

THE

HARVEST

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL MAGAZINE

2018



Food for Thought

From the Dean's Desk

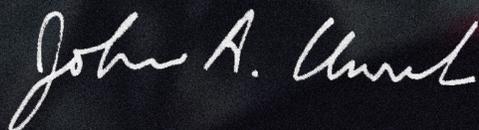
Warm greetings from the College of Agriculture, where we are marching ever closer to the 1,000-student mark. We had thought we were going to hit that milestone this fall, but we ended up with about 992 students enrolled in the College of Agriculture. That number still represents a growth of about six percent annually over the past decade, meaning that our college continues to grow in size, reputation, and impact.

The source of that impact for most, if not all, of our students is the dedication of our faculty and staff. We are excited to welcome several talented new faculty to our ranks this year. You can read about them on page 20. And while we embrace these new members of the College of Agriculture family, we also join in bittersweet celebration with our colleagues who are entering retirement. Ag education professor Brad Dodson taught his final class in May and officially retired this past summer. His colleague Mike Spiess is midway through the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP), so while we still get to see Dr. Spiess, it's not nearly as often as in years past. Two more faculty, animal science professor Dave Daley and plant science professor Lee Altier, also entered the FERP program this year, signaling that their time in the College of Agriculture is waning.

As I consider the distinguished careers and remarkable contributions of each of these professors, I am awed and humbled. They could have gone anywhere, each with talents in demand at other institutions and in private industry, but they chose to build their careers at Chico State. Our students and alumni are the direct beneficiaries of their commitment.

I believe that part of their legacies lie in the Chico State alumni who have returned to Chico State to teach and work. Among our new faculty, both Logan Smith (Animal Science, '02) and Crystal Waters (Animal Science, '08) credit the faculty and staff they met here with guiding their academic and career paths. In fact, I count 28 Chico State alumni on the College of Agriculture faculty and staff roster. What that tells me is that their time and relationships here inspired and transformed their lives in ways that led them to want to give back at the very place where their own education was so pivotal.

We will hit that 1,000 mark soon, and when we do, it's the commitment of all of us in the College of Agriculture to make those students' experiences just as close-knit, hands-on, and relational as when we were a college of 300 students, just a few years ago.



John A. Unruh

John Unruh, PhD
Dean



THE HARVEST

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BACK COVER

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SHARE YOUR STORY

Are you a Chico State Ag grad with a story to share about your Chico Experience? If so, please email sdeforest@csuchico.edu.



What's Growing On

News and Events

1 Rosecrance Teaches in Costa Rica

Plant science professor Rich Rosecrance spent five weeks teaching in Costa Rica last summer as part of the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). Shortly after school ended in May, Rosecrance departed for Heredia, Costa Rica, where he taught "Food Forever: Comparisons of Sustainable Food Production Systems" to students from all over the United States. And Rosecrance became a student himself, taking classes in Spanish grammar and Latin American history, and immersing himself in Costa Rican culture by living with a local family who didn't speak English. This was Rosecrance's third USAC trip to Costa Rica. He went previously in 2007 and 2016.



2 Students Compete in Nation's Capital

Five CSU, Chico students traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent the College of Agriculture at the Agricultural & Applied Economic Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting August 5-7, 2018. Professor Eric Houk accompanied Bailey Bivens, Fahmi Kassis, Alexander Neumann, Alberto Perez, and Ashley Utz to the event, where they competed in

the AAEA Academic Bowl. The Academic Bowl puts competitors to the test in a *Jeopardy*-style quiz bowl with questions from eight categories. These eight categories include agricultural business and finance, macroeconomics, microeconomics, management, marketing, quantitative, resources and policy, and a "potpourri" category, which is a combination of all other themes.



2. From left: Fahmi Kassis, Alexander Neumann, Alberto Perez, Bailey Bivens, and Ashley Utz



3. From left: Chloe Duggar, Angelica Gutierrez, Amanda Cox, and Andrea Garcia

3 Four Students Attend Career Pathways Program at PMA Foodservice Conference

Agriculture business instructor Marnie Dalton accompanied four students to Monterey from July 26-29, 2018, for the Produce Marketing Association's Foodservice Conference, where they were invited to participate in the Center for Growing Talent's Career Pathways Program. The program is designed to attract students to the produce industry by introducing them to the career possibilities within the industry and pairing them with a mentor. Chloe Duggar, Angelica Gutierrez, Amanda Cox, and Andrea Garcia participated in the all-expense paid conference.

4 College of Agriculture Hosts First Summer Judging Experience

Eighty high school livestock judging competitors, along with college teams from Fresno State and Modesto Junior College, attended the first summer livestock judging workout hosted at the University Farm on July 27, 2018. The event was a chance for youth livestock judging teams to gain practice evaluating and placing 12 classes of livestock, including beef, sheep, and swine. Participants also delivered four sets of oral reasons justifying their placings. Chico State livestock judging coach Clay Carlson said he expects the workout to become an annual service that the College of Agriculture will provide.

4. (Below) Eighty participants practice evaluating livestock.



5. From left: Wan Jun Wu, Toni Duarte, Patricia Garcia, and Jennifer Perez

5 71st Annual Reciprocal Meats Conference

Students Patricia Garcia, Toni Duarte, Wan Jun Wu, and Jennifer Perez from Chico State attended the 71st annual Reciprocal Meats Conference (RMC) hosted by the American Meat Science Association in Kansas City, Missouri, from June 22–27, 2018. The four students competed in both the undergraduate quiz bowl competition and Iron Chef culinary art competition. The Iron Chef competition challenged students to work with peers from other universities to create a smoked beef ball-tip and turkey breast product. Perez's team was awarded the people's choice award, and she also presented a research poster entitled "Sensory Evaluation of California and Australian Skin-on Goat Meat."

6 Urricelqui named California Beef Ambassador

Agricultural education major Valley Urricelqui earned the title of North Region California Beef Ambassador at the State Beef Ambassador Contest April 6 and 7, 2018, in Bakersfield. The California Beef Ambassador Contest invites county beef ambassadors to compete and showcase their knowledge as an advocate for the beef industry for the coming year. Urricelqui, a junior, earned her place at the state competition as the 2018–2019 Shasta County Beef Ambassador. Contestants competed in four main events, including a mock interview, mock consumer demonstration, issue response, and social media presence. The California Beef Ambassadors travel across the state to represent the beef industry in order to educate people on the nutritional, economic, and environmental benefits of beef. Urricelqui will also take her knowledge and enthusiasm into the classroom and educate youth on the importance of the livestock industry.



6. Valley Urricelqui



Alvarado Attends National Agricultural Outlook Forum

Agriculture business major Stephanie Alvarado traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the student diversity program at the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, February 19–23, 2018. She was one of only 20 undergraduate students selected from across the nation and one of three from California. The meeting attracted over 2,000 attendees internationally to engage in discussions, hear keynote speeches from industry professionals, and take part in industry and government tours. Alvarado, a senior, said that her favorite part of the trip was being able to meet USDA officials, including Secretary Sonny Perdue, and learn about important topics surrounding agriculture.

Agribusiness Institute Expands Publications

The Agribusiness Institute (ABI) at CSU, Chico added a new publication to its resource offerings in 2018 with the first issue of the *North State Agriculture Bulletin*, published in April. The semiyearly bulletin highlights noteworthy research and analysis of the agricultural economy within CSU, Chico's 12-county service region. The spring 2018 issue focused on local food capacity in the tri-county region of Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties. Highlighting research conducted by agricultural business professor Jacob Brimlow, the report explores the capacity of the tri-county region to produce its own food supply as well as the barriers that limit growth in local food sales.

The *North State Agricultural Bulletin* joins the ABI's flagship publication, *The Contribution of Agriculture to Northeastern California's Economy*. This annual report compiled by ABI director Eric Houk documents the significance of agricultural production, processing, and its related industries to the overall economy of Northeastern California. The latest report covering the 2016 production year was released in August.

Both publications can be found on the ABI webpage at www.csuchico.edu/ag/about/agribusiness-institute.shtml.



23rd Annual Golf Tournament

Larrabee Family Farms took the top prize in the 23rd annual Superior Ag/Tri Counties Bank Golf Classic on June 11, 2018. The team of Sam Richardson, Keith Larrabee, Eric Larrabee, Scott Larrabee, Chad Parker, and Ryan Larrabee won the 32-team scramble a score of 50. The fundraiser at Butte Creek Country Club brought in more than \$50,000 for scholarships and academic programs in the College of Agriculture.

The 2019 tournament is scheduled for June 10 at Butte Creek Country Club. For more information contact Sarah DeForest at 530-898-3737.



CSU, Chico Takes Top Placings in Annual Rangeland Cup

Two teams from the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture took first and second place in the Rangeland Cup competition at the 71st annual meeting of the Society for Range Management January 28–February 2, 2018, in Sparks, Nevada. The Rangeland Cup is a problem-solving competition to promote critical thinking and collaborative work on current issues facing rangeland ecology. Bridgette Eldridge, Cassidy Cunningham, Sierra Blackford, and Kera Deakins received the first place award with their presentation exploring the conflict among stakeholders involved in livestock grazing on watersheds. Alejandro Orozco-Lopez, Johnny Rowe, John Boyes, and Austin Steele received second place with their topic of "Wildfire: Prevention vs. Suppression." A total of 11 teams from 9 universities across North America participated. Kelley Duggan, John Boyes, and Alejandro Orozco-Lopez also competed in the extemporaneous speaking competition.

