Esteban Establishes Endowment to College of Ag

by Shelley Connolly
Editor

Former CSU, Chico president Manuel Esteban and his wife, Gloria, have generously created an endowment in the form of a $100,000 life insurance policy that upon their passing will provide the College of Ag with $50,000 for scholarships. The other half of the policy will fund the Esteban Aspiring Tenor Scholarship Endowment.

Esteban has always been a strong supporter of financial assistance to promising students, and this donation will help to ensure funds will be available to future generations of students.

“The division of the gift reflects my deep commitment to student scholarships,” says Esteban, “as well as my personal dedication to the fine arts and agriculture education.”

Esteban has had an affinity for the College of Ag since his early days at CSU, Chico. Although the College of Agriculture had been identified for closure by the previous president, Esteban recognized the value of maintaining a strong agriculture program. He pledged his support for the College of Agriculture if the faculty and staff pledged that they would redesign the program in order to attract more students. During his tenure as president, the enrollment in the College of Agriculture grew by approximately 240 percent. The scholarship is his way of giving back to a program he strongly believes in.

He often visited the farm and was impressed with the quality of students and their commitment to agriculture and to their own education.

Dean Charlie Crabb noted “Dr. Esteban’s gift means a lot to the faculty and staff of the College of Agriculture. Dr. Esteban challenged the faculty and staff to rebuild the college, and having done that successfully, he has established an endowment to honor that hard work.”

Esteban has given the college some latitude in how the money will be used as long as it goes for scholarships, to ensure that future quality students attend the CSU, Chico Agriculture program.

Since retiring three years ago, Esteban and his wife, Gloria, have traveled to Europe and Mexico, spent part of a summer in British Columbia, and just recently returned from a sunny vacation in Cabo San Lucas. This fall they plan on taking a walking tour of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in the Atlantic provinces of Canada. Then in October they are planning a trip to South America. When they aren’t out exploring the planet, he spends time with his granddaughter, daughter, and son-in-law in San Diego, or playing golf at Butte Creek Country Club.

Shortly after retiring, Esteban worked with current president, Paul Zingg, on the North State Initiative. The goal of the initiative was to form partnerships with local and regionally diverse communities to encourage higher attendance by sending the message that CSU, Chico is a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment.

Esteban will occasionally involve himself in academic and other worthy projects, but in the meantime, he and Gloria plan to enjoy life as much as possible while they can. It sounds as if he is on the right path for that. We wish him luck and, on behalf of our students, many thanks for establishing a scholarship endowment.

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Red Bluff and Colusa Alumni Events Bring Scholarships to Students

Annual Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale Alumni Reunion

By Toni Scott, Public Information Intern

Red Bluff’s annual Bull & Gelding Sale herded CSU, Chico Ag alumni together again for an evening of remembering and catching up, while university staff and volunteers served up farm sausages, cheese, nuts and olives—the latter courtesy of Bell-Carter Olives, a consistent sponsor of college events.

This was an opportunity for the college to celebrate scholarship awards to its newest recipients—Kelly Ryers, Karin Aschwanden, and Stephanie Horton—while raising funds for future scholarships through the silent and live auctions. The fourth recipient, Colleen Bartlett, was unable to attend the event. With a record number of attendees, the event brought in over $6,500 for scholarships.

Generous businesses and individuals donated their goods and services, as well as their talent, to both auctions. The big draw this year was the National Finals Rodeo, donated by Grownery Brothers, and the winner of that auction, Jack Sutfin, received two tickets and two nights’ stay in Las Vegas to attend the event. Butte Community Bank donated five nights in a cabin on Kramer Ranch; Lambert Ranch offered up a pheasant hunt, and Stafford’s hooked the crowd with a bass fishing trip. Artistic donors included David Dubose, who donated his hand-crafted ceramic garden sculptures; Jane Patton hand-painted a dog on a gourd; and Tom Barr crafted a leather multi-use dog collar shortly before attending the event.

