1995-2000, Salinas was the public and governmental affairs manager for PG&E and prior to that served on the staff of a member of the state legislature, and three members of Congress: former assembly member Cruz Bustamante (who later served as lieutenant governor) and former Congress members Tony Coelho, Cal Dooley and Gary Condit.

One career highlight he cherishes is helping to establish the UC's 10th campus in Merced, working with the founding team that included Castro.

Through his governmental relations efforts for the new campus, Salinas highlighted the need and importance of greater access to higher education for students throughout the Central Valley.

> *"After 10 years we are seeing thousands of examples of student success," Salinas said. "I will bring the same enthusiasm to Fresno State and do what I can to help increase its profile throughout the state and nation."*

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Bio Lawrence Salinas 2016

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By Tom Uribes | January 8th, 2016 | Categories: ALUMNI, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY | Tags: governmental relations, higher education, institutional relations and advocacy, legislative matters, political and public affairs, public policy | 0 Comments

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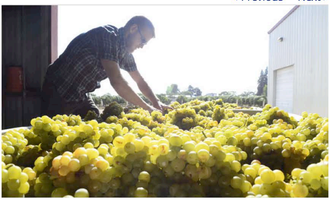

LYLES CENTER KICKS OFF GLOBAL INNOVATION ACADEMY

A cohort of grape growers and winemakers from the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region of China will visit the Central Valley starting today (Dec. 15) to begin collaborating with Fresno State viticulture and enology faculty as part of the Lyles Global Innovation Academy.

The academy, hosted by the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, specializes in workshops, training and professional development focused on innovation and entrepreneurship for constituents around the world.

The Chinese delegation will visit for three days to attend the International Wine Industry Workshop and examine the American wine industry, discuss grape cultivation and wine production and evaluate winery tourism. The cohort will also tour various Valley wineries.

In 1997, Fresno State became the first American university to operate a commercially bonded, on-campus winery.

"California produces 90 percent of all wine made in the United States," said Dr. Timothy Stearns, executive director of the Lyles Center. "As Fresno State is the only university in the country to feature a commercial winery, this collaboration makes perfect sense on multiple levels. We are excited by the possibilities of this program and this cohort."

For more information, contact Stearns at 559.278.3735 or timothys@csufresno.edu.

Related links:

- Lyles Center
- Fresno State Winery

By Angelica Cano | December 15th, 2015 | Categories: PRESS RELEASES, RESEARCH | Tags: American wine industry, China, Entrepreneurship, Global Innovation Academy, grape, Innovation, lyles center, Timothy Stearns, wine, winemakers, winery | 0 Comments

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MADDEN LIBRARY PARTNERS WITH STORYCORPS TO RECORD STORIES OF AREA LATINO FAMILIES

As part of Fresno State's celebration of Cesar Chavez Day, the University's Henry Madden Library is partnering with national oral history organization StoryCorps to record and preserve the stories of Latino families in the San Joaquin Valley.

Twelve pairs of participants will be chosen to share their memories with StoryCorps during Vintage Days, April 16 and 17, at Fresno State.

These 40-minute interviews are conversations between two people who know each other well. A trained StoryCorps facilitator will guide each pair through the recording process, but the participants will be talking directly together, asking questions and sharing memories of the experiences and people meaningful to them.

Each pair can structure their session with one participant interviewing the other, or it can be a casual conversation where they ask each other questions back and forth. Participants will receive a copy of the recording and can archive it at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Madden Library invites the campus and community to nominate interview candidates through March 6 via Twitter (@MaddenLibrary #MaddenStoryCorps) or email at specialc@listserv.csufresno.edu. A selection committee will pre-select the pairs in March based on the nominations received. Self-nominations and Spanish-language interviews are welcome.

These stories will contribute to the Madden Library's growing collection of oral histories documenting the cultural and ethnic diversity of the San Joaquin Valley. This collection is an effort to preserve the Valley's history through its people and their stories of migration, settlement, struggle and triumph over the generations.

> *"This is the kind of event that brings people together and ensures that our precious family stories are not lost," said Tammy Lau, head of the Madden Library Special Collections Research Center. "We hope that people come out to enjoy Vintage Days and, at the same time, learn more about StoryCorps and become engaged as a community in our shared history within the Central Valley."*

StoryCorps is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to recording, preserving and sharing the stories of people from all backgrounds and beliefs. Founded in 2003 by award-winning documentary producer and MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient Dave Isay, StoryCorps aims to create a growing portrait of who we are as Americans. By traveling to every corner of the country, StoryCorps has one of the largest collections of American voices ever gathered, with interviews collected from more than 100,000 Americans in all 50 states. To ensure the diversity of participants, StoryCorps has launched several major initiatives. Among these initiatives, Historias collects the stories of Latinos throughout the United States.