Excellence

In Agriculture

A new event initiated by Dean John Unruh shines a spotlight on the outstanding achievements of College of Agriculture students, faculty, staff, and donors. The Excellence in Agriculture Awards Reception took place in Colusa Hall on the Chico State campus on May 11, 2018. The event served to heighten the visibility of existing awards such as the Graduates of Distinction, Star Students, and Club of the Year; add new recognition for faculty and staff; and relaunch the Hall of Honor in appreciation of the College's most ardent supporters.

Club of the Year

The 2018 Club of the Year is the **Rangeland Management Club**, which was recognized for its leadership, service, and outreach with a \$500 award from Superior Ag.



Hall of Honor

The College of Agriculture established its Hall of Honor in 1991 to honor individuals, families, and organizations who have significantly impacted the quality and direction of the agricultural programs at CSU, Chico. Few people have had more of an impact on the College of Agriculture than **Dan Giustina**. The managing general partner of Giustina Resources, an Oregon-based timber products company, Giustina probably would not have a connection to the College of Agriculture were it not for his friends the Bell family, who began ranching in Butte County in 1875. As a young man and aspiring cattle rancher in Southern Oregon, Dan Giustina met Tom Bell, who ranched more than 16,000 acres in California and Oregon. Tom and his wife Dorothy took Dan under their wings and were cherished friends until Tom passed away in 1987, leaving \$30,000 in his will to promote excellence in animal sciences at Chico State. Tom's sisters Helen Head and Claudine Bell were delightful friends of the College of Agriculture well into their 90s and even until Claudine's passing in 2011 at the age of 104.

A year later, when Helen passed away, Dan made the remarkable decision to start the first college-based presidential scholarship at Chico State to honor his friends, the Bell family. Dan's gift to Chico State is a touching memorial for this wonderful family, whose family line has ended, but whose legacy will live on forever in the lives of the students who receive the **Bell Family Presidential Scholarship**.

With his induction into the College of Agriculture's Hall of Honor, Giustina joins the Bell Family, which was inducted in 2006.



Faculty and Staff of the Year

Newly created to recognize the impact that faculty and staff have on student's success, the Faculty and Staff of the Year Awards are nominated and selected by students. They include donor-funded monetary awards for continued professional development.

Animal science professor **Celina Phillips** received the Richard and Marian Baldy Faculty of the Year Award. Students noted that Phillips devotes much of her time and energy to ensuring that her students receive the best possible education. As the faculty supervisor at the sheep unit, she is a constant resource for student workers at the farm. The award was presented by retired faculty **Richard and Marian Baldy**.

The inaugural Staff of the Year awards went to **Ashley Person** and **Victor Valtierra Salcido**. Person is the College of Agriculture's student success coordinator, working closely with agriculture students as an advisor and mentor from the time they take interest in Chico State until they graduate. Salcido is a crop technician at the University Farm who excels at teaching students how to work with machinery and goes out of his way to ensure that student employees understand the tasks they are given.

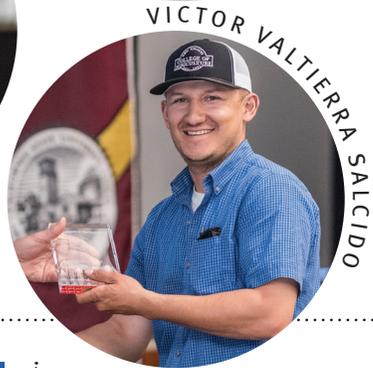
Meet the advisors and mentors who are **constant resources** for Chico State ag students.



CELINA PHILLIPS



ASHLEY PERSON



VICTOR VALTIERRA SALCIDO

CSU Chico
College of Agriculture

STAR STUDENTS

Each year, the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture recognizes one exemplary student within each discipline as a Star Student. To view complete articles on all of our past Star Students, visit our website: www.csuchico.edu/ag/about/star-students.

AARON BECERRA-ALVAREZ



Major: Crops, Horticulture, and Land Resource Management
Hometown: Anderson Valley

BRETT BAKER



Major: Agricultural Science & Education
Hometown: Turlock

AUSTIN DOWSE



Major: Agricultural Business
Hometown: Grenada

VICTOR MEDINA



Major: Animal Science
Hometown: Perris

Graduates of Distinction

Graduating seniors with exceptional academic achievement earned medallions to wear at Commencement.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR:

- Patricia Garcia
Animal Science
- Andrea Northup-Warner
Animal Science
- Annabelle Rafalovich
Agricultural Science and Education

CUM LAUDE

- Cydney Elizabeth Cone
- Samantha Rae Corso
- Maxie Holmberg-Douglas
- Autumn Reanna May

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

- Joseph Manuel Macias
- Ana Maria Zepeda
- James Alexander McCrigler
- Jeremy Lyn Payne
- Andrea Lynn Northup-Warner

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

- Ciara Adair Babcock
- Holly Jeanne Hockett
- Victoria Eileen Jensen



Student Wins National Proficiency Award

Written by Taylor Lacey

Agricultural business major Joel Mendoza earned the nation's top achievement for a grain-related job or internship when he was named the national winner in the Grain Production-Placement Proficiency Contest at the 2017 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Hailing from the agriculturally rich community of Hamilton City, with both of his parents employed at Rice Researchers in Glenn, Mendoza's involvement with the farm seemed predestined.

"Ever since I can remember, I would tag along with my dad everywhere he went. As his shadow, I watched him every day. I remember getting a darker tan on my left side from sitting next to him in the harvester for long hours," said Mendoza, a sophomore.

What started out as a way to earn money on school breaks and weekends transformed into an eye-opening experience of growth and exploration in his future career field. Mendoza's position at Rice Researchers began his first year of high school with simple tasks, but as his knowledge increased, so did his role with the farm. His duties grew to include spraying, irrigation, cleaning and drying seed, shipping, maintenance, and harvesting.

"I didn't know much when I started and wasn't confident, but then [my dad] just threw me onto a tractor and said, 'Go.' That's how I learned, and that's how it should be," Mendoza said. "You have to learn how to do things your own way and solve problems on your own in the field."

"As I learned more and gained trust, my dad put me in charge of other employees and gave me the responsibility of directing an entire crew," Mendoza added. "I feel more confident, trusted, and independent at work and have proved myself."

When Mendoza entered the FFA program, he used his job with Rice Researchers as one of the supervised agricultural experiences (SAE) required within the FFA. After four years of recording the experience in his record book, Mendoza decided to apply for a proficiency award in the area of grain production for his job at Rice Researchers.

After rigorous regional and state qualifying rounds, Mendoza was selected as the California representative for the Grain Production-Placement proficiency. In October 2017, this accomplishment led him to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he would compete as a national finalist.

Mendoza was interviewed by a panel of 10 industry professionals and aimed to leave it all on the table.



"You have to learn how to do things your own way and solve problems on your own in the field."

Asking basic questions regarding his job and management role, the entrepreneurial side of the business, and learning objectives, Mendoza's answers portrayed all of the knowledge he had gained over his years of experience.

"I was around the farm my entire life and through working there it became my life, so I was able to answer all of their questions," Mendoza said. "And the judges were truly interested in what I had to say, so it turned into a comfortable conversation."

Mendoza believed his competitors from Oklahoma, Georgia, and Tennessee had an upper hand with their knowledge and quantity of operations in grain production, so he was surprised during the sixth general session of the National FFA Convention on October 27, 2017, when he was named the national winner.

Although he received great praise for his award, he says that the most beneficial part of his placement was the doors it opened for his career. During his employment at Rice Researchers, he was able to meet and network with farmers and companies across the state while getting his hands dirty learning about the industry. Mendoza credits his experiences with Rice Researchers for instilling a passion for agricultural production as well as transferable skills he will carry into his future career.

Upon graduation with his bachelor's degree, Mendoza looks forward to obtaining his pest control advisor (PCA) license to work as an in-house PCA or operations manager for a large company. ∞

What sort of impact can a passionate educator have on a student's life? Just ask Seth Myrick. He's had a few. From his high school agriculture instructor who steered Myrick toward Chico State to his college advisor who helped him narrow his focus in agriculture and the retired professor whose student advancement award gave this undergraduate a chance to rub shoulders with global experts in his field, Myrick knows firsthand how influential a caring teacher can be. In his case, they've helped him find a career path that he never knew existed while growing up in Galt.

"I really had no idea what I wanted to do," Myrick said. "I was just a kid who got good grades because my parents told me to, but I didn't know how to apply myself or pursue my own interests."

That started to change in his junior year at Galt High School when Myrick met agriculture teacher Dane White (Ag Science and Education, '06). The Chico State graduate inspired Myrick with his passion for agriculture and encouraged him to attend

"I discovered through my electives that my interests are wherever agriculture, the environment, and policy intersect for the better."

Chico State. Arriving on campus in the fall of 2015, Myrick, an agriculture major with an option in crops, horticulture, and land resource management, was paired with advisor Garrett Liles, who was also in his first semester at Chico State. The new soil science professor urged Myrick to explore a variety of electives, including geoscience and geography.

"I became fascinated by soil. How it is formed and how the earth is formed really interests me," Myrick said. "I discovered through my electives that my interests are wherever agriculture, the environment, and policy intersect for the better."

When Liles joined researchers from Humboldt State University on a \$1 million research grant from the California Energy Commission, he asked Myrick to join him as an undergraduate research assistant. The ambitious Biopower Impacts Project (CBIP) seeks to create a greenhouse gas emissions accounting tool that will allow stakeholders in California to evaluate the environmental impacts of various bioenergy policies and projects. Liles and Myrick are tasked with quantifying the impacts of using forest residues for energy on soil health, including erosion, compaction, CO₂ emissions, and other soil effects.

