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Alumni Newsletter - Connected

Features



Chico State Students Go For Up-'til-Dawn 'Three-Peat'!

Up 'til Dawn at Chico State is a fundraising event for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in Memphis, Tennessee.

[Full story...](#)



Alumni Weekend - January 30-31, 2009

Alumni Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of January 30-31, 2009.

[Full story...](#)



Want to Get Involved? Join a Chapter!

The chapters of the Alumni Association are all looking for new board members. Active chapters are in the Chico, Sacramento, and Bay Areas. Active clubs are in the Orange County and San Diego areas.

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Scholarship Application is Available Until December 15, 2008!

The 2009-2010 academic year scholarship application period is October 1, 2008 through December 15, 2008

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Travel to Anastasia's Russia

June 8-21, 2009, with the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

[Full story...](#)



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What's Inside

Scholarship Application is Available Until December 15, 2008!

Apply Now to be Eligible for Alumni Association Scholarships

The 2009-2010 academic year scholarship application period is October 1, 2008 through December 15, 2008. Students must complete the financial aid scholarship application to be eligible for an Alumni Association scholarship. The scholarship application is available October 1 through December 15 on the financial aid Website at <http://fa.csuchico.edu/fa/>.

The Alumni Association offers four scholarships worth \$1,000 each (\$500 awarded each semester). The scholarships are awarded based on the following criteria:

- Recipient must be the dependent of an Alumni Association member
- Minimum 2.0 GPA
- Must have a minimum of two semesters left for degree completion
- Must complete the CSU, Chico Scholarship Application Form (applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are due by December 15, 2008)
- Must complete the [Alumni Association Supplemental Scholarship Application](#) by February 1, 2009.



The Chico Chapter sponsors the Wayne Harder Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is for \$2,000 (\$1,000 awarded each semester) and is awarded to a new or returning Chico State Student from the prefaced 959 or 960 zip codes (essentially from Redding to Marysville) who is the dependent of a Chico Chapter Alumni Association member. This scholarship requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 and is funded by the proceeds from the annual Chico Chapter Spring Tri-Tip Barbecue.

This scholarship is named for founding Chico Chapter board member Wayne Harder who passed away on November 25, 2007. Wayne was committed to the alumni and students of Chico State, and to making the University better.

Applicants must complete the CSU, Chico Scholarship Application on the [Financial Aid Web site](#) (by December 15, 2008), and must complete the [Alumni Association Supplemental Scholarship Application](#) (by February 1, 2009).

Any questions about this process, please contact the alumni office.

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Travel to Anastasia's Russia: June 8-21, 2009

The tour will include three nights in Moscow, two in Suzdal, one in Kostroma, one in Pereslavl Zalesky, and four in St. Petersburg plus one overnight flight and one overnight train ride.

The faculty-in-residence is history professor Dr. Kate Transchel, who earned her PhD from the University of North Carolina. She has traveled extensively in Russia during the



past two decades and published prolifically on various contemporary Russian issues.

It is possible for CSU, Chico students to earn 1-3 units through History. The package includes round-trip airfare from San Francisco (including airport fees and transfers); comfortable, well-located hotels with private baths (including hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling, and local taxes); buffet breakfast daily and three dinners; guided sightseeing tours led by expert local guides; and the full-time services of a professional tour director. (Note: the single supplement costs \$725.) A tax-deductible portion of the cost goes to college scholarships and programs. Limited space remains.

Make your deposit today of \$450 to hold your place. Last day to sign up unless the tour fills earlier: February 8, 2009. Contact group coordinator Ms. Thomasin Saxe at tsaxe@csuchico.edu, or by phone at 530-898-4642, for more information.

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Chico State Students Go For Up-'til-Dawn 'Three-Peat'!

"Fight the yawn – stay awake to cure childhood cancer." That's the motto of Up 'til Dawn, a student-led, student-run philanthropic program hosted by colleges and universities nationwide. Up 'til Dawn at Chico State is a fundraising event for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, located in Memphis, Tennessee. St. Jude is the largest childhood cancer research center in the world, and groundbreaking research findings at St. Jude are shared with doctors and scientists all over the world. The hospital's daily operating costs are over \$1 million per day, which are primarily covered by public contributions (from programs such as Up 'til Dawn). St. Jude is the only pediatric cancer research center where families never pay for treatments that are not covered by insurance, and families without insurance are never asked to pay.

