

Connecting Yesterday's Students  
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## Alumni Newsletter - Connected

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### Features



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[Full story...](#)



#### Alumni Glen Renovation - Donate to the Annie B's Community Drive!

The Alumni Association is working to renovate the Alumni Glen on campus to create a more user friendly space that can be used for future alumni and campus events.

[Full story...](#)



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[Full story...](#)

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#### AS Bookstore Discount

Alumni Association members get 10 percent off AS Bookstore merchandise!

[Full story...](#)



#### Alumni Credit Card

The Official Alumni Association Credit Card is here!

[Full story...](#)

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#### Summer Send-Off Events 2008

Eleven cities in 22 days; 2,606 miles on the rented PT Cruiser! Tim Colbie, Alumni Association president, and Polly Crabtree, associate director of Alumni and Parent Relations, attended all 11 send-off events, made more hot dogs, hamburgers, and sandwiches than they can count, and made more than 400 new friends along the way.

Summer Send-Off events bring together alumni, new Chico State students, and parents to mingle and share experiences. Parents brought their new Chico State students (many times under duress) to the send-off events so parents could get some of their questions answered, and students could meet other students from the area heading to Chico. Alumni provided the icing on the cake - sharing personal experiences that inspired and excited students in attendance.

"Our daughter did not want to attend," says Carla Garbis, parent of first-year student Mackenzie Turner, "but on the way home, she admitted she was very glad she had gone. That's high praise from our daughter."

All of the events had a good balance of alumni, parents, and students in attendance. Alumni delighted in sharing their version of the Chico Experience, and alumni were a great source of information for parents and students alike. William Weese, a 2008 alumnus who attended the Santa Rosa send-off, made his Chico State experience come alive for all those in attendance.

"William Weese was invited to attend the Santa Rosa event by Alumni Association board member and organizer of the event, Roxanne Gilpatric," says Crabtree. "William really embodies all that is great about Chico State - he is personable, intelligent, and successful. He is currently working for a winery in Healdsburg, and is preparing to head to New Zealand to work in a winery for 'crush' in the Southern Hemisphere. He loved his experience at Chico State, and his enthusiasm was infectious. Students in attendance could not wait to head to Chico, and parents felt a bit more comfortable that Chico could turn out such great people."

Send-offs were held in Redding, Chico, Los Gatos, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Costa Mesa, San Diego, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Burlingame, and Danville. Attendance ranged from 15 in Santa Rosa, to almost 80 in Costa Mesa.

"The best part of these events," says Crabtree, "was seeing the students interacting. Tim Colbie was great at getting the students together. At the Vasona Park event, the students started an impromptu Frisbee game, and in Danville and Sacramento, Tim corralled the students to one side of the venue so they could get to know one another without their parents being right next to them."

It was well worth the time, money, and effort required to put on the Send-Off events. Some well-deserved gratitude goes to Vice President for University Advancement Rick Ellison, for agreeing to fund these events, the McConnell Foundation and Shannon Phillips for hosting and sponsoring the Redding event, and Liberty Mutual Insurance for sponsoring the Sacramento event. Alumni Association board member Mark Buonauro coordinated the Bakersfield Send-Off, and board member Roxanne Gilpatric coordinated the Santa Rosa Send-Off. Parent Advisory Council member Rosey Parks coordinated the San Luis Obispo Send-Off, council member Rob Roy coordinated the Burlingame Send-Off, and our council president, Bob Combs, coordinated the Danville event, including a donation of hot links and polish sausage from Evergood Sausage Company.

"This was a great experience," says Crabtree. "I cannot wait to do it again next year!"



#### Alumni Glen Renovation - Donate to the Annie B's Community Drive!

The Alumni Association is working to renovate the Alumni Glen on campus to create a more user friendly space that can be used for future alumni and campus events. The fund-raising goal for this effort is \$100,000, which will allow movement of the walking path closer to the creek, open up more green space and creek views, and create natural seating space.