The highlight of the research for Myrick was the opportunity to attend the North American Forest Soils Conference in Quebec, Canada in June, where he presented a poster detailing their work so far. Myrick was able to attend the conference after receiving the \$1,100 Wes and Jane Patton Student Advancement Award. The Pattons established the award in 2000 when Professor Patton received a monetary stipend for his selection as the University's Outstanding Faculty Service Award winner.

"I'm so thankful to the Pattons for giving me this award," Myrick said. "I wouldn't have been able to attend the conference without the award, and I would have missed out on an invaluable opportunity to move our work forward."

Liles and Myrick met soil scientists from all over the world, many who provided encouragement and resources to help them advance their research. As the only undergraduate at the conference, Myrick found himself presented with exciting opportunities for his future.

"Hearing people 20 years more experienced than me say that they'd be interested in seeing and using our finished work amazed me and was very motivating," Myrick said. "It was a great opportunity for professional development and it allowed me to take a look at the next level of amazing work I could be doing for a purpose bigger than myself and the places I could go to do it."

As Myrick wraps up his final year at Chico State, he is still sorting out what the future holds for him, but he's excited about the possibilities.

"I want to figure out how to help the environment and agriculture come together in a way that's good for everyone. I want to be a part of a system that works together to answer really big questions." ∞

Patton Award Helps Undergraduate Tackle

Big Issues

FFA Field Day Commemorates Fifty 50TH Years

Written by Taylor Lacey

Hunter Allen remembers competing in the veterinary science contest at the CSU, Chico and Butte College FFA Field Day as if it were yesterday.

“At the time, I felt like I was just memorizing breeds and parasites, reading textbooks about animal systems, and talking to myself while reciting practicums over and over. But then you get to the competition and it all becomes real. The knowledge I gained wasn’t just to win a contest, but it became the basis for what I will build my career on in this field,” Allen said.

Now an animal science major, she credits her experiences competing at the FFA Field Day with helping to solidify her future.

“The first time I placed in the top 10 individuals, it was a realization for me. It was feeling that ‘I’m good at this and I’m passionate about it,’ and now I’m here pursuing that as a student at Chico State,” said Allen, a senior.

Over the last 50 years, the CSU, Chico and Butte College FFA Field Day has served as a learning experience for high school competitors and college student facilitators alike. Chico State established the FFA Field Day in 1968 to provide high school FFA members an opportunity to practice the skills they developed in the organization and compete in the established career development events. In the mid 1980s, Chico State joined forces with Butte College to combine two events into one large, dual-campus competition.

The 50th annual CSU, Chico and Butte College FFA Field Day on March 10, 2018 registered a record 2,335 FFA members from California, Nevada, and Oregon to compete in 23 career development events. Organizers estimate that Chico State and Butte College students and faculty invested 3,400 hours into planning and preparation.

For high school students, the FFA Field Day may be their first time on a college campus, developing skills, building confidence, and exploring potential career paths while they compete. For the Chico State students who organize the massive event, it is practice in leadership, facilitation, and service to younger students.

Chico State junior Matt Bongiovanni competed in the FFA Field Day for four consecutive years in high school, and like Allen, it influenced his future choices.

“The field day was a rewarding experience in gaining career skills in agriculture, but consequently, it pushed me toward choosing to attend Chico State,” said Bongiovanni, an agriculture education major. “It made such a huge impact on me, and it means a lot to me that now I am able to use those experiences to coordinate the event and give students that same impactful experience I had.”

Bongiovanni’s favorite memory competing in the agriculture sales competition took place his senior year.

“My team and I went into a round where the panel of judges was made up of Chico State students, and our sales pitch on a tractor turned into a comfortable conversation on life at Chico State. The warmth and positivity from them was what ultimately sold me on coming to Chico State, and I’m not sure where I’d be had that conversation not occurred,” Bongiovanni said.



The National FFA Association states that the primary goal of career development events is to develop individual responsibilities, foster teamwork, and promote communication while recognizing the value of ethical competition and individual achievement. The CSU, Chico and Butte College FFA Field Day is one of more than two dozen such events held annually in California. They have become so popular that high school agriculture teachers often find themselves scrambling as soon as registrations open or risk contests filling up before their students have a chance. This challenge led Gridley High School agriculture teacher Jenny Kaslin (Ag Science and Education, ’14) and her teaching partners to establish the first annual Gridley FFA Field Day in March 2018. After serving as a tabulations chair and overall field day chair while a student at Chico State,

Kaslin learned how beneficial the event was for student learning.

“What you don’t see on the score sheet is the amount of laughs shared, the tears, the struggles, and the triumphs. There’s so many inside jokes, van rides, and life lessons to be taught alongside coaching with students,” Kaslin said. “The hours spent after school in a classroom or driving to an orchard and meeting local Butte County farmers and ranchers and exposing our students to life beyond the classroom is so valuable.”

The Gridley field day utilized Chico State students and additional volunteers in order to run 11 contests.

“The partnership and relationship with Chico State was so imperative in getting the knowledge and help we needed from their field day students to help our Field Day run smoothly,” Kaslin said.

2018 graduate Brett Baker served as co-chair for the 50th Annual CSU, Chico and Butte College FFA Field Day. He reflects on the experience as a time for invaluable learning that provided him a new appreciation for those who work to facilitate such events. Baker’s role required him to oversee the field day leadership team committees as well as individual contest chairs alongside co-chair Oke Iyeye. He claims that his service as a field day chair has shaped the way he hopes to coach and advise his career development events teams after he earns his teaching credential in 2019.

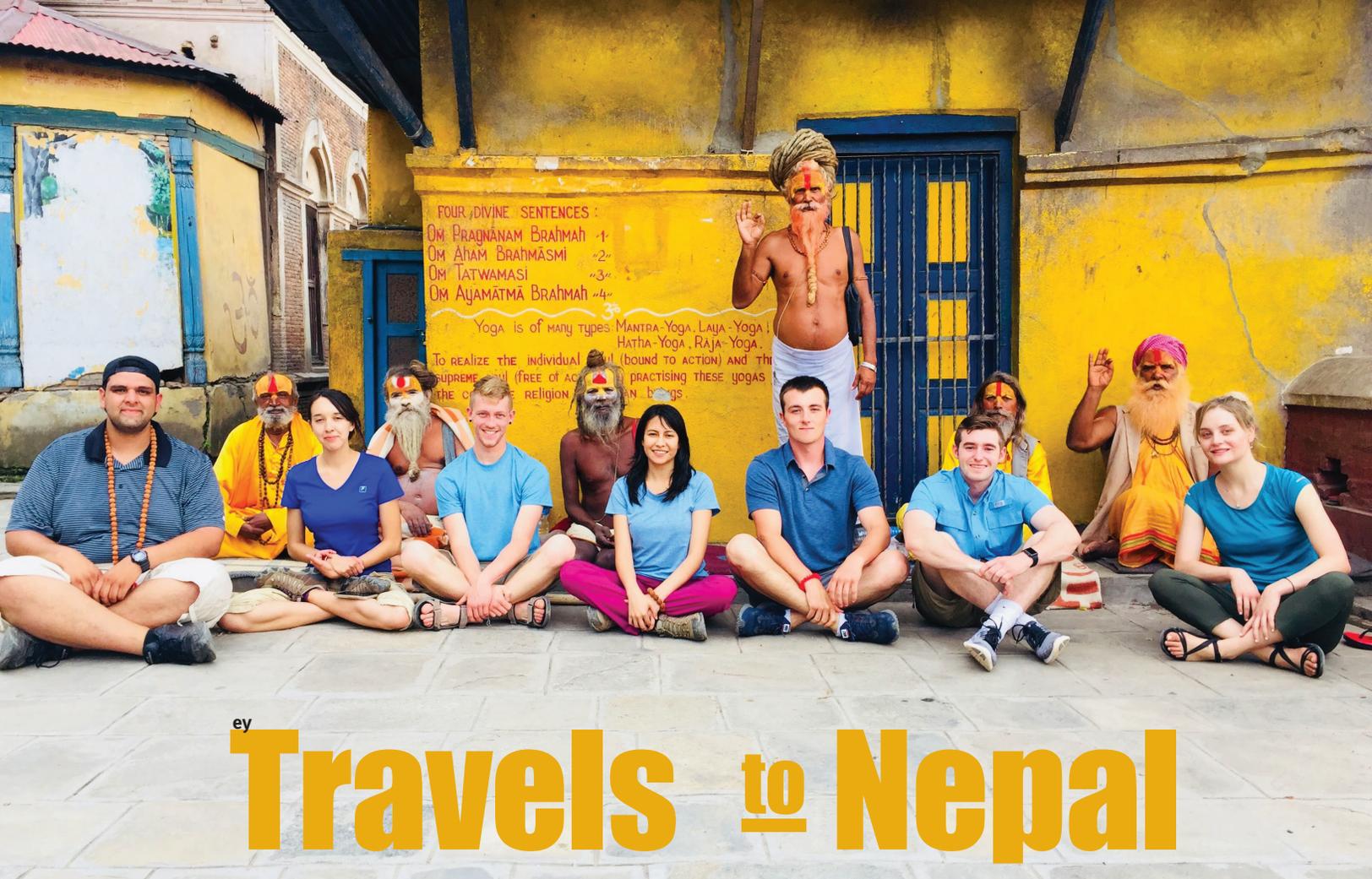
“As a future agricultural educator, I envision myself working tirelessly to prepare my students for the next weekend’s contest, because I had the opportunity to witness firsthand how influential these events are for our youth,” Baker said.