> *"StoryCorps tells the true American story — that we are a people defined by small acts of courage, kindness and heroism," Isay said. "Each interview reminds people that their lives matter and will not be forgotten. By strengthening connections between people and building an archive that reflects the rich diversity of American voices, we hope to build StoryCorps into an enduring institution that will touch the lives of every American family."*

A small percentage of all StoryCorps interviews are produced for national broadcast on NPR's "Morning Edition." However, all of the interviews recorded at the Madden Library will be archived in its Special Collections Research Center, where they will available for research to the public. Individuals not selected as interviewees during this event will be encouraged to download the new, free StoryCorps app that allows anyone to record their stories and upload them to www.storycorps.me.

This event is proudly sponsored by the Office of the President, the College of Social Sciences, the College of Arts and Humanities, the Henry Madden Library and Valley Public Radio.

For more event information, visit www.library.fresnostate.edu or contact Cindy Wathen at 559.278.1680 (office), 559.593.3604 (cell) or ciwathen@csufresno.edu.

For more information about disability accommodations or physical access, call 559.278.5792 in advance of your visit.

Related links:

- Madden Library Twitter: @MaddenLibrary #MaddenStoryCorps
- Facebook event page
- Madden Library
- Madden Library Facebook
- StoryCorps

By Cindy Wathen | February 11th, 2016 | Categories: CAMPUS & COMMUNITY, PRESS RELEASES | Tags: families, Latino stories, Madden Library, memories, StoryCorps | 0 Comments

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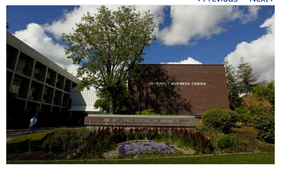

VALLEY ECONOMIC INDEX CLIMBS IN FIRST MONTH OF 2016

The overall San Joaquin Valley Business Conditions Index increased in January, pointing to continued growth for the first part of 2016. This marks the 26th consecutive month the index has remained above the 50.0 growth neutral threshold.

The index, produced by Fresno State's Craig School of Business, is a leading economic indicator from a survey of individuals making company purchasing decisions in the counties of Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare.

The overall January index rose to 58.8 from 55.6 in December. An index of greater than 50 indicates an expansionary economy over the course of the next three to six months.

"According to our survey results over the last several months, economic growth will remain positive in the months ahead and well above that of the nation's economy," said Dr. Ernie Goss, research faculty with the Craig School. "As in December, January growth slowed for manufacturers, especially durable goods producers, while construction firms reduced jobs for the month. On the other hand, wholesale trade and business services firms continue to experience healthy growth."

The index uses the same methodology as that of the national Institute for Supply Management.

Other survey findings:

- Employment: After slumping below growth neutral in October 2013, the regional hiring gauge has moved above the 50 threshold each month since. The employment index climbed to 58.3 from 55 in December. Goss said half of the businesses reported the number of applicants exceeded the number of available jobs, but about 10 percent of businesses reported shortages of workers for company job openings.
- Wholesale prices: The prices-paid index, which tracks the cost of purchased raw materials and supplies, fell to 44.1 from 49.7 in December. Mirroring other regional and national surives, the San Joaquin Valley inflationary gauge has remained in a range indicating little to no inflationary pressures at the wholesale level.
- Business confidence: Looking ahead six months, economic optimism, as captured by the business confidence index, rose slightly to a weak 45.3 from December's 44.4. "Weak agriculture commodity prices and global economic weakness continue to weigh on expectations of future economic conditions," Goss said.
- Inventories: Businesses expanded inventories of raw materials and supplies for January and at a faster pace than in December. The January inventory index climbed to 57.4 from 56.5 in December.
- Trade: New export orders fell again, and at a swifter pace. The index sank to 38.6 from December's 41.5, and the import index rose to 49.1 from 42.7 in December.
- Other components: Other components of the January Business Conditions Index were new orders at 61.5, up from December's 52.2; production or sales at 62.2, up from 55 in December; and delivery lead time at 54.6, down from last month's 59.3.

For more information, contact Goss at 559.278.2352.

Related links:

- Craig School of Business
- Dr. Ernie Goss: www.twitter.com/erniegoss or www.ernestgoss.com
- Institute for Supply Management
- Video of January report

By Kathleen Schock | February 4th, 2016 | Categories: RESEARCH | Tags: Craig School Business, Economic Indicators, economy, research | 0 Comments

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