To help raise money to fund this project, the Alumni Association is participating in the North Valley Community Foundation's Annie B's Community Drive. Last year the Annie B's Community Drive provided \$878,000 for community programs and services. Participating organizations received a 14 cent match for every dollar raised in the campaign. The Alumni Association raised \$3,220 and received \$450 in matching funds for a total of \$3,670.

Renovation of the Alumni Glen is currently in the archaeological review stage. Once the review has been completed, the Local Native American tribes, governmental agencies, and other interested parties have 30 days to object to the review. If there are no objections after 30 days, the archaeologist's findings will go to the Alumni Glen committee and the architect, Steve Gonsalves of Nichols, Melburg & Rossetto. Gonsalves, a 1981 grad and a Distinguished Alumnus from the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management, is donating his architectural services to the Alumni Association.



If the Alumni Association is successful in raising enough funds, we hope to break ground on this project in spring 2009. You can help by donating by September 30 to the [Annie B's Community Drive](#). We are listed as "CSUC Alumni Association." All donations made through this link go to the Alumni Association for the Alumni Glen renovation and allow us to participate in the division of matching funds. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the alumni office at 530-898-6472.

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## Alumni Banners Stolen

The first stage of the Alumni Association's efforts to beautify campus, was the installation of banners along the walkway between Butte and Holt halls. The project allowed for the installation of seven double-sided banners with 14 distinct messages:

### ALUMNI MESSAGES

**Connect:** The CSU, Chico Alumni Association was founded in 1892 and now serves more than 100,000 alumni

**Explore:** Chico State alumni live in more than 145 countries throughout the world

**Contribute:** Chico State alumni have donated more than \$12 million to the University in the last 40 years

**Support:** Alumni fund more than 550 scholarships every year

**Achieve:** Following a first graduating class of 15, Chico State now confers an average of more than 2,800 degrees per year

**Inspire:** Chico State has credentialed more than 22,000 teachers

**Innovate:** Chico State was the first university in the world to offer a graduate degree via satellite

### STUDENT MESSAGES

**Welcome:** CSU, Chico students come from more than 48 nations

**Excel:** Chico State has one of the top Division II athletic programs in the nation

**Join:** Chico State has more than 240 student organizations

**Lead:** Chico State Associated Students' breadth of service and leadership is unique in the U.S.

**Accomplish:** Chico State has one of the highest graduation rates in the CSU system

**Choose:** Chico State offers more than 100 majors and options

**Respect:** CSU, Chico is one of the most highly ranked master's level universities in the West

Each banner has an alumni message on one side and a student message on the other. In addition, a double banner was hung at the entrance to the Alumni Glen with the full alumni logo and the words "Today" and "Tomorrow" echoing the University motto, "Today Decides Tomorrow."

Sometime in early July, three of the message banners, and both sides of the double banner, were stolen. Damage to some of the hanging hardware resulted from the theft. The total cost to replace the banners is \$1,855. The replacement process is currently underway, and the new banners should be in place sometime in October. The campus police department is interested in following any leads.

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### Braggin' Rights

September 2, 2008

#### **Volleyball Team Ranked Number 21 in the Nation**

The Volleyball team opens the 2008 season ranked number 21 in the first CBS College Sports/AVCA Top 25 Poll. The Wildcats, who won four matches at the Seawolf Spike Tournament, were ranked 25th in the preseason poll. Wildcats setter Erica Brick earned Tournament MVP honors and broke Chico State's career assist record.

August 21, 2008

#### **Three Million Dollar Gift Will Benefit Museum of Anthropology**

Chico State has received a gift commitment of \$3 million from emeritus faculty member Valene Smith Posey to benefit the University's anthropology program and its Museum of Anthropology. Smith Posey taught in the anthropology department from 1967 to 1998. She is an expert on tourism and a frequent world traveler. Smith Posey has been a major supporter of the University's Museum of Anthropology since its inception in 1971.