Recognizing that 3,400 volunteer hours is a large investment, retired agriculture education professor Brad Dodson, who supervised the FFA Field Day Leadership Team for 17 years, said, “It is an opportunity for our students to learn and grow beyond the classroom walls. They come together to coordinate and solve problems, learn to follow through, and interact with high school students. Opportunities like the FFA Field Day maximize the typical college experience, and our students come out better and more well rounded because of it.” ∞



FFA members from California, Nevada, and Oregon competed in 23 events





Travels to Nepal

Written by Taylor Lacey

Simply visiting a foreign country can be an eye-opening experience for college students. But to become fully immersed in another culture and lifestyle is transformational. While serving in the Peace Corps in the mid-1980s, agriculture professor **Lee Altier** found a second home in Nepal that he aimed to share with students this past summer in the **Cross-Cultural Exploration in Development** program.

"I'm fluent in the native language and appreciate the rich culture Nepal has to offer, and I wanted students to experience what I did so many years ago," Altier said, "There's a different kind of intimacy with the culture and language there."

Altier has coordinated six summer study abroad trips to Thailand throughout his career at Chico State, but he

wanted to give students a taste of his beloved Nepal. Alongside mathematics professor **Sanjay Dev** (who also served as the unofficial coordinator of trip logistics), Altier led seven Chico State students to explore the rich culture of north-central Nepal and gain a true understanding of what it's like to live in one of the poorer countries on the planet, yet one so rich in hospitality.

The five-week trip began in Kathmandu, Nepal, with a guest house as home base. Throughout the experience, the group branched out and explored remote villages, hiked through lush forests with varieties of mushrooms, orchids, and rhododendron trees, and explored the culture of the country.

Among those on the trip was crops, horticulture, and land resource management major **Emily Katsuta**. An international student and senior from Hong Kong with dual citizenship in Japan and Thailand, Katsuta made the most of every moment on the trip.

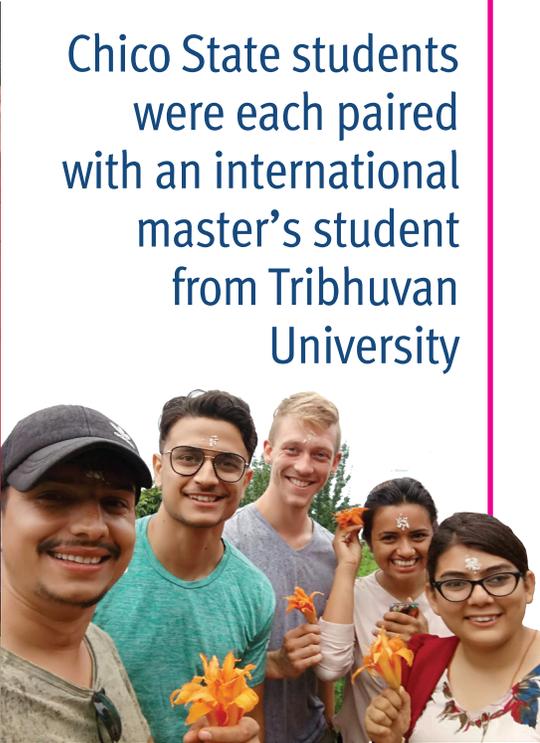
"My favorite memory in Kathmandu was just sitting on the roof of the house, looking out over the city and the mountains and taking it all in," Katsuta said. "The trip was a great experience but the serene moments like this were priceless."

While in Nepal, the Chico State students were each paired with an international master's student from Tribhuvan University. These partners provided instructional support as well as an inside grasp of the local community and culture. Together, the teams worked throughout the program to complete a research project, which they presented to the Tribhuvan campus community on the final day of the trip. The projects, compiled through interviews with locals and literature reviewed online, ranged from the study of apple production and transportation issues in the remote villages to women's roles in the local community and pesticide use and contamination.

"Rather than viewing Nepal from the perspective of an outsider, students were able to develop intrapersonal relationships with the community and truly understand the culture and energy around them," Altier said.

In addition to working with Nepali students, Chico State participants learned the native language through daily lessons. They also stayed in the homes of villagers during a 10-day trek through the mountains of central Nepal. With the great local hospitality, Altier said students adjusted well, making this his favorite part of the experience.





Chico State students were each paired with an international master's student from Tribhuvan University

Fostering sustainable development and diversity through service learning, students had the opportunity to help in local primary and secondary school classrooms, reconstruct parts of an earthquake-stricken village, and even played in a soccer match against the local students, all while earning six units of upper division course credit in sustainability taught by Altier.

“Getting out of the village and visiting remote places and staying in homes of the locals gives you a new perspective, and we became a part of the community,” Altier said.

Escaping the cityscape of Kathmandu, the group of 17 found themselves surrounded by stone buildings and barley fields with the Himalayas as their backdrop. Eventually the group reached the plateau of Melamchi-ghyang at 8,200-foot elevation, known as the “jewel of the mountains.” Following the strenuous trek through unknown country, the hikers breathed sighs of relief at reaching their destination and felt an exhilarating sense of achievement.

Following the five-week exploration, all of the students’ adventurous spirits led them to explore Thailand and other parts of Asia.

“This was a new experience for all of the students because none of them had ever been to Nepal,” Altier said, “And it’s an experience I know they will never forget.”

Upon graduating and returning home to Hong Kong, Katsuta looks forward to future global adventures, and she has set a goal to climb Mount Everest.

“It really opened my eyes to all the experiences out there and showed me that I can be a humanitarian and provide for others,” she said. “I really broke down my boundaries and grew as person, meeting lifelong friends along the way.” ∞



A young woman with voluminous, curly dark hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She has her arms crossed and is wearing a maroon t-shirt with a graphic that reads "CHICAGO STATE LOVES FFA". A blue and green plaid shirt is tied around her waist. She is wearing a watch on her left wrist. The background is a soft-focus forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

Breanna Holbert
Breaks Barriers and
Builds Bridges as

National
FFA
President

Learner, Leader, Friend

When Breanna Holbert attended her first National FFA Convention in the fall of 2012, the massive scale of the experience overwhelmed her. Sitting among 50,000 blue-jacket-clad, cheering teenagers in the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, the Tokay High School sophomore watched as the six college-aged national officers presided over the general sessions—each a confident, energetic cross between motivational speaker and rock star. Still new to FFA and just beginning her leadership journey, Holbert never imagined that she might one day be on that stage.

The story of Breanna Holbert's transformation from a self-doubting agricultural novice to the president of one of the largest youth organizations in the country is a story about relationships, self-discovery, and courage. It's also, at least in part, a story about Chico State.

Holbert grew up in Lodi with her twin and three other siblings. With a single mother struggling to make ends meet while working multiple jobs, Holbert found needed constancy and stability at school.

"My teachers were there for me every single day. They were so stable and provided so much routine, and that's what made me want to be a teacher," Holbert said. "I think I wanted to be a part of investing in people and being there for them all the time."

From her doorstep, it was just a few minutes' walk to nearby grape fields, but it wasn't until high school that Holbert developed a passion for agriculture and learned she could integrate her love of teaching and agriculture.

"I ended up in a high school agriculture class because my eighth grade counselor told me that all they do is plant plants all day, and I was like, 'sign me up!' It ended up being much more than that," Holbert recalled. "We were in our textbooks some, then outside in the garden, and out at the farm. Sometimes we'd just talk. It's not like a regular class but it was cool because I got to do a lot more hands-on things and I found out later in my life that's how I learn better."

While the class environment ignited her interest in agriculture, the leadership development opportunities through FFA challenged Holbert to step outside of her comfort zone. She began competing in public speaking competitions like reciting the FFA Creed. She ran for chapter historian and won. She worked her way into progressively higher leadership positions, including chapter treasurer, sectional sentinel, and regional treasurer, then state secretary. In each role, Holbert leaned deeper into her desire to serve students, to listen to them, build relationships, and challenge them to believe in themselves.



"I loved every moment because each position allowed me to see that I don't need a title to be something to someone. I can just be Bre and be there for them," she said.

Through all the competitions, leadership teams, and supervised projects, FFA became a second family to Holbert.

"In FFA right now we have a perception of not being inclusive, but honestly I've never felt more included than when I joined FFA. I've never felt more at home. Your advisor is your second parent, and when your parents aren't home or when they're not there for you, your advisor is always there and your chapter officer team are always there. I just feel like it's home away from home; it's always been somewhere I've fit in," Holbert said.

Two of her advisors, Rebecca Freeman (Ag

Science and Education, '02) and Rachelle Yates, urged Holbert to think about attending Chico State. But it wasn't until she met agricultural education professor Brad Dodson at an FFA leadership camp that she realized that the sense of belonging she felt in FFA could be just as strong in college.

"Dr. D was so cool. He kept checking in on me during the workshop, just making sure I was doing good. He invested in me," Holbert said. "I asked someone where he was from and they said he was a professor at Chico State. I thought, 'Yes. I want to go there.'"

Her entrance to Chico State was delayed by a year when she was elected California FFA secretary at the end of her senior year. When she finally arrived on campus in the fall of 2016, Holbert believed her FFA career was behind her. For the first time, without the responsibilities of an official leadership role, Holbert felt the freedom to cultivate her independence and soak in some of the advice she had been giving students for years.

"I don't think I realized that I could be both the leader that helps other people, but also the leader that helps myself to grow until I got to college. Then I thought, 'oh my gosh, this is my life. There's nothing holding me back. It's time to dig my feet into something and invest in something for myself,'" Holbert said.