Chico State has participated in the Up 'Til Dawn campaign for the last eight years, raising more than \$650,000 and is the two-time defending national champion of Up 'til Dawn, raising over \$360,000 in the past two years. The goal this year is to raise \$200,000. Chico State alum Larry Bassow, (GRAD YEAR) program coordinator for Greek Life, said that 2,000 students have already signed up for the letter writing campaign and he hopes to have more than 2,5000 participants. He expects that students will send out approximately 37,000 letters to friends and family asking for support for St. Jude. Bassow says " Up 'til Dawn has become a way of life at Chico State. Students athletes, members of the Greek community, on-campus residents, commuter students and just about every other segment of campus has found a way to connect to the cause of supporting St. Jude."



Regarding the goal to raise \$200,000 this year, Bassow says, "I don't believe we have even scratched the surface. We have 16,000 people on our campus, and 10 percent of them participate in the event. I'd like to believe we can get more than that. If we do our job right in promoting the hospital, the money will come."

This year's letter-writing party is on November 3rd, 2008 from 4:00 PM - 12:00 Midnight in Acker Gym. The letter-writing party includes free food, good music, and lots of raffle prizes, including a laptop computer, free tuition, a trip to Las Vegas, and tickets to various sporting events.

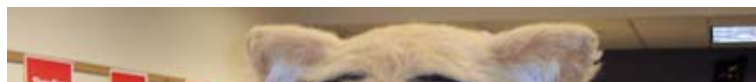
A direct donation link on the St. Jude website will be active in the next two weeks and the alumni office will send out information on how to donate online. In the meantime, if you can volunteer to work at the event (shifts are two hours), or have any door prizes that you can donate, please contact Larry Bassow at lbassow@csuchico.edu.

Let's show our students some alumni support!

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Alumni Weekend - January 30-31, 2009

Alumni Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of January 30-31, 2009. Scheduled events include the Annual Chico Chapter Basketball Games and Receptions. Receptions are held in



Shurmer Gym during halftime of the women's game, between the men's and women's game, and again during halftime of the men's game after the presentation of the class of 1959. The class of 1959 will be recognized and honored on center court at the start of the men's game halftime.

Ticket information is available by calling the alumni office at 530-898-6472. If you are a class of 1959 alum, we especially want to hear from you!

On Saturday, January 31, 2009, the Annual Golden Graduate Luncheon will be held in the Bell Memorial Union. All alumni who graduated in 1959 or earlier are invited to attend this luncheon. Ticket information is available by calling the alumni office. Immediately following lunch, we will be opening the class of 1959 Time Capsule. If you remember what was in the capsule, send us an [e-mail](#) or call the alumni office to let us know.

Other Upcoming Reunions

College of Agriculture Alumni Reunion at the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale

Friday, January 30, 2009

4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Tehama District Fairgrounds in Red Bluff

Contact Sarah DeForest at sdeforest@csuchico.edu or 530-898-3737 for more information

Track and Field Alumni and Friends Banquet

January 31, 2009, Bell Memorial Union

No-host cocktails: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets cost \$40 each and must be purchased in advance.

Call 530-898-5735 for more information

College of Agriculture Alumni Breakfast at the Colusa Farm Show

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

7a.m., Colusa Fairgrounds

Contact Sarah DeForest at sdeforest@csuchico.edu or 530-898-3737 for more information

Physics 50th Anniversary and Reunion

Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, 2009

Many activities are scheduled, including Show & Tell, Contributed and invited talks, Banquet and Graduates' Gala, and the Floyd English Scholarship Reception. See our web site at www.phys.csuchico.edu or call 530-898-6259 (ask for Chris Gaffney or Lisa Washburn) for more information.

Computer Science 40th Anniversary and Reunion

Scheduled for Spring, 2009

If you are interested in helping with the planning or sponsoring the event, please contact Moaty Fayek, department chair at cscialumni@csuchico.edu or call 530-898-6442.

Calling all Centurions!

Are you an alumnus who is 100 or more years young? Or do you know of a Chico State grad who has reached the century mark? If so, please contact the alumni office at alumni@csuchico.edu or 530-898-6472 with details.

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Want to Get Involved? Join a Chapter!

