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Connected

Coming Events

CSU, Chico Alumni Association
California State University, Chico
Chico, CA 95929-0050

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January 13, 2007
Alumni Association Annual Meeting

February 2-3, 2007
Chico Chapter Basketball Reception and Homecoming

April 27, 2007
Distinguished Alumni Dinner

May 1, 2007
Senior Send-Off

May 3, 2007
Chico Tri-tip Barbecue

May 19-20, 2007
Commencement

Credits

CSU, Chico Alumni
Association President
Alicia Barr

Director, CSU, Chico
Alumni & Parent Relations
Susan Anderson

Connected is
published three times a
year by the CSU, Chico
Alumni Association.

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Alumni Updates
http://csuchico.misystems.net/update_form.asp

Board's Eye View Pamela Montana

Pam Montana (Class of 1978) joined the Alumni Association board of directors in January 2006. Pam came to Chico as a transfer student from Modesto Junior College. She has been an integral part of the Alumni Association effort to get a new chapter started in the Bay Area.



Pamela Montana,
(Class of 1978)

Q. Favorite memories from your days at Chico?

A. I think what I remember most is the feeling that I was happy and content and well established with the college and the community. Once I left home I lived in Chico year round. I worked two jobs and really enjoyed the summers when the town was a little quieter. I loved the downtown area and the campus. I was a PE major and spent many hours in the gym and on the fields. I spent a lot of time at Bidwell Park and enjoyed tubing down the Sacramento River in the summer months. I was also a member of the Ski Club and had some fun on the slopes. Chico offers so much, and it was really hard to leave after I graduated.

Q. Career path following college?

A. I moved to the Bay Area to teach PE, but quickly found out that there were no jobs. My first job was at Pacific Bell as a Phone Center Store manager. I stayed with them for years through divestiture and ended up at AT&T Computer Systems. While I was there I worked many jobs and really learned a lot about people and how to work well at a large corporation. After 15 years of service with Pac Bell/AT&T, NCR purchased them. With NCR I managed large government accounts for several years. Six years ago I moved to Intel in the Bay Area and love it there. It's a great company, and I have a wonderful position managing the Western Region Healthcare team.

Q. How did you become a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and why?

A. Joining the Alumni Association has made a huge difference in

my life. I was looking to become more involved in the community and working with an executive coach on how to build my network. She mentioned that working on my Alumni Board was a great way to get re-engaged with my college, and to meet new people. At the same time I ran into an old friend from my college days who is the Alumni Trustee for the CSU system. He mentioned that the Board had some openings. I applied for the position and joined the Board in January 2006. Coming up to Chico more frequently and working with President Zingg and the Board has been gratifying, both personally and professionally, and I am anxious to become more involved going forward.

Q. What do you think should be the priorities of the board?

A. We have been working hard this year on clearly articulating our mission statement. Our priorities are to enrich the Chico Experience and to support and create a connection with the students, alumni, and the campus. The board firmly believes that there is no other campus like Chico State. The "experience" here is something all students continue to talk about after graduation. We are working to help connect more alumni back to the campus and to their fellow alumni and to build a stronger sense of community upon graduation.

Q. You are working to get the Bay Area Chapter started. What are the challenges? What are the plans?

A. I am really excited about getting all the Chico grads together in the Bay Area. There are over 3,000 alumni in the Bay Area, but finding them and getting their commitment to join the chapter has been challenging. We are hosting our first event on October 28 and are hoping for a large turn out. We need to form and sign an official charter and need volunteers to do that. I know once we all get in the same room the energy will be amazing, but right now we are still looking for leaders in the area who have the time and energy to get involved. I'm certain at this time next year I will have good things to say about our chapter. **n**

The Geographical Information Center

(continued from page one)

Department of Recreation and Parks Management."

The second goal of the GIC is to develop relationships with local public and private resource agencies that use maps. Many former GIC employees are currently working for public and private agencies throughout California.

"In addition to mapping the Sacramento River, we also do contract work for local government including Butte County and the City of Chico," says Nelson. "We do a lot of work with parcel and street address systems, but we also assist agencies on special projects."