August 18, 2008

#### **Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award Honors Communication Sciences Graduate Student**

Graduate student Marycarmen Rosales, who is pursuing a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders, has received the prestigious 2008 William R. Hearst/CSU Trustee's 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. Rosales is the 11th Chico student to receive the award since 1993. There are a total of 21 awards of \$3,000 given in the state. In addition, Rosales also was designated as the Trustee Emeritus Murray L. Galinson Scholar, which carries an additional award of \$6,000.



July 17, 2008

#### **Chico Named to Top 10 List of Green Colleges**

Chico State has once again been named to an exclusive list of national schools leading the way in sustainability and environmental awareness. The DailyGreen, a popular Web site that bills itself as "The consumer's guide to the green revolution," has featured CSU, Chico in a list of 10 top colleges and universities that includes Harvard University, Duke University, Middlebury College, and Oberlin College.

July 9, 2008

#### **Turner Print Museum Receives Gift of Original Winslow Homer Prints**

Robert and Sharon Ross, professors emeriti of the departments of political science and mathematics, respectively, have made a gift of original Winslow Homer prints to the Janet Turner Print Museum. The gift includes a collection of wood-engraving illustrations, an original woodblock for his print "Cutting a Figure," and three original etchings, also by Homer. In addition, there is an etching by Renoir, "Sur la plage," and an etching by Pissarro, "Vachère au bord de l'eau."

July 3, 2008

#### **Kinesiology Professor Josh Trout Co-authors Book on 'Supersized' PE**

Josh Trout, professor in the Department of Kinesiology at Chico State, and David Kahan, PhD, San Diego State University, have co-authored *Supersized PE: A Comprehensive Guidebook for Teaching Overweight Students*, published by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Trout said that the goal of the book is to help youth love physical activity and schedule it daily throughout their lives.

July 1, 2008

#### **Herbarium Collection Contributes to Climate Study**

The Herbarium at Chico State, located on the first floor of Holt Hall, is a little-known treasure, a warehouse of approximately 98,000 native plants. Data on native plants from the herbarium was recently part of a study to analyze current distributions of plants native to California and to project distributions into the future.

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### Perspectives

#### President Paul J. Zingg's 2008 Opening Convocation - Choosing and Sustaining a Culture of Distinction

The following is a transcript of the President's Convocation address delivered to University faculty and staff on Thursday, August 21, 2008:

Well, it's 100 degrees outside; we don't have a budget yet; we have more students than we want, less parking than we need, and we've got a problem with the waterless urinals in the new Student Services Center. But, hey, we should enjoy another undefeated season this fall by our football team.

"What's so funny, Anita?"

"We don't have a football team!"

"What!? No one tells me anything!"

Well, someone did tell me that the music accompanying the images which greeted you this afternoon is provided by the Chico State Jazz X-Press, under the direction of Rocky Winslow. This summer this terrific ensemble played at the Telluride Jazz Festival in Colorado. That's about as good as it gets, and their sounds tell you why. Catch their concert this year.

So, good afternoon!

We begin this academic year with many important affirmations of who we are as a community, how we are perceived by others, and how we are accomplishing our most important task, the learning and success of our students.

I'll get to some of these in just a few minutes. But, first, I'd like to recognize a few folks in the audience this afternoon and, as I've been doing for a few years now, four members of our University community to bring you greetings.

Introductions

We have some new faces on campus, with whom not all of you are acquainted yet. And some familiar folks in new roles. Among our new colleagues are:

Lori Hoffman, Vice President, Business and Finance

Joseph Han, Director of Facilities

Jorge Salinas, Director of Labor Relations

Catherine Felix, Director of Student Health Services

And colleagues in new roles include:

Mike Ward, Dean, College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management

Eric Reichel, Chief of Police

Meredith Kelley, Vice Provost of Enrollment Management

Allan Bee, Director of Admissions

Pedro Douglas, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Dave Foreman, Associate Vice President for Financial Services

Speakers

Academic Senate chair Kathy Kaiser, professor of Sociology, current member of the Chico Unified School District, and former faculty trustee of the CSU

Board of Trustees.

Susan Green, representing our collective bargaining units, and president of the campus chapter of the CFA since 2004, associate professor of History and Chicano Studies. At Chico since 1999.