The chapters of the Alumni Association are all looking for new board members. Active chapters are in the Chico, Sacramento, and Bay Areas. Active clubs are in the Orange County and San Diego areas. Board members help plan and organize local area events for the enjoyment and participation of all Chico State alumni.

To be a chapter board member, you must be an Alumni Association member in good standing (you have paid your membership dues for the year). Chapter boards meet either in person, or via conference call, once per quarter. Chapters are responsible for holding at least one social event, and one service event each year. Being a member of your local chapter board is a great way to stay involved with the University, and to reach out to other Chico State alumni.

For more information about the chapter or club in your area please contact:

- African American Club - [Tray Robinson](#)
- Bay Area Chapter - Chapter President [Alicia Schwemer](#)
- Chico Chapter - Chapter President [Matthews Jackson](#)
- Orange County Club - [Tiffany Randolph Graef](#)



- Sacramento Chapter - Chapter President [Chris Cullen](#)
- San Diego Club - Contact the [alumni](#) office

There are also positions available on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. If you are a member of the Alumni Association, and you want to be a member of the full board, complete the [board application](#) and return it to the alumni office no later than November 21, 2008. The Alumni Association Board of Directors meets three times per year plus holds a two-day retreat in March of each year. Board meeting attendance is mandatory for all board members.

There are many ways to get involved with the University and other Chico State alumni. A full listing of Alumni Association events is available online at <http://www.csuchico.edu/alumni/calendar.php>. We hope to see you very soon!

Chico State Alumni Association on the Road in Seattle!

Chico State alumni director Sue Anderson recently visited Seattle to attend a conference and she hosted an alumni reception at the Fox Sports Grill. Twenty alumni from the greater Seattle area attended the event.

Photos:



Mendy Droke, '87 and Peter Smallwood, 1982. Smallwood served as Seattle Chapter president in the 1990's



Chico State nursing grads Dana Iorio, '78, and Brian Asay, 1984



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Alumni Profile

In Memoriam - John Cowan (Class of 1943)

Chico State College alumnus John B. Cowan died in his Gridley home on October 15, 2008, at the age of 92.

A Life Well-Lived

"Cowan was an impressive man on so many fronts. He was a naturalist, a visionary, a leader, a philanthropist, a photographer, a family man, and much more." (Chico Enterprise Record 10/18/08) It's hard to measure the full impact of long time Gridley resident John B. Cowan. From his work to make Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuge one of the best in the state, to being a driving force behind the formation and development of Butte College - known as one of the top community colleges in the nation - it seems there is very little Cowan hasn't done and done well.

John B. Cowan was born October 8, 1916 in Sacramento, California. He grew up on a 20 acre ranch in Carmichael with three brothers and four sisters. Cowan spent most of his free time hunting or fishing on the American River, something that shaped his future career.

While attending San Juan High School, Cowan also developed a love for athletic competition. He excelled on the school's football, basketball, and baseball teams, receiving the 'Outstanding Athlete' award upon his high school graduation in 1935. Cowan then attended Sacramento Junior College majoring in biology & physical education. While there he was elected Student Body President and lettered in Baseball & Boxing. After passing the civil service exam, he was offered a position with the California Department of Fish & Game for two years before taking educational leave to attend Chico State College for a degree in biology.

While at Chico State, Cowan was elected Student Body President & started as a defensive back on the varsity football team. Cowan worked his way through college doing a variety of odd jobs including: part-time fireman for the City of Chico; capturing bullfrogs to sell to the Biology Department; and playing semi-pro baseball for the Chico Colts. It was at Chico State College that John met his future wife, Avis Childers who was also a biology major.

After graduating from Chico State in 1943, Cowan enlisted in the Navy as a flight cadet. The extended training forced John and Avis to postpone their wedding plans several times as the Navy didn't allow cadets to marry until their training was completed. After Cowan earned his wings, the couple married on June 3, 1945 in Los Angeles, before he headed to Florida for flight instructor training.

After World War II, Cowan earned a Master's Degree in Zoology from U.C. Berkeley. For his Master's Research Project, Cowan studied the Mourning Dove. In 1948, Cowan became Manager of the Gray Lodge State Waterfowl Refuge. The refuge thrived under Cowan's management growing from 2,540 acres when he first arrived, to 8,400 when he retired in 1980. His management of Gray Lodge helped make the refuge one of the most visited places in Butte County.