That 'something,' it turned out, was back in FFA. With the encouragement of her state officer teammates, Holbert threw her name into the ring for a national officer candidacy. The first step was to win the California nomination for national office, which she did through an interview process during the summer of 2017. She spent the next three months burrowed in study and practice in preparation for national convention, a discipline that so isolated her from her friends and the college experience that self-doubt began to creep into her usually cheerful demeanor.

"I was honestly in the dumps, feeling so alone, and I went to [ag education professor Tommy] Henderson in tears and said, 'I don't think I can do this anymore,'" Holbert said. Reminding her of their shared faith in God, Henderson assured Holbert that it was going



“The highlight of the year for me has been the students I’ve gotten to meet and the places I’ve gone.”

to turn out all right. “He helped me to see that no matter what happens, whether I make the team or not, I’m still going to have my friends, I’m still going to have Chico, I’m still going to have my family. No matter what, there’s still goodness behind this weird patch in my life. I think that’s what helped me to continue,” Holbert said.

By late October, Holbert was back in Indianapolis where she had attended her first National FFA Convention five years previously. After a grueling process of interviews, tests, writing assignments, and impromptu speeches, Holbert made it through the first cut from 50 candidates down to 21. As she stood on the convention hall floor, looking up at the balcony where she had sat in 2012, Holbert’s body shook with nerves while the national officers were announced.

“When they called secretary and there was only the president position left, I thought there was no way I was going to get it. My whole body just fell apart. Then they called my name and I was like ‘Wait, what?’” Holbert said. “I ran up on stage and I remember thinking I have a lot of homework left to do still, and now I have to take another week off!”

The year since her election has been a whirlwind. Taking a break from college, she spent 300 days on the road, traveling more than 100,000 miles and meeting thousands of FFA members around the country. Her officer team has met with business, government,

and education leaders nationally and internationally, including an unforgettable trip to Japan where they toured strawberry farms, grocery stores, vinegar farms, and immersed themselves in Japanese culture.

“The highlight of the year for me has been the students I’ve gotten to meet and the places I’ve gone,” Holbert said. “The different perspectives of the people I’ve met has expanded my view of the world.”

As the first African American woman elected president of the National FFA Organization, Holbert has resisted cultural pressure to define her presidency by her appearance. While she’s proud to represent a demographic of leadership that she didn’t see growing up in rural central California, Holbert strives to build a legacy more upon her relationships than for her appearance.

At the same time, Holbert knows that her race has opened the doors for some conversations, and she’s OK with that.

“I’ve been in really small towns in Missouri where I’ve met the coolest students, and we’ve had great conversations about things like race and sexuality because we come from such different backgrounds,” Holbert said. “Then I visited a school in Georgia with a large African American population where they’ve just started a new chapter. I walked into their class and they were just eyes-wide-open, never having seen an

African American woman in position like mine. I’m glad I can be a trailblazer, even though this should have happened a long time ago.”

Holbert completed her presidency at the 91st Annual National FFA Convention from October 24–27, 2018, then returned to California to resume her life as a student. In January she will begin the second half of her sophomore year at Chico State, majoring in agricultural education. Holbert plans to earn her teaching credential and pursue her lifelong goal of becoming a teacher with the newly added specificity of teaching agriculture in an urban setting.

“This year I’ve been able to meet students all over the nation who are so passionate about FFA, and when their advisor walks in and cracks a joke with them, you realize ‘Oh my gosh, that’s why we love this organization so much.’ Because their advisor has invested so much into them, the student feels like they are a part of something bigger than themselves,” Holbert said. “I’m excited to be an ag teacher where I can be that inspiration for my students.”

Meanwhile, Holbert is happy to be back in Chico and back in the College of Agriculture. During a brief visit to campus in September before National Convention, Holbert posted a picture of Plumas Hall to her Instagram story. The caption simply read, “Home.” ∞

Wildcat Day on the Farm

The College of Agriculture opened its doors to welcome the rest of the Chico State community during its first-ever Wildcat Day on the Farm on April 13, 2018. The open house for Chico State students, faculty, and staff offered University Farm tours, food trucks, a free shuttle to and from campus, and exclusive access to the opening day of the 2018 Spring Plant Sale.

Farm Administrator Dave Daley said the idea for Wildcat Day on the Farm arose from the realization that the University Farm is one of Chico State's best-kept secrets among its own constituents.

"We have 20,000 people on the Chico State campus, and only a small percentage of them have ever been six miles south of campus to the University Farm. We pride ourselves on being a center for agricultural literacy, and so we recognized the need to raise awareness on campus about what we have to offer," Daley said.

Approximately 400 people attended the inaugural event, which Daley hopes can become an annual tradition.

"The University Farm provides opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculty. It's a place where students can take classes and people can buy food products produced by their own University. It really is a point of pride for the whole campus," Daley said.



Get a Taste of the Farm



You don't have to be a current student, faculty, or staff to experience the University Farm. Here are some ways to see and taste the bounty that Chico State agriculture students produce.



MONTHLY PUBLIC TOURS Student-guided tractor tours of the University Farm are offered at no charge on the third Friday of every month at 2 p.m. (January, June, and July excepted). Seating is limited, so call 530-898-3737 to reserve your space.



ORGANIC VEGETABLE PROJECT Community members can connect directly with the farmers (in our case, students) who grow their produce by joining the Organic Vegetable Project's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Members receive weekly shares of fresh seasonal vegetables, flowers, and herbs April through December. Email organicvegetableproject@gmail.com for more information, or drop by the farm office to join.



MEAT LABORATORY Steaks, roasts, ground meats, and artisan processed meat products are available for purchase Thursdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the University Farm Meat Laboratory. Check out the CSU, Chico Meat Lab Facebook page for seasonal specials.



PEACHES! The overwhelmingly popular U-pick peach orchard opens to the public in early- to mid- August on a first-come, first-served basis. As with all of agriculture, the timing and quantity of the peaches depends upon Mother Nature, so the Peach Hotline at 530-898-4989 is the best way to keep tabs on the season.



OTHER FARM PRODUCTS The University Farm office is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and maintains a supply of walnuts, almonds, and olive oil produced at the University Farm. It's also a great place to find College of Agriculture sweatshirts, hats, and other merchandise.

COMING SOON: A one-stop farm store is part of the University's first comprehensive capital campaign, *Transform Tomorrow | The Campaign for Chico State*. The farm store and educational complex will provide space for experiential learning in agricultural education, value-added marketing, business management, entrepreneurship, and sustainable agriculture.



The University Farm is located off Hegan Lane in south Chico.

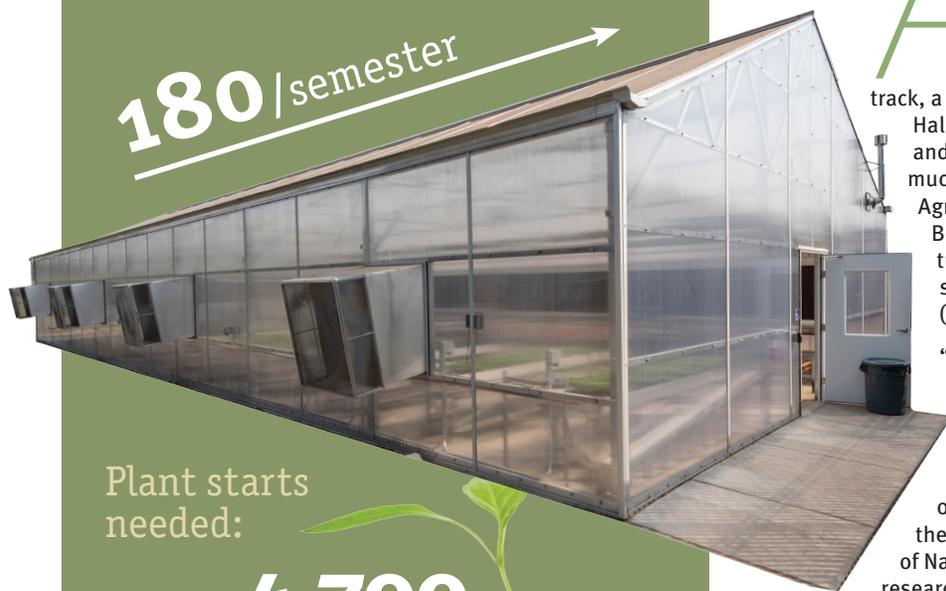
GREENHOUSES

PROPAGATE STUDENT SUCCESS



PSSC 101 Enrollment

180/semester



Plant starts
needed:

4,700
plants



A new greenhouse complex on the Chico State campus includes 2,160 square feet of space for College of Agriculture classes and research projects. Completed in the spring of 2018, the greenhouse is nestled on the western edge of campus between tennis courts and the railroad track, a short walk from the College of Agriculture's Plumas Hall home. The insulated glazing and automated heating and cooling systems provide a 50-year upgrade on the much smaller glass-covered greenhouses that College of Agriculture laboratory technicians Chuck Sellers and Kathy Berry-Garrett had previously used to grow the starter transplants needed for the gardens assigned to each student enrolled in the "Introduction to Plant Science" (PSSC 101) class.

"Plant Science 101 has grown to about 180 students each semester, so we need to plant 4,700 plants to meet the demand, and meanwhile the usable space in the old greenhouses was diminishing," Berry-Garrett said.

When facilities management decided to remove the old greenhouses to make way for facilities expansion, the college saw an opportunity to partner with the College of Natural Sciences to vastly improve the technology and research capabilities on campus.