Occasionally the GIC is hired to do unusual projects like the "Great State"

exhibit prepared for the International Agri-Center in Tulare, CA. This exhibit is a giant map (approximately 6 x 4) that shows agricultural land use in the state, focusing on the Great Central Valley. There will be 14 two-sided removable panels with one side of the panel outlining where Central Valley crops are grown and the other side demonstrating the loss of farmland due to urbanization and development.

Finally, we cannot forget the work that the GIC does for the University. Just recently, they completed a project for the Office of University Advancement where CSU, Chico alumni were mapped by city of residence.

"It is amazing," says Richard Ellison,

vice president for University Advancement. "We know that the bulk of alumni live in California, but it was very impressive to see just how widely distributed alumni are throughout the entire United States. It has great impact when you can see the information represented visually."

Other University projects include a student residence map that disproved the theory that the majority of students lived within a short radius of campus. This information was of great interest to both the University and the Chico Police Department.

For more information on the GIC, please go to <http://www.gic.csuchico.edu/>, or direct questions to Chuck Nelson by e-mail at cwnelson@csuchico.edu. **n**



Geographical Information Center



Alumni Experience



Board's Eye View



President's Column



Braggin Rights

Connected

Connecting Yesterday's Students with the University of Today

The Geographical Information Center: Mapping in Education

Fall 2006
Volume 8
Issue 3

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If you have seen aerial maps of the Sacramento River, chances are you are viewing work done by the Geographical Information Center (GIC) at Chico State. GIC aeriels were used by Seyed Alavi, a Bay Area public artist, to create Flying Carpet, an art piece commissioned for the pedestrian bridge at the Sacramento International Airport. The carpet represents 50 miles of the Sacramento River between Colusa and Hamilton City. As payment for use of the maps, Alavi supplied the GIC with a section of carpet bound by Ulster Carpet of Ireland, which currently hangs on the GIC office wall.

The GIC has mapped the entire Sacramento River. In addition, they created and maintain the Sacramento River Recreation and Public Access Guide at www.sacramentoriver.org. The GIC was originally developed in conjunction with the California Department of Water Resources Northern District office in Red Bluff. Chuck Nelson, GIC Director, now has to search out private funding sources to keep the Web site going.

"Our initial funding came from the State of California," says Nelson, "but with budget cuts it has become necessary to look for other sponsoring agencies to help maintain the site."

The most important function of the Web site is to inform the public about access and recreational opportunities along the river. The guide is map-based with links to site information including pictures, agency contacts, facilities offered, and recreational activities. The guide also includes interesting articles written about the Sacramento River, a photo gallery of wildlife and riparian habitat, a digital atlas of the river, and even a search engine to query sites.

The GIC opened in 1988 as the Center for Geographical Research, an applied research facility originally housed in the Department of Geography and Planning.



U.S. map of all CSU, Chico alumni

While their mission is to introduce geographical information systems (GIS) to the North Valley, the GIC has two major goals. The first is to educate – students typically apply as interns after having completed the undergraduate GIS curriculum.

"Originally, the vast majority of interns were geography majors," says Nelson, "but students now come from a variety of academic disciplines. For example, a recent intern came to us from the art department, and my project manager is a graduate of the

(continued on page four)

Lifelong Connections

Back in 1942, a group of five women graduated from Chico State College, and then went their separate ways. In many a tale, this is where the story would end, but not in this story; these women all had a very special mentor and role model—one Elizabeth Keener Stolp (class of 1933).

Elizabeth Stolp had served as a youth leader in the church attended by all of the women. She managed to stay connected

to all of the young women through their high school years and on into their college careers—all five of the women attended Chico State. Elizabeth worked in the accounting office at Chico State and served as a steadying and guiding hand for many of the women.

"Elizabeth has always been connected to all of us," says Alice

Snyder Russell. "She played an important role in all of our lives and taught us so much."

In 1946, Elizabeth decided that it was time to get the group together for a reunion. They all met in Nelson, California,

at Elizabeth's home. The women—Alice Snyder Russell, Dorothy Mann Irwin, Ethelda Jay Seaman, Jean Spangler Favilla, and Patricia Bruce Gerrard—all traveled from different parts of the state and the country to attend.