Angela Corral, chair, Staff Council, and administrative support coordinator in the School of Social Work, graduate of Chico State, and fourth generation Chicoan. At Chico since 2000.

Associated Students' President Jesse Eller, majoring in Agricultural Business, from Corning.

Thank you, all.

A few minutes ago I mentioned affirmations of our identity and direction -- affirmations that underscore the choices we make as an institution when we declare and live certain values, when we establish and accomplish certain goals.

Consider these examples:

This summer, scores of our faculty, staff, and students performed thousands of hours of service to our neighbors as the University provided critical assistance in dealing with the fires that ravaged our region. Whether assisting at evacuation centers on the campus, working at the Farm with displaced animals, making firefighters comfortable at University Village, or volunteering in the community in a multitude of ways, these folks showed us and our community why Chico State is such a rewarding place to work. I particularly want to mention the contributions of the University Police Department, University Housing and Food Service, Intercollegiate Athletics, Facilities Management and Services, and the College of Agriculture for the way in which the University responded to this crisis. Please join me in a round of applause and appreciation for our colleagues.

In its survey on "Great Places to Work," *The Chronicle of Higher Education* listed Chico State, the only CSU to be named.

Both Grist and The DailyGreen, respected online environmental Web sites, ranked our University among the top 10 institutions of higher education in the country for leadership in the areas of sustainability and environmental awareness. We were joined on these lists by some East Coast places named Harvard, Yale, and Duke.

Related to these recognitions, our third annual This Way to Sustainability conference drew almost 1,000 participants, the largest such conference in North America.

Cris Guenter, of the Department of Education, was named the National Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

Chico State biologist Jeff Price was one of the lead authors of the report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Prize with former Vice President Al Gore.

And whether in popular periodicals, the principal scholarly journals, conferences, and online exchanges in their fields, or books, our faculty explored the cutting edges of their disciplines and shared their expertise.

These teacher-scholars will be joined this year by 40 new colleagues, folks who come to us from such outstanding places as the campuses of the Ivy League and the University of California, from Stanford, Iowa, UT-Austin, Vanderbilt, Indiana, UMass, Notre Dame, and USC (both Southern California and South Carolina); who come to us from Beijing and the Ukraine, from Canada and Korea, from Taiwan and Redding. Just seeing if you're still listening. They are marvelous testimony to the attractions of our academic community. Many of these new faculty are with us this afternoon, and their names are in the program. Would you folks please stand so that we can see you and greet you? Thank you. We look forward to the pleasure of your company for a long time to come.

Almost 15% of our students participated in the annual Up til Dawn fundraiser to support children's cancer research at St. Jude's Hospital. Our campus raised almost \$190,000, tops in the nation in terms of dollars and contributors. In six years, we have raised nearly \$700,000 for St. Jude's. The \$1 million mark is now within reach. Right, Larry Bassow?

117 of our students, mostly from the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Construction Management, spent part of their winter break in New Orleans. This is the third consecutive year our students have helped with the post-Katrina recovery.

Every program, department, and college that stood for accreditation or certification over the past year was successful. Most notable was NCATE accreditation for the School of Education, a rare achievement attaining accreditation the first time seeking it, and AACSB accreditation for the College of Business, something which only 15% of business colleges in the world have. The College of Business was also listed by *The Princeton Review* as "one of the Best 290 Business Colleges" in the nation.

The Chico Economic Planning Corporation honored our College of Agriculture with the 2008 Excellence in Agribusiness Award. This award is given each year to an agricultural entity that has demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit and contributes to the economic development of Chico and Butte County.

WASC, as we all happily remember, gave us their report of their 2007 Institutional Capacity visit and its positive conclusions have set the tone for their return in spring 2009.

Grant and contract activity totaled almost \$25 million, about a 25 percent increase over the last five years.

In an increasingly competitive environment, our overall applications and those from students of color nearly matched our all-time highs. The same is true for the admission of students of color. Further, we expect to achieve a stronger balance in 2008-2009 between our enrollment target and our actual enrollment, about 15, 700 FTES for the college year.