"It's a simulated production greenhouse with the flexibility to be modified to serve our teaching and research needs," College of Agriculture Dean John Unruh said. "The advantage of this greenhouse is the accessibility here on campus and the proximity for students to participate in a variety of not only classwork but also undergraduate research projects."

While the new greenhouse stirs creativity and possibilities on campus, faculty, staff, and students are breathing new life into the greenhouses at the University Farm.

“We’ve tried to invest in upgrading our facilities to serve a broader base of students,” University Farm Administrator Dave Daley said. “We’ve seen incredible growth in our college enrollment, and as we attract a shifting demographic and more urban students, I think the greenhouse and horticulture area offer good career opportunities.”

Over the past five years, more than \$60,000 in Student Learning Fees (SLF) have gone toward upgrading heating and cooling systems, improving water efficiency, updating technology, and developing an aquaponics pilot project in the University Farm greenhouses. SLFs are granted through a competitive University-wide application process designed to enhance the student learning experience.

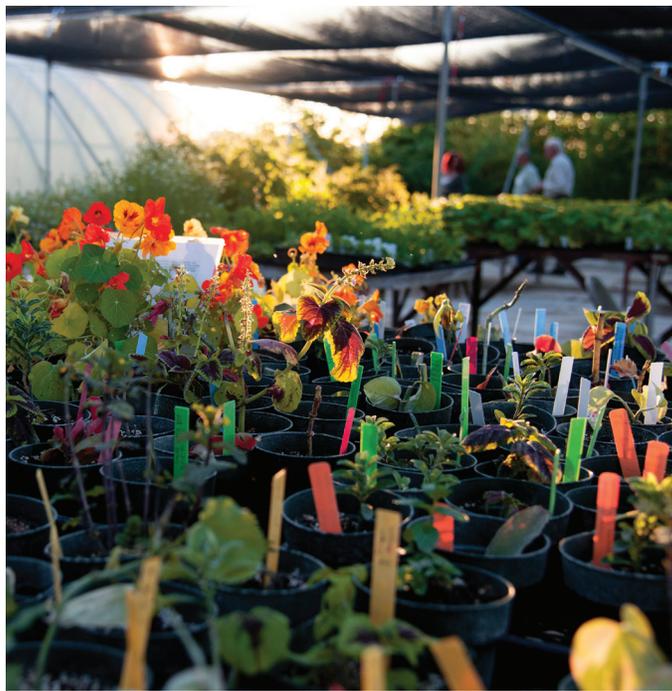
Farm greenhouse technician Matt Housley has applied for and received SLF grants each of the past three years since arriving at Chico State in 2016, continuing in the tradition of his predecessor Mark Leigh (Ornamental Horticulture, ’85), who also had a strong track record with SLFs. Housley’s most recent award of nearly \$25,000 will allow for the installment of state-of-the-art environmental control systems that will transform one of the farm’s 50-year-old greenhouses from a cool-season-only space to one that can be used year-round.

“That’s 1,500 square feet of space that basically sits empty all summer because we can’t cool it currently. With operational vents, and an evaporative cooling pad and controller, we’ll be able to control all of the environmental systems from the touch of a smartphone,” Housley said.

With a degree in horticulture from the University of Georgia and experience managing commercial greenhouses, Housley has searched for innovative ways to generate income and tie the greenhouses more closely to the rest of the farm. He implemented an annual spring plant sale over several weekends in April and May, and he plans to open poinsettia sales to the public again as well.

Housley spent much of the summer of 2018 clearing space and installing a walking path through the farm’s arboretum to tie the greenhouses directly to the Pavilion and the parking lot and classrooms beyond it.

“Now we’re seeing students parking next to the Pavilion then walking through the arboretum and greenhouses to get to the Plant Science 101 gardens on the other side,” Daley said. “It’s changed the entire dynamic of the farm so that the greenhouses are not a separate enterprise, but really it’s one of the



“In our initial stages now, we’re just trying to get the whole system working and cycling nutrients to bring the PH down,” Housley said. “In the future we’re thinking about raising other fish species and hopefully making it a profitable enterprise.”

Faculty who have joined the College of Agriculture in recent years are taking ownership in the greenhouses as well. Plant science professor Hossein Zakeri is using outdoor space within the greenhouse complex to conduct a multi-year study on the effects of saline water on alfalfa growth under controlled conditions, with a cadre of student researchers assisting him. Meanwhile, soil science professor Garrett Liles has reclaimed an aging and unused hoop house near the rear of the greenhouses, covered it with shade cloth, and modeled it into a soil house where his growing group

first things you see when you enter the farm.”

A pilot project to create an aquaponics unit within one of the five farm greenhouses has also opened up new opportunities for students to expand their view of agriculture. Initiated in 2016 by plant science professor Lee Altier working with students in the mechanical engineering department, the unit consists of six vertical aquaponics arrays made of PVC pipe that hold up to 2,000 plants. The system is watered and fertilized by two nearby fish tanks totaling 1,750 gallons and hold a number of koi. In a fully functioning aquaponics unit, the fish themselves are the primary product that is sold to consumers, while the plants they fertilize are marketable byproducts.

of undergraduate soil science devotees can process and prepare soil samples for further analysis.

Where faculty go, students are bound to follow. And so the fact that new faculty have set their sights on the greenhouses is good news to Daley.

“The farm is really maxed out in a lot of ways in terms of how we can serve our growing number of students. But there are still more opportunities for students to gain hands-on experiences in the greenhouses, and so I’m really pleased with the progress that Matt and others have made to make it a student-centered environment,” Daley said. ∞



Milestones

In Excellence



“Both of these men have elevated the image and visibility of Chico State’s agriculture program through their service and leadership,” College of Agriculture Dean John Unruh said. “Their contributions will leave a lasting impact on our college and on the ag education profession.”

Alumni and Friends Gather to Celebrate Retirees

More than 100 alumni, family, and friends gathered at Canyon Oaks Country Club on May 20, 2018, to celebrate the careers of two retiring agricultural education faculty members. The surprise party honored professors **Brad Dodson** and **Mike Spiess** for their combined total of more than 60 years in agricultural education.

Dodson wrapped up 18 years at Chico State in the spring, following a distinguished career as a high school agriculture teacher, regional ag education consultant, and assistant FFA state advisor. He joined the College of Agriculture in 2000 to lead the agricultural education program. Dodson became a national leader in developing curriculum for agriculture and career and technical education teachers in the areas of leadership and career development.

“The College of Agriculture has given me a wonderful career, and I’m grateful,” Dodson said.

His colleague of 15 years, Mike Spiess, will remain active in the College of Agriculture for a couple more years as he finishes up the Faculty Early Retirement Program. Spiess, who earned his bachelor’s degree in agriculture from Chico State in 1979, returned in 2003 to teach agricultural mechanics and technology. Spiess has provided immeasurable behind-the-scenes service to the agricultural education profession throughout his career, developing a number of widely used computer and tabulations programs, coordinating professional journal and poster submissions, and serving as an elected officer for the American Association of Agricultural Educators.



BRAD DODSON



MIKE SPIESS

New Roles for Faculty Leaders

Two faculty in the College of Agriculture have moved into new leadership roles this fall.

Dean John Unruh appointed **Professor Patrick Doyle** as interim associate dean for two years, replacing Dave Daley, who has entered the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) and will remain active as administrator of the University Farm. Doyle joined the College of Agriculture in 2001 as a lecturer in animal science and earned a tenure-track faculty position in 2003. He has served as the College of Agriculture's program coordinator since 2016. As interim associate dean, he will continue to lead the College of Agriculture's student success programs and assist the dean with administrative duties.



College of Agriculture faculty elected **Professor Elizabeth "Betsy" Boyd** to replace Doyle as program coordinator for a three-year term. Boyd arrived on campus as a plant science professor in 2008. She has served on the University's Academic Senate, including three years as chair of the shared-governing body, and recently was elected to the Academic Senate of the statewide California State University system. As program coordinator, Boyd is responsible for course scheduling and faculty workload.



WELCOME ABOARD

Agriculture faculty
(left to right) Mina Hejazi,
Logan Smith,
Thomas Henderson,
and Grazyne Tresoldi

sparking new ideas in others

New Faculty Join the College of Agriculture



MINA HEJAZI came to Chico State from Virginia Tech where she was a postdoctoral fellow and also earned her PhD in economics with a specialization in international trade and development. Professor Hejazi has a BS and an MS in agricultural economics from Iran. Her first professional position at Iran's Agricultural Planning and Economic Research Institute within the Ministry of Agriculture drew her into the world of international trade of agricultural products. She pursued her interest to the University of Wyoming, where she earned a second master's degree in agricultural and applied economics while studying the potential impacts of a hypothetical foot and mouth disease outbreak on world demand for U.S. fresh and frozen beef.

During her PhD program at Virginia Tech, she discovered her passion for teaching and had the opportunity to serve as the instructor of record. Hejazi's research focuses on combining agricultural and international trade policies with the most effective quantitative methods to provide solutions to some of the most pressing agricultural and food policy issues facing U.S. agriculture. Her research centers on tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, food safety issues including pesticide tolerances on food, market access for agricultural commodities to China and related policy analyses. One of her topics of interest centers on maximum residue limits for pesticides and their trade restricting nature on U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable exports to transatlantic and transpacific trading partners, a subject with direct implications for California's fresh fruit and vegetables.



LOGAN SMITH rejoined his alma mater this fall as an assistant professor in animal science. As an undergraduate student from a ranching family in Siskiyou County, Smith tried majors in biology, art, and philosophy before returning to his agricultural roots. After a one-year internship at Harris Ranch, Smith graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science in 2002. He went on to UC Davis, where he earned a master's in animal biology and PhD in molecular, cellular, and integrative physiology. His graduate work focused on FGFR3, a gene responsible for dwarfism and increased bone growth in livestock and other species.