During this time, Cowan also developed his writing & photography skills, authoring more than 35 articles and publishing hundreds of photos. His nature photographs have received state & national awards.

After retiring from Gray Lodge, Cowan served as a Wildlife Habitat Consultant, from 1981 to 2001. John and Avis authored *A Jewel in the Pacific Flyway: The Story of Gray Lodge Wildlife Area*, published in 2002 by the California Waterfowl Association.

While managing Gray Lodge, Cowan also played a key role in the establishment of Butte County's first community college. A founding member of the Butte College Board of Trustees, Cowan served for 19 years, and was instrumental in choosing the campus site and in the naming of the college as a wildlife refuge - the only community college with that distinction.

Cowan's contributions to Butte College also extended to the sports program where he was a permanent fixture at football and basketball games. He was



well known for generously dispensing praise and encouragement to coaches and players. As a result, the entire sports complex, including the football field and basketball gym, are named after him. A bust of Cowan is mounted in the gym.

Truly, John B. Cowan was a man of great accomplishments and far-reaching influence. But, more than that, he was a great man. In the words of his daughter Janet, "Dad's honors and awards pale in comparison to the man he was. He was the most genuinely humble, kind, sweet, nice, good, and modest man I have ever known. My dad was the same in his private home life as he was in public and treated his family in a kind and loving manner. God gave Dad the gift of encouragement in bucketsful and he always had a kind word for everyone."

The family is establishing a web site for Cowan: www.johnbcowan.com and encourages you to visit and contribute memories.

Large portions of this article adapted from "The Legacy of John B. Cowan" by Scotty Williams, *Gridley Herald* [7/30/03]

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Chapter Chatter

Chico Chapter:

More than 100 Chico State alumni and friends attended the annual Chico Chapter Fall Reception on October 9. Thank you to new coaches Greg Clink, Brian Fogel and Filipe Restrepo for speaking at our event. We're looking forward to kicking off Family Weekend again on **October 8, 2009**.



If you are interested in following Chico State Men's Basketball, let Coach Clink know! send an e-mail to Greg Clink at gclink@csuchico.edu to be added to the mailing list to receive regular men's basketball updates.

Join the Chico Chapter on **Friday, January 30** for hospitality receptions and a seatback seat at the Chico State men's and women's basketball games in Acker Gym. Receptions will again be held in Shurmer Gym during halftime of the women's game and between the two games

.This event is sponsored by the Chico Chapter of the Chico State Alumni Association and is open to everyone. For more information, or to order tickets, please call the alumni office at 530-898-6472.

Sacramento Chapter:

On **Saturday, November 8**, the Sacramento Chapter will be hosting a pre-game event in conjunction with the Chico State Men's basketball vs. UOP in Stockton . Join fellow alumni at the Valley Brewing Company in Stockton (157 West Adams St.) for a pre-game gathering at 5:30 pm. You can cheer on the Chico State men's basketball team starting at 7:30 pm at the Alex G. Spanos Center at UOP.

You're invited to join the Sacramento Alumni Chapter on **Wednesday, December 3** for an alumni mixer at the **Sacramento River City Brewing Company** (545 Downtown Plaza) from 6 – 8 pm. There is no cost to attend and appetizers will be hosted by the chapter. An RSVP is not required, but appreciated. Contact the alumni office at 530-898-6472. www.rivercitybrewing.net

Calling all Kings Fans! You're invited to join the Sacramento Chapter to watch the Kings play the LA Clippers on **Friday, February 27, 2009** at Arco Arena. Additional details will follow as the date approaches. Contact the alumni office or go to www.csuchico.edu/alumni for additional information.

Bay Area Chapter:

Join the Bay Area Chapter for a mixer at the Sports Basement in San Francisco (610 Mason St., The Presidio) on **Thursday, December 4** from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Appetizers and refreshments provided by The Sports Basement. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to the Alumni Office by November 26. Alumni will also receive a discount on apparel at the Sports Basement.

On **February 27, 2009** , the Bay Area Chapter will host an alumni pre-game event in conjunction with the Warriors vs. Charlotte Bobcats basketball game at Oracle arena in Oakland . Last season, over 100 alumni attended this event. Bring your friends and join other alums for a pre-game mixer at 5:30 pm.



Game time is 7:30 pm.