Part of our responsibility is to demonstrate to our stakeholders our commitment to, and evidence of, student learning. One of these demonstrations is related to a national accountability effort known as the Voluntary System of Accountability. It includes a test called the Collegiate Learning Assessment designed to measure writing, analytical, and critical thinking abilities. It's administered to cohorts of freshmen and seniors.

So, how did we do? Our incoming students performed a little less well on this test than we might like, with CLA scores below what would have been expected from their SAT scores. But our seniors, on the other hand, scored well above expectations. In fact, Chico State came out in the 99th percentile of all the 180 universities, nationwide, taking the CLA in '07-'08. Even if one has reservations about this test – and some do for good reasons – this is an impressive result that suggests the value-added experience as our students progress to their degrees.

Some awards have become delightfully routine:

*The Orion* won another first place for general excellence from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, the ninth time this has happened. No other university publication has won this award more than four times.

Our Manufacturing Technology Program students won Grand Prize at WESTEC, the prestigious Western Tool and Exposition Conference for the fourth year in a row. It's actually Chico's fifth grand prize in six years – we didn't compete in that other year.

For the second time in two years, our Model United Nations team was named best delegation at the national conference in New York.

37 of our student-athletes earned all-academic honors from our conference. 35% of our student-athletes, in fact, achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Our teams won four conference championships and nine of our 13 teams participated in NCAA post-season championship competition. Overall, we finished 25th among all D-II institutions for the annual Directors Cup competition, ranking us again among the top 10% of such programs in the nation.

Four of our coaches – Kim Sutton, Molly Goodenbour, Gary Towne, and Kirk Frietas – were named coach of the year by our conference in their respective sports.

Nine student-athletes achieved All-American status, including Scotty Bauhs, who repeated as the D-II 5000 meter national champion and was named US Track Athlete of the Year by the D-II Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association. He was also named our athletic conference's male athlete of the year. His accomplishments are too numerous to mention, but many of you saw one right here in Chico last April when he ran the first sub-four minute mile in the University's history, breaking Kim Ellison's 37-year-old mark of 4:01 by two seconds.

In addition to the opening of the Student Services Center, the new home for many of you, we are well into construction of the Wildcat Recreation Center and well underway for the new student housing and dining complex and the Northern California Natural History Museum. Taylor Hall II, physical sciences, Butte Hall, and our utility infrastructure are the next major state-funded projects on the horizon, as state revenue bonds permit.

Regarding the Student Services Center, in particular, please stay for a few minutes after my presentation for a fun video on its construction. This video and other great information about the building and the campus can be accessed through the kiosk in the lobby of the building. A pretty good team, consisting of Chris Ficken, Rick Vertolli, Morgan Schmidt, Randy Wall, and Johnny Poon, put this together. It's particularly noteworthy for its accessibility features. Check out their fine work when you have a chance and congratulate them.

Now, let me share a few slides that demonstrate our progress advancing the University's story and the extraordinary generosity of our friends and supporters.

As this slide indicates, our total endowment has steadily increased over the last few years, weathering two down investment cycles extremely well. It stands at nearly \$35 million now, a 30% increase in five years.

Scholarships represent 56 percent of the total University Foundation Endowment, and we awarded \$1.7 million last year, up 11% alone from the previous year.

In 2007-2008, we reached a total of \$10.4 million in private gift commitments from almost 13,000 donors. This is a growth in dollars of 46 percent in one year and the donor number is the second highest in any single year.

Within these numbers is one gift, in particular, that I'd like to acknowledge today.

People give to universities for many reasons – affection, loyalty, gratitude, even a sense of obligation. All good reasons, to be sure. People also give to a university when they see their own values reflected in the institution, when they see their own sense of service echoed in the work and direction of the

institution, when they recognize an opportunity to assist the institution to achieve great things in the noble work of helping students learn and succeed.

Such is the case with the gift that Valene Smith Posey has made to us. Many of you know Valene, as a professor in the anthropology department for many years, as a local business woman, as an active emeritus faculty member.