There were plenty of goody baskets donated by individuals, and useful items for farm folk included Round-Up and nutritional horse feed. Local Chico musicians Mederek Kenny and the Stumpjumpers offered two hours of music won by Mark Eidman and Christie Sutfin, who plan to have the band play a barn party once the barn is completed—a good incentive to move that project along.

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Colusa Farm Show Alumni Breakfast

More than 200 California State University, Chico College of Agriculture alumni and guests gathered to share memories and look to the future of agriculture at the Fourth Annual Colusa Farm Show Breakfast, Wednesday, February 8.

Kicking off the second day of the annual Colusa Farm Show, guests were treated to an egg scramble, sausage, juice, and coffee while having the opportunity to visit with former college peers.

Highlighting this year’s event was guest speaker Dr. Scott Rozelle from UC Davis, who discussed with guests the development of agriculture systems in China. Rozelle focused on the emergence of China in the international agriculture economy and the unique characteristics of Chinese production methods.

Les Heringer, committee chair for the Colusa Farm Show Breakfast, says that Rozelle’s knowledge about the agricultural production potential in China and experience in the country allowed him to contribute greatly to the event.

“He provided information to the agricultural audience about what we should expect in the way of competition for certain commodities in our export and even domestic markets,” says Heringer.

The event, including a raffle and silent auction, is hosted annually by the CSU, Chico College of Agriculture, California Agricultural Leadership Program, and Alpha Gamma Rho Alumni. Proceeds from the event benefit the CSU, Chico Ag Alumni Scholarship, which has donated $10,000 to agricultural students since its first award presentation in
HANS SPECHT

Her dedication to teaching young minds about agriculture science and biology, and the passion and enthusiasm she brings to the classroom is why Angela Browning was chosen as the star student in Agriculture Education.

“I love trying to stay just a little crazier than my students,” says Browning, a student intern at Elise Allen High School in Santa Rosa, CA.

Browning graduated last May with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Science and a Minor in Spanish. She is currently completing the second semester of her credential program at Chico State.

Transferring from Cal Poly her junior year, Browning chose Chico because of “the opportunity for hands-on experience, great relationships with professors, and the Chico community.”

While at Chico State, Browning immersed herself in extracurricular activities that developed her skills as an educator. She spent time assisting with FFA conferences and trainings, teaching English to Spanish speakers through Community Action Volunteers in Education, and even participating in the production of a play in the Spanish department.

Combining her love of teaching with a passion for agriculture, the former National Future Farmers of America Western Region Vice President is enjoying teaching and has a strong belief in the value it provides to high school students.

“I believe strongly in the well-rounded development that agriculture science and FFA offer students,” says Browning.

“An education in agriculture provides basic knowledge for a wide variety of careers,” says Browning, “I love cultivating relationships with students and watching them grow.”

ANGELA BROWNING

KASEY DEATLEY

Kasey DeAley was looking for a college that was affordable and close to her family when she came to California State University, Chico. What she found was a home.

As a 23-year-old animal science major, DeAley claims the “tight-knit” nature of the College of Agriculture is the reason that she has had so much success in her academic career. While DeAley graduation in December, she has continued with her time at Chico State as a research associate for the College of Agriculture.

“The facility has taken me under their wings and has really helped me to find my place” says DeAley.

While her faculty have helped DeAley along the way, it is clear that this Lassen Community College transfer student has earned her success in her own right. Highly active in college clubs, including the Dog Science Club, Young Cattlemen’s Association, and Students for Responsible Agriculture, DeAley continually pushes herself toward excellence.

DeAley’s involvement in extracurricular activities is not isolated to her college career. While in high school in her hometown of Middletown, DeAley was highly active in FFA, 4-H, High School Rodeo, volleyball, and student council.

DeAley prides herself on attention to detail and hopes to apply this one day when she herself becomes an instructor at the collegiate level. For now, DeAley looks toward attending graduate school to study reproductive physiology.