**S. California
Chapter:**

If you are interested in getting involved with the Orange County or San Diego Chico State Alumni Club, please contact Shari Maurseth in the alumni office at smaurseth@csuchico.edu.

**African
American
Club:**



The African American Club hosted its African American Alumni Reunion during the weekend of October 10 - 12 which consisted of a Family Day BBQ, Dinner Dance and Brunch. It was a time of fellowship and laughter as over sixty alumni reminisced about their experience while attending Chico State . Alumni traveled from Southern California, the Bay Area, Houston and Maryland to participate in the event.

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Perspectives

A Message from CSU Chancellor Charles Reed on the CSU Budget

The Department of Finance recently directed state agencies and departments receiving General Funds of the need to cut \$390 million statewide from the current budget. This \$390 million cut was a cost-saving assumption adopted as part of the enacted budget. The Department of Finance acted under direction from the Governor who was within his authority in allocating the \$390 million reduction. For the CSU this amount was \$31.3 million of the money received from state funds. In response, the CSU made it clear that in order to meet our mission-critical functions, this would have to be a one-time reduction, and not affect the base general fund budget going forward. The CSU anticipates that we will be able to manage this reduction without disrupting campus operations or impacting instruction, student services or public safety. However, all programs funded by state government, including the CSU, are vulnerable to major additional cuts from the legislature because the state's revenues are in free-fall. Legislative leaders are estimating the state's current deficit to rise as high as \$10 billion. Under these circumstances the CSU must focus our attention, energy and efforts toward this larger problem.

The Governor has indicated he intends to call a special session of the current legislature on November 5 th in order to address this emerging deficit. We do not know what the result of that will mean for the CSU budget. What is clear, is now, more than ever, we need to continue working together to advocate against any further budget cuts. The hard work that all of the faculty, staff and students put into campus budget forums greatly helped the CSU's budget position for this year and that kind of hard work will be instrumental in defending the university against further cuts both this year and next. Thousands of students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, parents and others are working hard on behalf of the CSU.

We know these will be tough budget times ahead as the state's fiscal condition continues to deteriorate. That is why we need to continue to advocate together on the critical role CSU plays in preparing graduates for California's workforce, and the need for investment in higher education. Sincerely,

Additional Resources:

The CSU's response to the Governor's Office: <http://www.calstate.edu/BudgetCentral/response-fin-budget-reduction.shtml>

For additional information and background details on the CSU's budget visit <http://www.calstate.edu/BudgetCentral>

For information on the Alliance for the CSU visit <http://www.allianceforthecsu.org/>

State of California Budget Information
<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/>

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President's Column

by Alumni Association President, Tim Colbie

Give the Gift of Membership This Holiday Season

Since 1887, CSU Chico has provided the margin of excellence that defined your experience and distinguishes the university as one of the leading academic institutions in California

As the holiday season approaches, I urge you to continue this legacy by giving the gift of membership to fellow friends and alumni of CSU Chico. The gift of an Alumni Association membership is a simple, meaningful and affordable way to support the university.

No matter how near or far you are from the beautiful Chico State campus, your membership makes a difference by helping to support a variety of programs, including:

- President's Scholarship Fund
- Graham Whitney Scholarship Fund
- Wayne Harder Memorial Scholarship
- Alumni and Parent Weekend
- Chapters and clubs in Sacramento , Chico , Bay Area and Orange County .
- Class time capsule

To give the gift of membership for the holidays, it's as easy as visiting us at online at www.csuchico.edu/alumni. Your membership makes it happen.



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Upcoming Events and Important Dates

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November

November 8 – Chico State Men's Basketball vs. UOP Tigers

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December

December 3 – Sacramento Chapter Mixer at River City Brewing Company

December 4 – Bay Area Event at the San Francisco Sports Basement

December 4 – Annual Lifetime Member Recognition and Scholarship Reception

December 15 – University Scholarship Application Period Closes

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January

January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast

January 17 – Alumni Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting

January 30 – Chico Chapter Homecoming Reception - Class of 1959 Halftime Recognition

January 31 – Golden Graduate Luncheon and 1959 Time Capsule Opening

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February

February 1 – Deadline for Completing the [Alumni Association Supplemental Scholarship Application](#)

February 27 – Bay Area Chapter Event at the Golden State Warriors vs. Charlotte Bobcats

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