Valene's gift will support several specific areas, such as cultural anthropology, museum studies, and, in particular, enhancing the University's Museum of Anthropology. She is absolutely committed to making our anthropology department and museum outstanding in every respect, and sees her gift as a lead effort that will prompt other benefactors to join her in advancing these areas and, with that, our University.

This is a gift, in other words, with vision and purpose. But it is also a gift with confidence. It will be noticed and celebrated because it signals great trust in what we are accomplishing and invites others to follow her example.

Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in recognizing our good friend and colleague, Valene Smith Posey, who is with us today, and thank her for her gift to the University which is valued at \$3 million.

These are not random acts of achievement and acknowledgment, generosity and grace, kindness and commitment. They are reflective of an experience and a culture which are discernible, measurable, praiseworthy, and distinctive.

We exhibit many of the virtues and characteristics which the experts say make up high quality and high morale institutions.

We have a clearly articulated and broadly understood institutional mission. WASC especially noticed and praised this.

We intentionally try to build our values – such as regional stewardship, sustainability, civic engagement, and student success – into our everyday operations.

Examples abound, but one I'd particularly like to mention is the adoption by the larger Chico-area of our book-in-common this year, Greg Mortenson's *Three Cups of Tea*, as a community book-in-common. We have been joined by Butte Community College, the Butte County libraries, Enloe, Lyon's Books, Barnes and Noble, the Chico Enterprise-Record, the City of Chico and others to read this book and develop programming in a year-long effort to read, think, and be active in the causes of peace, compassion, and social justice that the book encourages. Its author will be with us later this year in an already much anticipated visit.

As evident through the many affirmations I've mentioned, we enjoy a certain sense of We set high standards and expectations for our students and ourselves.

We enjoy an enviable degree of shared governance.

Although many institutions claim these characteristics, too, when they are true and connected, a distinctive institutional culture emerges, because distinction is a choice and the sum of all that we do.

Without a doubt, our distinction focuses on a powerful sense of place. This is about geography – that is, our location in Chico and the North State; it is about roles and responsibilities, that is, our place in serving the needs of those who count on us; and it is about the special qualities of this campus – this beautiful place and the extraordinary harmony between our natural and built environments.

I am occasionally asked what is my favorite place on this campus. That's an easy question to answer – the walkway from First Street to the main entrance of Kendall Hall. Under a canopy of spectacular trees, many dating back to the time of the Bidwells, one can take in the three great buildings of architect, Chester Cole – Kendall Hall, Trinity Hall, and Laxson Auditorium. These mainly Romanesque-style buildings, graced with porches and arches, columns and capitals, a dome here, a tower there, and their distinctive red bricks provide a unique architectural vocabulary in California public higher education.

I look forward to this walk every day. I can't wait for the days to begin. Some days, I can't wait for them to end, but that's another story.

But the beauty around us just doesn't happen on its own. Skilled and dedicated people provide us with this beauty. They're often the first people I greet in the morning – Gary and Janice and Ricardo, who always seem to be doing something around Kendall Hall. You're looking at a few of them at work on the screen behind me. But let's greet and thank them all.

Here are the people of Facilities Management and Services. And many are in the auditorium today. Will you folks please stand so that we can recognize and thank all of you for making our place of work so inviting, clean, safe, and beautiful?

Thank you for that kind recognition of our colleagues and co-workers.

What sets high-quality institutions apart, as well, is a sense of constant striving. Even a sense of daring. And an awareness that we can never assume that our worthiness is so self-evident and compelling that support will flow to us because we are intrinsically deserving.

Of all the threats to a university, often the most dangerous come from within. Not the least of which is the smugness that believes that the institution's value is so self-evident that it no longer needs explication, its mission so manifest that it no longer requires definition and articulation.

For without constant attempts to re-examine, re-define, and re-assert publicly our nature and purpose, we – in fact, any university – can become frozen in internal mythology, in complacent self-perpetuation.