Kasey DeAtley

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

Crystal Waters came home with a merit award for her Bratwurst review at the California Association of Meat Processors (CAMP) meeting held at CSU Fresno the weekend of February 17-19. Three CSU, Chico student employees traveled to the meeting where they were involved in various seminars involving California meat processors and sausage product contests with Fresno, Cal Poly, and Davis.

Bryanna Fissori, Luke Browning, Michael Patterson, and Hans Specht competed in the Young Farmers and Ranchers Colleague Discussion Meet. Montana’s Kasey DeAley and Angela Browning both advanced to the final round, with Browning placing second overall out of the 40 competitors.
Jennifer Ryder-Fox, a Cal Poly alumna of the Soil Science Department, was selected from a final list of strong candidates by the president and provost to be the next dean in the College of Agriculture. Fox is currently the chair of Cal Poly’s Horticulture and Crops Science Department, and has an impressive industry background. Her professional interests include new technologies for crop protection and the impact of government policies on agriculture and pesticide safety.

Chico State Implements Training Facility at Ag Research and Training Center: Joins forces with Cal Poly, SLO and Fresno State

By Toni Scott
Public Information Intern

After a need was identified by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for a training facility in Northern California, CSU, Chico stepped up to implement the facility at the Agriculture Research and Training Center. Joining forces with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Irrigation Training and Research Facility, California State University, Fresno Center for Irrigation Technology, and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Chico State designed, installed, and implemented the facility that has now been in operation for almost three years.

The facility is primarily used for flow measurement and flow measurement technology training to irrigate water districts and for instruction to CSU, Chico College of Agriculture students.

“As in addition to having state of the art flow measurement technology available for students, we have been able to provide extensive opportunities and services to local businesses and water contractors,” says Brad Laffins, SCADA Technician for the Irrigation Training Facility. Flow measurement technology is a key component in assessing water use and the right amount of water is used on an area of land. Over watering can be harmful to a crop, and by using more precise watering techniques, water prices are reduced for farmers and ranchers and less electricity is used, Laffins explains.

“California becomes more and more urbanized, more pressure will be put on agriculture to reduce the amount of water used. Agriculture is presently the biggest user of water in the state,” says Laffins.

The facility is currently an asset for College of Agriculture students, but students from other colleges on campus are also encouraged to tap into this tremendous resource. Courses such as hydraulics and controls programming will incorporate material which provides for the use of the facility, giving students more hands-on experience.

Chico State Reaches Out to Students

California State University, Chico was full of cows, sheep, and elementary school students when the farm came to campus Thursday, March 9.

Ag Day on Campus, an annual event hosted by Students for Responsible Agriculture, brought in over 900 elementary school students to the University Farm Pavilion to educate local elementary school students on California agriculture through a hands-on learning experience.

“We bring our kids to this every year because it a great learning experience for them,” said Christina Rodriguez, first grade teacher at Parkview Elementary in Chico. “Most of these kids don’t have an agriculture background, and this event gives them an opportunity to be exposed to agriculture.”

This year’s event focused on the top agricultural commodities in California and was comprised of fourteen informational booths hosted by College of Agriculture student organizations, as well as industry related companies. Bell Carter Olives, Bureau of Land Management, and Butte County Cattlemen were among the top-visited industry booths.

“We enjoy coming to Ag Day because it gives us a chance to connect with the kids and teach them about a subject that they don’t normally get exposed to,” says Sigma Alpha Phi-lanthropy Chair Rita Gordon.

In addition to the informational booths where students had the opportunity to learn about almonds, see how wool scarves are made, and plant a sunflower, the pavilion was filled with numerous other learning experiences. Smoky Bear, the Mobile Dairy Classroom, and a petting zoo donated by Glenn County 4-H, were also provided to the students.

“Out of everything today I liked the animals the best,” said Ethan Silverman, first grade student from Parkview Elementary.