A graduate advisor at UC Davis advised Smith that agricultural scientists benefit from working in human medicine, where the research funding and technology commonly precede agrarian use. He followed that advice by completing a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Oregon Health Sciences University, where he studied mouse models of cancer-treatment-related fatigue in breast cancer patients.

Before returning to CSU, Chico as a professor, Smith spent five years in his native Siskiyou County, where he worked as a senior program manager for the Siskiyou Economic Development Council and also taught a variety of courses in biology and agriculture at College of the Siskiyous. This fall, Smith is teaching courses in agricultural genetics, and domestic animal anatomy and physiology.



GRAZYNE TRESOLDI loves cows, and that love has carried her from her home country of Brazil to California, where she has joined the faculty in animal science at CSU, Chico. Tresoldi grew up in a farming family in rural Brazil but didn't plan to study cows until a food safety internship at a small creamery led to a fascination with dairy cows' behavior and welfare.

Tresoldi holds a degree in veterinary medicine from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, a master's in agroecosystems from the Federal University of Santa Catarina, and a PhD in animal biology from UC Davis. Her PhD research studied dairy cows' behavior and physiology in order to understand heat stress and identify cooling strategies to optimize cow welfare, milk production, and resource sustainability.

Committed to improving the living conditions of farm animals, Tresoldi is eager to engage future livestock managers in research and education on best practices in livestock management and care. When she's not teaching students or studying cows, Tresoldi enjoys photographing cows all over the world.

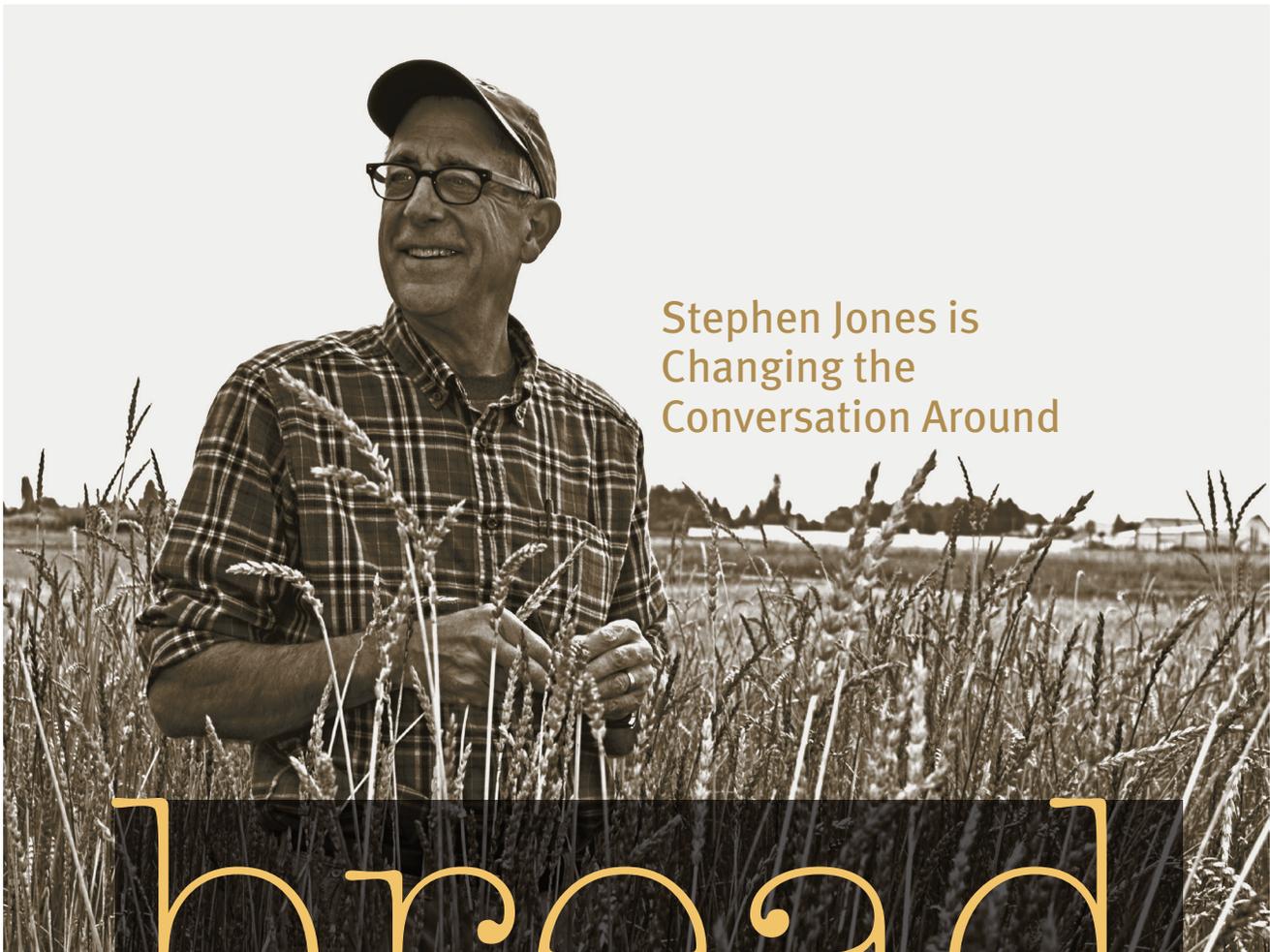


CRYSTAL WATERS found a passion that would ignite a career during a part-time job at the Chico State Meat Laboratory. The Fort Bragg, California, native returned to her alma mater this fall as a lecturer, hoping to help other students find the same fascination with meat science that she discovered more than a decade ago.

A member of the Chico State livestock judging team, Waters went to work at the meat laboratory to help pay her bills. But the first day working for retired meat lab technician Jim Holt, learning about meat cuts while packaging products for the Taproom at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co., Waters knew she was hooked. She eventually transferred to Texas Tech University to compete on the meat judging team, but returned to Chico State to finish her bachelor's degree in animal science when her competitive year was up.

Waters went on to complete a master's degree at Fresno State University and a PhD at Texas A&M University. She coached successful meat judging teams at both institutions, including Texas A&M's 2014 reserve national champion team. She also conducted collaborative research with Tyson Foods, Texas Farms Pork Producers, and National Cattlemen's Beef Association, looking to extend the shelf life of pre-cooked meat products through alternative natural antioxidant addition.

Waters is excited to be back at Chico State, where she is teaching introductory courses in agriculture and animal science, as well as classes in sheep and goat production and meat science.



Stephen Jones is
Changing the
Conversation Around

bread



“...show up early to everything, including sunrises.”

—Stephen Jones’ advice to Chico State students

As wheat breeders go, Stephen Jones is something of a rock star. The director of The Bread Lab at Washington State University (WSU) has been profiled in such popular publications as *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, and *Wired Magazine*. He has spoken at the Aspen Ideas Festival, received the 2017 Angelo Pellegrini Award for culinary contributions, was named the Clif Bar & King Arthur Flour Endowed Chair in Organic Grain Breeding & Innovation, and counts among his friends some of the world’s best chefs, bakers, brewers, and philanthropists. The College of Agriculture’s 2018 Distinguished Alumnus traces the roots of his notable and innovative career back to Chico State.

“I grew my first wheat crop on five acres of the Chico State Farm in 1977,” Jones recalls. “It’s where I learned how to plant, irrigate, and combine a wheat crop, and I grew to love the beauty and simplicity of wheat. I became haunted by it.”

While at Chico State, Jones found a mentor in Professor Marian Baldy, a UC Davis-trained geneticist who introduced Jones to the world of genetics.

“Marian Baldy was amazing. Aside from counting chromosomes, which I learned in graduate school, everything I learned about genetics was based on what I learned from her,” Jones said. “Throughout my collegiate career, from community college through my PhD program, she was the only female professor I had. She is an intellectual force in my life.”

Jones graduated with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy in 1980, and after spending time abroad, he returned to graduate school at UC Davis, where he earned both his master’s degree in agronomy and PhD in genetics. In 1991 he was hired as a wheat breeder at the Washington State University (WSU) main campus in Pullman. For the next 17 years, Jones would breed wheat for the commodity market qualities of yield and disease resistance. But the lifelong baker and food lover believed that wheat could be so much

more interesting than the uniform white flour found on most supermarket shelves.

“One hundred years ago this country lost 25,000 flour mills in about a generation. Today there are fewer than 200 flour mills in this country,” Jones told students in a seminar on the Chico State campus in March. “What that means is that 25,000 communities lost something in their food supply. They lost the unique flavors, nutrition, and terroir that each of those communities was able to produce.”



In 2008, Jones moved to Western Washington’s Skagit Valley to run WSU’s Mount Vernon Research Center. In a county where the USDA registers no wheat production, he was intrigued to find growers of many of the county’s 80 different crops using wheat in their crop rotations to break the cycles of pest and disease, albeit often at an economic loss. Jones saw an opportunity, and so he created The Bread Lab to help growers capture more value in the wheat they were already growing.

“We breed non-commodity wheat, barley, buckwheat, rye, and other grains. By non-commodity, I mean that we’re able to define them as a community—as craft bakers, millers, maltsters, brewers, distillers, chefs,

community members, serious home bakers, not serious home bakers, whatever. We can define what our food looks like because we are out of the commodity system. We don’t allow the price of the crop that’s grown in my region to be determined in Kansas City, Chicago, or Minneapolis,” Jones explained.