After the 1946 reunion, the women would not all be together again for 46 years! They stayed in touch with one another through what they called round robin letters. One of the women would start the letter (usually Pat) and send it onto the next. That person would read the letter, add her own report, and send it on, and so on.

"We would each want to spend some time writing our part of the letter," says Alice, "so we would put the letter aside and wait until we had some quality time to devote. We each took so much time that it was not uncommon for it to take three years for the letter to get through everyone."

The women kept up with the comings and goings of each other's lives this way until 1992, the 50th anniversary of their Chico State graduation, when Elizabeth figured it was time for everyone to get together again. Elizabeth had long since

retired from Chico State, where she had worked for 40 years, and she once again invited all the women to come to Nelson for a reunion.

"Everyone got together to just sit and talk," says Alice.

They had so much fun that Elizabeth got them together again in 1997 for yet another reunion. By this time, the women really were spread around the country. Jean Favilla received a master's degree in elementary education, settled in Chico, and had taught in the Chico Unified School District for almost 40 years.

Alice Russell had settled in Yuba City and had taught and been a principal in Yuba City schools and received a master's degree in elementary education from Chico State. Pat Gerrard taught for one year and decided it wasn't for her and moved onto an administrative career that kept her working until age 75. Pat lives in Oregon and continues to take classes at a Portland education center and do volunteer work. Dorothy Mann Irwin received a master's degree in applied behavioral

(continued on page three)



CSU, Chico 1946 Reunion

July 6, 2006

California State University, Chico College of Agriculture recently received organic certification for its dairy facility at the Agricultural Teaching and Research Center in Chico, California. The unit will be a seasonal, pasture-based operation milking 50 jersey cows, with plans to grow to 100 cows in the next three years, creating a unique educational center.

Aug. 1, 2006

Senior Anna Sorensen, sociology major, has received the prestigious 2006 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The Trustees' Award provides financial support to students who show superior academic performance, community service and personal accomplishments in the face of personal hardship and challenges. Sorensen, 29, is a full-time student and a single working mother of three daughters: Sarah, 11, Michel, 10 and Jennifer, 8.

Aug. 16, 2006

Chico State has entered into an unprecedented partnership with newspaper giant MediaNews Group to enroll and train journalism students from historically underrepresented populations. MediaNews Group is the fourth largest newspaper company in the U.S., with 54 daily newspapers in 12 states. CSU, Chico will receive \$59,000 from MediaNews Group over four years to help students from

diverse ethnic backgrounds pursue a career in journalism.

Aug. 21, 2006

Chico State will now host two Educational Talent Search (ETS) grants totaling \$2.3 million to help area junior high and high school students go to college during the next four years. The money will allow the CSU, Chico Educational Talent Search program to assist 6th through 12th grade students from educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school and continue with post-secondary education.

Aug. 22, 2006

Chico State remains ranked number four among master's level public universities in the western United States, based in the 2007 edition of "America's Best Colleges" from U.S. News & World Report magazine. The master's level category U.S. News & World Report uses includes universities that offer undergraduate and master's programs, but few doctoral programs. The magazine rated 557 universities in four geographic regions in this category.

Aug. 29, 2006

Two students have won a national design competition hosted by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) regarding electromagnetic interference and compatibility. Parthasarathi Datta and Roopa Bharathan came up the winning design and received a \$900

prize and \$2,100 to travel to the 2006 IEEE International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility. The IEEE is a nonprofit professional organization for the advancement of technology, with 365,000 members in more than 150 countries.

Sept. 20, 2006

Sharon Yep, managing editor for the student newspaper, The Orion, has been selected as one of the Scripps Howard Foundation's Top Ten Scholars for 2006. Winners are chosen for their demonstrated interest in journalism, academic achievement, portfolio and an essay about their long-term career goals. A panel of newspaper, broadcast and television network professionals chose the scholarship recipients from among entries across the country.

Sept. 27, 2006

Civil engineering student, Shalna Thomas, has won \$1,000 and been named a finalist in a national writing competition held by Chicago-based Quixote Corporation, a leading manufacturer of transportation safety products. Thomas wrote an essay on highway roundabouts last spring as part of an assignment in her transportation engineering class. Thomas graduated in May 2006 in civil engineering and is currently working on a master's in civil engineering at CSU, Sacramento.