Ag Day on the farm is free and open to the public. For fourteen years, the event has been hosted by Students for Responsible Agriculture and connects the community with the agriculture industry.

Swine Day

Workshops on how to select the right pig, followed by a mini-judging contest, feeding the project pig and getting it show-ready, and a demonstration on how to successfully show a pig were featured at Swine Education Day at the CSU, Chico Farm on Saturday, February 4th. This annual event draws FFA, 4H, and Ag students from elementary school age through adults who seek to learn more about raising pigs for show and meat products.

Celm Johnson, animal nutritionist professor for the College of Ag, presented Goal Setting for the Project Pig. A video from the National Pork Producers Council on Pork Quality Assurance involving injection techniques for swine was shown.

A workshop on ultrasound techniques for carcass evaluation was presented by Dr. Patrick Doyle in the Meats Laboratory.

Beef Day

Two hundred progressive producers showed up to CSU, Chico’s 15th Annual Beef Day and Trade Show on Saturday, February 18th to discuss current beef-related issues. New rules regarding trichomemiasis, a venereal disease in cattle that causes ranchers millions annually, as well as a Q&A session addressing current issues facing California cattlemen and women were featured.

Producers discussed how their cattle can fit into export markets and an update on issues at the State and National level were presented by the CCA (California Cattlemen’s Association).

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to three workshops presented by Cindy Daley on eXtension Livestock, Patrick Doyle on beef IQ., and Earle Lean and NIAS California Project Manager John Evans on electronic ID and how it will be used for management marketing.

Butte County Cattlemen’s Association put on the barbecue lunch.

Jennifer Ryder-Fox
Where are they now?
Here is a list of alumni we’ve heard from recently. If you’d like to be included in the next newsletter, let us know.

Amanda Nicholson (*05) is a farm insurance underwriter with Allied Insurance in Sacramento. Nichoua10@nationwide.com

Matt Parker (*03) is a cowboy rancher with Harris Ranch Feeding Company. Matparker@shcglobal.net

James Moller (*03) is a DeAnza Ramirez Diversified Land Management business owner and a farm and ranch consultant in Palo Cedro. Rancher29@hotmail.com

Harley Ramirez (*99) is a DeAnza Ramirez Diversified Land Management business owner in Redding. Harley2350@charter.net

John Pitts (*97) is president and manager of Pitts Brothers Cattle in Dixon. Pittos@onrampl13.org

David Santos (*96) is the district manager for Westway Feed Products. Dsantos@tcn.net

Marty Morales (*86) is a CHP officer in Bakersfield.

Bob Jones (*79) is an ag business consultant in Visalia. AgBusi@msn.com

John Smythe (*73) is the state executive director with the USDA Farm Service Agency for California. John.Smythe@ca.usda.gov

College of Ag Honors 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Bill Thomas

by Toni Scott
Public Information Intern

When thinking of a leader in agriculture, you don’t have to go any further than William Thomas, the 2006 College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni. Combining his agriculture background with a strong passion for the industry, Thomas has become a positive influence on California agriculture through his career, and he has always demonstrated strong support for the College of Agriculture,“ says Charlie Crabb, dean of agriculture at California State University, Chico.

Thomas grew up in rural Sutter County on a rice field crop and live-stock ranch. His early experience in agriculture, combined with the recruitment efforts of agriculture department chair Doc Phillips and Garth Dunning, Chico State ski coach, were instrumental in Thomas’s decision to attend California State University, Chico, where he majored in Agronomy with a minor in Botany.

While at Chico State, Thomas was involved in Young Farmers and Ranchers, the Ski Team, Pioneer Week, and served as Associated Student Body President. After graduating in 1968, he served in the United States Navy before heading to the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law to obtain his Juris Doctor.