Remember, universities are profoundly conservative institutions by nature, meant to transmit the past, built to remember. When we are not challenged within ourselves to justify our work, to ourselves as well as to the society we serve; when we are not held accountable by ourselves and are not constantly urged to examine our suppositions, processes, and acts, we can stiffen up, lose our credibility, and suffer a loss of dialogue with those whom we serve, those who count on us.

Yes, it would be nice if everyone fully realized how fundamental higher education is to the needs of our region, state, and nation. That higher education is as crucial today as waterways were in the early 19th century, as railroads were after the Civil War, as federal highways in the 20th century. If that were the case, perhaps we would not be stuck as we are in the discretionary portion of the state budget vying with prisons for state support. There are simply no words to describe how strange and wrong that is.

But, the enlightenment we would like to see and the courage to act on it are, unfortunately, not the case. Rather we must face – and, in fact, welcome – the challenge of demonstrating our role in supporting a knowledge-based economy and building a sound social fabric. For that which we are about is the public good – whether defined as a strong economy, a clean environment, a healthy population, a just society, an engaged citizenry.

This is the powerful, on-going message of the Alliance for the CSU. It is very gratifying to be at a campus whose performance in this effort – that is, letters written, calls made, rallies attended, people enlisted, including trustees and members of our advisory boards, like Farshad Azad pictured here – consistently exceeds our proportionate numbers.

Undertaking our role in society is an honor. Accomplishing it is a trust. Excelling in it is a necessity. It is also a mark of character – a celebration of a community bound together in promise, purpose, and performance.

That's what a distinctive community looks like. We are Chico State – and we choose distinction.

Let's have a great year. Thank you.

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## Alumni Newsletter - Connected

### Chapter Chatter

#### Chico Chapter:

The Chico Chapter will host the Annual Fall Reception at the Warrens Reception Center on the Chico State campus on Thursday, October 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This event is free to attend, and will include appetizers, no-host beverages, and introductions to the new Men's and Women's Basketball Team coaches.

Please RSVP to this event by calling the alumni office at 530-898-6472. See the [Alumni Association calendar](#) for a full schedule of events.

#### Sacramento Chapter:



The Annual Alumni Day at AT&T Park was a huge success. More than 100 alumni and friends participated in the tailgate reception that included beverages donated by Sierra Nevada! Many were disappointed because tickets for this game were sold out. We will hold another Giants/Dodgers event summer 2009, so watch the [calendar](#) for more information.

#### Bay Area Chapter:

The Bay Area chapter has been very busy planning events. The chapter has set the goal of holding an event every other month, with the location of the events rotating around the Bay.

A mixer was held at McCovey's in Walnut Creek on Thursday, August 7, Send-off events were held in San Jose on August 1, Santa Rosa on August 12, Burlingame on August 13, and Danville on August 14.

The next event on the calendar is a shopping/reception event at the Sports Basement in San Francisco on Thursday, December 4. There will also be another event at the Golden State Warriors vs. Phoenix Suns game on Friday, February 27, 2009. Consult the [calendar](#) for more information. Make sure you stay informed! Join the [Chico State Alumni Group on Facebook](#).



#### 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](mailto:smaurseth@csuchico.edu).

#### African American Club:

The Black Alumni Reunion will be held October 17 through 19. Events include a family barbecue at One-Mile Recreation Area in Bidwell Park, an elegant dinner-dance in the Bell Memorial Union Auditorium, and brunch in the Warrens Reception Center (the former President's Mansion). For more information, please contact Tray Robinson by e-mail at [trobenson@csuchico.edu](mailto:trobenson@csuchico.edu), or by

phone at 530-898-5396.

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## Alumni Newsletter - Connected, CSU, Chico

### Board's Eye View

#### Alumni Update - Alicia Barr

August was truly a "Golden" month for former alumni association president Alicia Barr, 1996, Mechanical Engineering, and her husband Andy. Barr, a long-time Ultimate Frisbee player, and a member of TEAM USA, took home the gold medal at the 2008 World Ultimate and Guts Championships in Vancouver, BC. In addition, the Barrs, owners of Truckee's FiftyFifty Brewing Company which opened in 2007, recently entered seven of their beers into the California State Fair, with all seven winning either a gold or silver medal.