Oct. 4, 2006

SAP Americas, a subsidiary of SAP AG, the world's third largest software maker, has named Chico State as one of two campuses in the United States to provide technical and curriculum support for universities around the world. Chico and the University of Wisconsin will be "mega centers" that host the latest SAP software programs and answer technical questions for business classes at universities.

Oct. 5, 2006

The School of Nursing has received \$125,000 in state funds to expand opportunities for licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) in the North State to become registered nurses (RNs) and earn their bachelor's degrees. The new program will begin in June 2007 with a group of approximately 20 LVNs. The program will take two academic years, plus one summer session, to complete. Those who finish will have a BS in nursing and be qualified to sit for the RN licensure exam.

November 11, 2006

Alumna Helga Ruge has founded her own publishing company, Clay & Marshall Publishing, and has published a love story set in the early sixties during the Cold War. Whether the Promised Land is available at the AS Bookstore and Amazon.com. [n](#)

Source: University Public Affairs and Publications

Some Things at Chico State Never Change

Some things at Chico State never change; the friendly community, the beauty of campus, and the wide-eyed faces of freshmen at the start of the academic year. Fall 2006 is no exception. This year brings Chico State its largest and most diverse group of students to campus. These students are experiencing for the first time the burnt oranges, reds, and yellows of the falling Chico leaves along with the academic rigor of their first mid-terms and papers.

Reyanna Garcia, a student from Sacramento readily admits that life as a freshman can be a bit overwhelming. Juggling classes, working on campus, and joining extra curricular activities take up all of her time. Reyanna realized at the start of the semester the importance of time management and sleep. "You don't have parents telling you to do your homework

or to be home at a certain time. It is great to finally have some independence, but I am learning that you are all you have to motivate yourself to do well in school." When asked what tips every freshman should know, Reyanna stated first to call your parents often because you might still want them to do your laundry on the weekends, and second, explore new things. Before coming to Chico State, she never would have considered rock climbing or ballroom dancing let alone running a half marathon. Yet each of these activities is a part of her Chico State experience.

"I can already see myself growing, figuring out who I am and who I want to be."

Some things at Chico State never change.

By: Karissa Morehouse, CSU, Chico Admissions Counselor

Hometown:
Sacramento, CA
High School:
West Campus High
Major:
Undeclared
Intramural Sport:
Soccer
Favorite meal in the residence halls:
Stuffed bell peppers [n](#)



Reyanna at work, public contact student for the Office of Admissions

It's Our Mission—and Vision: President's Column



Alicia Barr
(Class of 1996),
Alumni Association
President

As I have mentioned in my two previous columns, I am now happy to say that the Alumni Association mission and vision statements have been updated. I really have to thank board member Jeff DeFranco for his role in this process. Jeff guided the board through the steps necessary to create statements that encompass all that the Alumni Association stands for. We are very pleased with the results.

Our new vision statement is Excel as an alumni organization of distinction.

Our new mission statement: Enrich the Chico

experience by supporting alumni, students, and the University to ensure a lifelong connection and enduring legacy.

At the March 2006 board retreat at the Shady Creek Family Camp just outside of Nevada City, the board put together those words, statements, and phrases that express what it means to be Chico State alumni. Repeatedly the words "Chico Experience," "distinction," and "legacy" came up. These words sum up so succinctly what it means to us to be a part of the Alumni Association and the University.

As members of the CSU, Chico Alumni Association we have made a commitment to future, current, and past students to do all we can to keep this institution strong and viable. We also strive to keep alumni connected to the institution. Alumni giving is a critical part of any University, and Chico State is no different in this regard, but alumni giving can take many forms. Your time, for instance, can be an incredible gift to this institution.

How, you may ask, can you give your time to the institution? Just reading through this issue of Connected you can see some of the many ways alumni are contributing. Alumni are needed to keep our chapters going. Each chapter has a board of

directors made up of alumni who plan all chapter programs and events; volunteers are always needed.