Thomas has practiced for over 30 years as an agriculture attorney, and his clients include farmers, ranchers, chemical manufacturers, and agricultural bargaining associations. In addition to representing agricultural interests, Thomas is currently a member of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, where he serves as a member of the legal defense fund, CATL.

Thomas’s agriculture advocacy does not stop there. He currently serves on the board of directors of the California Cattlemen’s Association, has been appointed by the governor to serve on Uniform Environmental Statute Commission, and is a member and past chair of the California Department of Food and Agriculture Market Enforcement Advisory Committee.

Recognizing the value that Chico State had on his career, Thomas was the organizing force behind Superior Ag, an industry-based support group that was founded in response to counter attempts to close the College of Agriculture. Superior Ag is an integral organization in the College of Agriculture and funds over $21,000 dollars in scholarships to College of Agriculture students every year.

“Bill played a key role in reversing the decision to close our program in the early 1990s, and he continues to help us as an active member of Superior Ag,” says Crabb.

When Thomas finds free time he enjoys skiing, wakeboarding, and roping. Still, his passion and leadership for agriculture are the qualities that drive Thomas and earned him recognition as the 2006 College of Agriculture Distinguished Alumni.
Thank You to the 2005 Players
Looking Forward to a Fun and Successful 2006 Tournament

Ed Adams
Jeff Aguilar
Ray Antonowich
Joel Arnold
Keith Beato
Don Beck
Steve Beckley
Steve Bellicini
Patrick Berends
Ken Berg
Troy Berry
Bill Bishop
Ray Block
Mark Blofsky
Matt Blofsky
Lance Boyd
James Brown
Dennis Burreson
Heath Burreson
Shane Burreson
Bob Byrd
Keith Campbell
Rob Carlos
Craig Carney
Dick Carriere
Jud Carter
Susan Cartier
Ralph Cassidy
Chris Christensen
Jeff Clark
Dan Clawson
Gary Coelho
Mark Cole
Ron Coleman
Ted Colunga
Craig Compton
Ken Crother
Susie Daly
Corey Davies
Patty Davis
Steve Dennis
Kevin Dennis
Matt Doyle
Keith Drubny
Craig Duncan
Greg Eastman
Paul Emmons
Ken English
Gary Enos
John Erickson
Dennis Fife
Stan Figgins
Mark Ford
Greg Foutz
Nancy Fowler-Johnson
Fred Freitas
Steve French
Rich Frenche
Gary Gard
Rich Gavello
Bryce Gibbs
Lee Gibson
Tom Griffith
Brian Hamman
Timm Hanna
Todd Harris
Kevin Harvey
Jamie Hashemi
Tom Heenan
Chris Henderson
Steve Henderson
John Henning
David Hess
Frank Hill
Carl Hoff
Pat Hoffman
Jim Holmes
John Hopkins
Tom Hughes
Dennis Icardi
Harbant Janda
Bill Ide
Sean Isom
Howard Isom
Philip Johnson
Everett Johnson
Jim Jones
Barry Jones
Kevin Kaiser
Mark Keenan
Ted Kimmelshue
Mark Kimmelshue
Mick Koford
Scott Larrabee
Mark Lavy
Dennis Mariani
Jack Mariani
Tom Martin
Hank Mayer
Cody McCoy
Nelson Meyer
Dean Miller
Doug Miller
Greg Miller
Bill Minkler
Gary Mitchell
Jim Molero
Mike Monahan
Steve Montandon
Aaron Murphy
Rick Strain
Kevin Reeves
Michael Sinatra
Jim Tuttle
Ron Naven
Mike Silvera
Brad Speno
Mark Owens
Renee Neet
Mike Thoma
Craig Stafford
Mike Perry
Steve Vance
Richard O'Sullivan
Glenn Rilinger
Keith Robbins
Doug Weigand
Paul Zang
Brad Scott
Laurie D'Oonnell
Rod Nierenhausen
Jim Umenhoffer
Mike O'Donnell
Dave Westcott
Bruce Taylor
Danny Vierra
Bob Vierra
Jim Vierra
Walt Payne
Ron Schuler
Don Soetart
Garnett Vann
Susan Ricketts
Ted Newton
Harvey Yeon
Dave Rex
Phil Quigley
Bill Schabram
Jim Wilson
Steve Wolfgram
Steve Watkins