The Bread Lab occupies 12,000 square feet at the Port of Skagit and includes a craft bakery, professional kitchen, milling laboratory, cytology lab, and the King Arthur Flour Baking School at The Bread Lab. Each year, Jones and his graduate students grow thousands of types of wheat in search of improved flavor profiles, nutrition, and functionality. With 123 partners in The Bread Lab, including Patagonia, Clif Bar, King Arthur Flour, and New York City Schools, Jones and his colleagues focus on the farmers first to develop varieties that offer high yields with fewer inputs. Then they figure out the best use for that grain.

“We work with some of the best bakers and chefs in the world, and we believe that is novel,” Jones said. “We as breeders can find the right wheat, and then we hand it off to bakers and chefs who can make it acceptable and delicious to us and to other people around the world.”

Between developing new varieties of wheat, teaching and mentoring graduate students, running The Bread Lab, and traveling and speaking frequently throughout the country, Jones knows something about the value of time, and yet he still takes the time to bake a loaf of bread nearly every day.

“We’ve removed time as an ingredient in our diets, and we need to get it back,” he told students during his visit to campus to accept the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award.

He also advised, “Wake up earlier and show up early to everything, including sunrises. It is not easy, that’s the point. Read outside of your interests. It will help you expand your interests. And I wish I had known earlier in my life that it would all turn out okay.” ∞

25 Years of Distinguished Alumni



Since 1994, each college at CSU, Chico has selected one Distinguished Alumnus per year to be honored at a special ceremony in the spring. The College of Agriculture's distinguished alumni represent leadership throughout the agriculture industry in the areas of research, education, production, natural resources, and public policy.

1994



Rusty Arieas
Agriculture, '74

Arieas served 12 years in the California State Assembly, was Director of the California Department of Parks and Rehabilitation, and is now a partner at California Strategies, LLC, a public strategy firm in Sacramento.

1995



Danny Simms
Animal Science, '67

Simms was a beef cattle extension specialist at Kansas State University for 18 years. His Standardized Performance Analysis project for beef producers has been one of the most widely recognized extension efforts in the US.

1996



Wendell Lundberg
Industrial Arts, '53

Children of the Dust Bowl immigration to California, Lundberg and his three brothers were pioneers in organic rice production. Together they founded Lundberg Family Farms in the 1960s. Wendell passed away in 2016.

1997



Gary Griswold
Ag Business, '65

Griswold retired from a 39-year career in banking and continues to farm nuts in Chico. He was a major force in the founding of Superior Ag, the College of Agriculture's advocacy and fundraising council.

1998



Tom Martin
Ag Business, '66

Retired CEO of Durham Pump, Martin has served on numerous boards and committees within the University and the College of Agriculture. He was the founding chair of the popular Superior Ag Golf Classic.

1999



Sandy Beck
Agriculture, '60

Beck has served as a high school agriculture teacher, administrator, and regional supervisor. He was executive director of the California State Council on Vocational Education and led vocational training programs for a regional Job Corps contractor.

2000



Jason Peltier
Ag Business, '79

An agricultural advocate and water expert, Peltier was deputy assistant secretary for water and science in the Department of the Interior during the George W. Bush administration. He currently leads the Coalition for a Sustainable Delta.

2001



James Young
Agriculture, '60

Young is a renowned rangeland scientist retired from USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Reno, Nevada. He has authored two books, and the results of his research in weed science have been published in more than 650 publications.

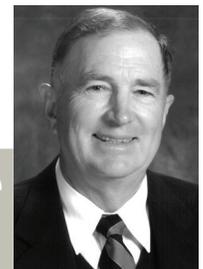
2002



Stan Hodges
Agriculture, '60

Hodges joined the faculty of Modesto Junior College in 1965 and worked his way through the faculty and administrative ranks to become college president. He has served on boards and committees for numerous state and community organizations.

2003



Lance Tennis
Ag Business, '64

Tennis is a successful rice farmer who keeps a close watch on political issues that affect agriculture. He has served on the boards of countless agricultural, water, and community organizations, including the College of Agriculture.



2004
Phillip David
Animal Science, '76

David is a geneticist, entrepreneur, and consultant to livestock producers around the globe. As chief executive officer of Sygen International, David's work enabled livestock producers to improve their breeding stock and enhance meat quality.



2005
Wes Patton
Agriculture, '65

In the history of the College of Agriculture, few faculty are more beloved than "Doc" Patton. He returned to his alma mater as a professor of animal science for 35 years. Since retiring in 2005, Doc and his wife Jane raise cattle and sheep in Orland.



2006
William J. Thomas, Jr.
Agriculture, '68

Thomas has been a leader in agricultural and environmental law in California for more than 40 years. Throughout his legal career, Bill has been appointed by the governor and agency leaders to serve many political, environmental, and agricultural positions.



2007
Larry Crabtree
Agriculture, '67

Crabtree taught agriculture at Sutter Union High School for 36 years and retired in 2003. During his tenure, the small program turned out 95 FFA State Farmers, 6 American Farmers, and countless leadership contest and proficiency winners.



2008
Melvin George
Agriculture, '67

As rangeland management specialist for the UC Davis Cooperative Extension, George has consulted globally, published more than 80 refereed research publications or journal articles, and led efforts throughout the country in grazing and watershed management.



2009
George Buonaccorsi
Agriculture, '66

Buonaccorsi spent 37 years in wine grower business relations and retired as vice president for wine and grape resources with Foster's Wine Estates Americas. He serves as chair of the College of Agriculture Advisory Board.



2010
Charlie Hoppin
Agriculture, '70

Hoppin established CR Hoppin Farms, a diversified farming operation in Yolo and Sutter Counties. In 2006 Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Hoppin to the State Water Resources Control Board, where he served as chair from 2009-2013.



2011
Dennis Choate
Agronomy, '80

A summer internship while in college led to a distinguished career in the seed industry for Choate. He is currently the North American production manager for Syngenta and also serves on the College of Agriculture Advisory Board.



2012
Bill Loveridge
Agriculture, '76

A leader in agricultural education, Loveridge taught high school agriculture for more than 30 years, including 25 years at Loyaltton High School. He and his wife, Sue, are active volunteers and donors to a church community in the Philippines.



2013
Ray Griffin
Ag Business, '86

Griffin co-founded FoodSource, a produce marketing company in the Salinas Valley. Since being acquired by C. H. Robinson, Griffin continues to work with the company on business development. He is active in his local community and on produce industry boards.



2014
Trena Kimler-Richards
Ag Business, '82

Kimler-Richards served for 11 years as outreach coordinator for the College of Agriculture. Since 2008, she has worked at Shasta College as coordinator of the agriculture and natural resources program and advisor of the Ag Leadership Club.



2015
Jeanette Lowe
Ag Business, '85

Lowe served the State Department of Education for 17 years, working out of her office at the University Farm to advise and support Superior Region FFA members and teachers. She now farms full time from her home base in Lincoln.



2016
Keely Martin Bosler
Ag Business, '97

Bosler is a career-long public servant and policy expert for the State of California. She has served in both the legislative and executive branches, and in 2018 Bosler was appointed director of the State Department of Finance.



2017
Jose Manuel Leal da Costa
Agriculture, '84

A global businessman, Costa founded Plamar USA, a marble and granite fabrication business in the Bay Area. He also serves on the board of Amieira Marina, a national and international tourist destination in his home country of Portugal.



2018
Stephen Jones
Agriculture, '80

Jones is a renowned wheat breeder and director of The Bread Lab at Washington State University, where his team works to discover and develop varieties of wheat and other grains that enrich the regional food system.

Alumni News

Where Are They Now

We'd love to hear from you!
Drop us a line or send an email. It's a great way to build your professional network and catch up with old friends.

Stay Connected

1960s

Jim Walkley (Agriculture, '67)
Retired – Chino Valley, Arizona
rope4ever42@gmail.com

1970s

Joseph Roberts (Range Management, '74)
Fire Captain (Retired) – Sebastopol
foggyrobs2@gmail.com

Michel Etchebarne, PhD (Animal Science, '76)
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– Modesto
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Glenn Nader (Animal Science, '76)
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1980s

Louie Andreini (Soils and Irrigation, '89)
Retired – Mantion
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1990s

Shelley Macdonald (Agricultural Business, '91)
Vice President, Ag and Commercial Loan Officer,
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Rachel (Petersen) Eccles (Agricultural Business, '97)
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2000s

Liz Robertson (Agriculture, '00)
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Sara (Rundle) Lockhart (Animal Science, '03)
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Name | Graduation Year
Occupation | Company
City | Email

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to share, including photos.

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Congrats to the Class of 2018

2010s

Caitlin Cadaret (Animal Science, '14)

Caitlin earned her master's degree in 2017 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is currently working on a PhD in animal science stress physiology.

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Kimberly (Mills) Sanfilippo (Agricultural Business, '14; MBA, '16)

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From starting new scholarships and purchasing state-of-the-art equipment to sending students to competitions and conferences all over the nation, private giving means the difference between a good College of Agriculture at California State University, Chico and a great one. Thank you to the following donors who made contributions to the College of Agriculture between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY	22	Spring classes begin
	25	Ag Social at the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale
	26	Swine Day
FEBRUARY	6	Alumni Breakfast at the Colusa Farm Show
	9	Sheep Day
	21	Agriculture Career and Internship Fair
MARCH	9	FFA Field Day
	18-22	Spring Break
APRIL	19	Wildcat Day at the Farm
MAY	18	College of Agriculture Commencement
JUNE	10	Superior Ag/Tri Counties Golf Tournament

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