Alumni can give to current students by becoming an alumni mentor. Mentors offer their expertise to students aspiring to positions in the field. As a mentor, you can help guide the career decisions of a Chico State student and perhaps prevent him or her from taking missteps in the field.

Future students are aided by alumni through the recruiting and college fair process. Contact admissions counselor Karissa Morehouse at kmorehouse@csuchico.edu to learn what you can do to help.

You are helping the Alumni Association right now—just by being a member. Your dues help the chapters, fund scholarships, and assist the Alumni Association in attaining its vision of excelling as an alumni organization of distinction. I thank you for your contributions to this organization and the University as a whole. If you think there is more that the Alumni Association can be doing to support alumni, students, or the University, let me know. Send me an e-mail in care of the alumni office at alumni@csuchico.edu. [n](#)

CHAPTER CHATTER

Chico Chapter

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fifth Annual Fall Reception—Meet the Champions! Over 130 Chico State alumni and friends attended the reception, and a great time was had by all. Thank you to Bacio Catering, J.B.'s Beverage Service, and Rocky Winslow's Jazz Combo for the wonderful food, drink, and music.

Join the CSU, Chico Alumni Association for hospitality receptions and a seatback seat for the Chico State vs. Cal State Dominguez Hills basketball games on Friday, February 2, 2007. The reception will be held in Shurmer Gymnasium (down the hall from Acker gym) from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and then again during halftime of the men's game. Tickets to the reception and games are \$10.00 each and include hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and a seatback ticket to the 5:30 p.m. women's game and 7:30 p.m. men's game in Acker gym. Tickets for the receptions only are available for \$5.00 each.

This event is sponsored by the Chico Chapter of the CSU, Chico Alumni Association and is open to everyone (you need not be an alum). For more information, or to order tickets, please call the alumni office at 530-898-6472, or e-mail alumni@csuchico.edu. There are a



August 20, 2006 Giants Game

limited number of tickets available, so order yours now!

Mark your calendars! The fourth annual Chico Chapter Spring Tri-Tip Barbecue is scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Yolo Lawn (last year's location). More details to follow...

Sacramento Chapter

The chapter held their Seventh Annual Alumni Day at SBC Park on Sunday, August 20, as the San Francisco Giants took on the Los Angeles Dodgers. Fifty alumni and friends attended the game and a great time was had by all. See you next summer!

The Sacramento Chapter has been holding a series of informal socials at Sacramento area restaurants. Their next social will take place in January at Happy Brewing Company. Sacramento Chapter events are announced via e-mail through the Sacramento-area e-newsletter. If you are interested in receiving information regarding these events, please sign up for our mailing list online by going to www.csuchico.edu/alm.

Bay Area Chapter

The Bay Area Chapter held their launch meeting on Saturday, October 28, at Gordon Biersch Restaurant in San Francisco. Over 30 alumni attended to get involved and help get the Bay Area Chapter of the CSU, Chico Alumni Association started.

The Alumni Association hosted a pre-game reception on November 2 at Fanny & Alexander in Palo Alto prior to the Chico State vs. Stanford Women's Basketball Game in Maples Pavilion on the Stanford campus. Over 75 fans attended to cheer on our Wildcats!

For more information on any of the CSU, Chico Alumni Association events, please contact alumni@csuchico.edu. n