Two Teams Tie for 2005 Overall Winners

Olympic Flight
Ray Block
Greg Foutz
Mark Lavy
John Lavy
Bruce Whitegiver
Bill Minkler
Pebble Beach Flight
Craig Duncan
John Lee
Bryce Gibbs
Dennis Fife
Bill Jenkins
Royal Hawley

Donations and Sponsorships Requested

If you would like to sponsor a tee or green for this year’s tournament, a sign will be displayed with your name, or your business name, and posted at the tee or green. For your donation, you will be recognized in both local papers and in the College of Ag fall newsletter.

There are also sponsorships available for hole-in-one prizes and for the raffle drawing. If you have a gift from your business that you would like to donate to the raffle or a service you perform, this is an excellent advertising tool. For more information, please contact:

Shelley Connolly
CSU, Chico
College of Agriculture
Chico CA 95929-0440
skconnolly@csuchico.edu
530-898-4597
530-898-5845 Fax

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the course next year.
A Big Thank You to Our 2005 Superior Ag Golf Tournament Sponsors

CSU, Chico and Superior Ag wish to acknowledge our generous sponsors of the 2005 Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford Golf Classic which took place July 19th at Butte Creek Country Club. We raised $42,000 for scholarships, and we owe a big thank you to these businesses and individuals who care enough to support our future leaders of agriculture. We urge you to support these businesses. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you June 5, 2006 for our 11th Annual Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford tournament.

Message From the Dean

Each year I look forward to the CSU, Chico Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford Golf Classic. This is the one event that helps all of us in the College of Agriculture understand that our mission is not only important to our students but is also valued by others. The faculty, staff, and students recognize that the vision of the founding members of Superior Ag has been important to the continued growth of the College of Agriculture. We are indebted to those Superior Ag members who volunteer year after year to make the Golf Classic and our alumni events such a success. It is the work of the volunteers that makes the events not only fun to participate in but also financially successful. The proceeds from this golf tournament are critical in helping us provide talented, well-deserving students with the scholarship support that is crucial to their success. Without this support, students often have to divert their attention away from academic pursuits in order to work.

I want to express my appreciation to all of the players that turn out for the CSU, Chico Superior Ag/Wittmeier Ford Golf Classic. It is the players and their expressed support of our program that keep bringing our sponsors back to the event.

Of course, our ability to offer scholarships and to support the academic mission of the college is a result of the generosity of the Golf Classic sponsors. All of our sponsors, including our corporate and major sponsors, are listed on these pages. Consider that their ability to support the efforts of the College of Agriculture is a result of their business success. These sponsors care about the future of the College of Agriculture and the agriculture industry. I want to encourage each of you to look for opportunities to do business with these organizations so they will be able to continue to help us.

One last thought; keep in mind that you do not have to play golf to help sponsor this event. Each year there are a wide variety of sponsorships available for companies and individuals. If you want to be part of the effort to help ensure that Superior Ag continue to help our students and programs, feel free to contact Shelley Connolly either by phone (530-898-4597) or by e-mail (shconnolly@csuchico.edu) and she will be happy to give you more information about sponsorship opportunities that are available.

A. Charles Crabb

Volunteers Needed!

You’re guaranteed to have a great time! Come join in the fun. This year’s tournament is June 5th at Butte Creek CC. For more information, Call Shelley at 898-4597.

Volunteers at Registration

Raffle Sponsors

Grand Prize
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Additional Prizes
Howard Isom
Walt Chrupalo
Desiree & Mark Gonzalez
La Roca Vineyards
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Mike Koehnen
Esplanade B&B
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