Alumni Board Members 2006–2007

President
Alicia Barr, 1996
Truckee, CA

Vice President
Tim Colbie, 1992
Chico, CA

Secretary
Candy Solari, 1967
Chico, CA

Treasurer
Shannon Phillips, 1981
Redding, CA

Past President
Sheryl Lange, 1966
Chico, CA

Executive Director
Susan Anderson
Chico, CA

University President
Paul J. Zingg
Chico, CA

AS President
Courtney Voss
Chico, CA

Faculty Representative
Alan Rellafor, 1981
Chico, CA

Chico Chapter President
Don Carlsen, 1969
Chico, CA

Alumni Council Representative
Jane Dolan
Chico, CA

CSU Trustee
Bob Linscheid, 1976
Chico, CA

Members
Jeff DeFranco, 2000
Eugene, OR

Wesley Lujan, 1997
Fair Oaks, CA

Roberta Mendonca, 1963
West Sacramento, CA

Pam Montana, 1978
Danville, CA

Cathy Morris, 1989
Chico, CA

John Nock, 1989
Chico, CA

David Pegos, 1994
Sacramento, CA

Clark Porter, 1948
Chico, CA

Wayne Tarr, 1962
Point Richmond, CA

Afrack Vargas, 1997
Sacramento, CA

Arlene Ward, 2004
Chico, CA

Susan Weinreich Best, 1979
Chico, CA

PERSPECTIVES

by Susan Anderson



Susan Anderson, director of Alumni and Parent Relations

The Alumni Association now sponsors 12 scholarships each year. There are seven college scholarships (one for each of the seven colleges on the Chico State campus) where first award priority goes to the dependent of an Alumni

Association member. There is the Graham Whitney scholarship, which is funded with sales of water at the Commencement ceremonies. There is the \$12,000 President's Scholar award funded by the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, and now there are three new President's Scholar awards.

The seven Alumni Association scholarships were first awarded for the 2004–2005 academic year. Three are seven \$500 scholarships, one for each college, and the award criteria is as follows:

- One per college
- Award priority given to the dependent of an Alumni Association member

- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Must be an undergraduate with a minimum of two semesters left for degree completion

The scholarships for 2006–2007 were awarded as follows:

- Agriculture: Jennifer Williams
- Behavioral and Social Sciences: Dustin Strubbe
- Business: Eva English
- Communication and Education: Amber Root
- Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management: Maddelyn Giles
- Humanities and Fine Arts: Matt Gianni
- Natural Sciences: Meghann Shorrock

The Graham Whitney Scholarship, endowed by the Whitney family in the name of Chico State alumnus Graham Whitney (class of 1957), is awarded to an incoming freshman who has graduated from the Chico Unified School District. Whitney, a former Alumni Association president, founded the Chico Chapter Scholarship Development program. The scholarship was initiated in June 1999, and is worth \$2,000 with \$1,000 being disbursed each

semester. The 2006–2007 recipient is Christian Gutierrez.

The President's Scholar awards were originally instituted by then Chico State president Manuel Esteban in 1995. These awards were designed to entice the best high school students to attend Chico State. Graduating

seniors from high schools apply and are invited to participate in a rigorous competition. There are 10 scholarships worth \$12,000 each awarded each year. The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations has sponsored one of these scholarships since program inception. Steven Bush is the current recipient of this award.

Starting with the 2006–2007 academic year, President Paul J. Zingg designated that all participants in the President's Scholar competition who do not win the \$12,000 scholarship, but still enroll at Chico State will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Alumni Association approved funding three of these \$1,000

scholarships. The recipients of these scholarships are Rachael Agoff, Ellen Akimoto, and Royce Alioto.

For more information on Chico State scholarships, go to the Chico State Scholarship Web page at <http://fa.csuchico.edu/fa/basics/typesofaid/scholarships/index.aspx>.

The 2007–2008 scholarship application is now available. The deadline for all scholarship applications is February 1, 2007. n



2006–07 Alumni Association Scholarship Recipients

Lifelong Connections (continued from page one)

psychology, did 17 years of pastorate work, adopted three children, and settled down in Fruita, Colorado. Ethelda Jay Seaman taught in Richvale, California for one year, went on to Berkeley for an master's degree in elementary education, and settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, working 21 years at the Carter-Day grain processing equipment plant.

In May 2006, Elizabeth decided that at 95 years of age, it was time to see if she could get everyone together again. It was the 60th anniversary of their first reunion, and according to Elizabeth, "a miracle occurred." All of the women were able to make it back



2006 CSU, Chico Reunion

to Durham for yet another reunion.

"The timing was perfect," says Elizabeth.

"Everyone was well enough to travel and have a great time together."

After the reunion, the women all contributed to a memory book compiled for Elizabeth in recognition of all that she has meant to these women throughout the years. The women each wrote a letter to Elizabeth, sharing with her just how important she has been to them, and wrote a short chronicle of the important events of their lives. This book has been bound and includes photographs of all the women through the years. It truly shows the lasting legacy of the Chico Experience for these six women. n