Barr first began playing Ultimate after attending lunchtime pick-up games while employed at Hewlett-Packard in Roseville. As a grad student at Stanford in 1999 she started her competitive Frisbee career, and has played on and off with a Bay Area team, "The Fury," since 2001. "I've retired twice (one year to have a baby, one year to start a business)," said Barr, "but can't seem to stay away. What keeps drawing me back is not only the thrill of competition at the highest level, but the camaraderie and friendships with my teammates. They are an amazing bunch of women, and I feel privileged to have played with them all." In order to win the gold, TEAM USA played an exhausting series of matches--11 games total over a period of seven days. 1,600 athletes from 21 countries participated in the competition. "Worlds itself was amazing!" said Barr. "We played the finals in Thunderbird Stadium at the University of British Columbia in front of about 1,000 spectators, and won 13-10. I can't even explain how exciting it was."



Following TEAM USA's big win on August 9, Barr returned to Truckee and in less than two weeks, she took home another gold medal-- actually a few of them--along with some silver medals, at the 2008 Commercial Craft Brewing Competition at the State Fair. In addition to the medals, FiftyFifty's Donner Party Porter and Kölsch Cream Ale took home third place overall in their respective categories, and the Manifesto Pale Ale was voted California's number one American Style Amber Ale. Following the wins, Andy Barr was reminded of a promise he made to Brewmaster Todd Ashman--that he would dye his hair to match the top medal received. True to his word, Andy went from a brunette to a blond. When asked if he would keep up his new look, he replied "No comment!"

For more information on FiftyFifty Brewing Company visit their Web site at [www.fiftyfiftybrewing.com](http://www.fiftyfiftybrewing.com)

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California State University, Chico  
95929-0050  
800-598-6472  
530-898-6472

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### President's Column

by Alumni Association President, Tim Colbie

In our first online issue of *Connected*, I asked if you had any favorite memories of Chico. Dr. Gary Sitton, a 1967 College of Business graduate, and a 1997 Distinguished Alumnus, responded to the request with the following letter.

Tim:

You requested some "favorite" memories from the Chico State days. I'm afraid I'm too old to be "relevant," Tim, witnessed by the list following: Cal's 19¢ burgers, P-Week (and its great Presents, Parade, Ghost Town, bike race, mayhem and Sheriff & Lil' Nell competition), Henry's A-Go-Go, The Oaks (with a fake ID), the CAC (Campus Activity Center), College Football Games (ahem, Dr. Zingg...), boxing matches, Art Acker, Willy Simmons, the hanging in effigy of the Director of Athletics, Dr. Kendall (a gentleman), Old Hutch (an academician with all the right credentials), the rose garden (where I would sit on a bench and sleep on Judy's shoulder), one-mile, five-mile, upper-park, lower-park, Pizzoni's, Brazen Oniker (sp), Garth's Sporting Goods, Collier's basement (still relevant!), Bill Lane (gave me my first teaching job), and on and on...

Born 62 years ago in Enloe, I'm a local. I started teaching Computer Science at Chico State when I was 19. When I see students from those early years, I walk to the other side of the street so they won't recognize me - I was terrible in the first few years. You know, Tim, we started our company with a few of my best students. These "Chico Staters" were David Woodward, Todd Saylor, Jen Liu, James and Kristi Bennett (Kristi took Calculus for "fun"), Jim Forberg and Johnny Forberg. These, plus who knows how many other CSU, Chico students, built a substantial software company which now has over 250 employees, with software installed throughout North America and internationally. At the time of our retirement in 2000, 80% of the officer level positions were occupied by CSU, Chico graduates (including Aaron Johnson, current president). We had employees from Cal Tech, Stanford, Berkeley and many other prestigious universities; and, I can tell you, the CSU, Chico graduates were second to none, did not have monster egos you had to nourish, and they were people with whom you actually wanted to go have a beer after work. The other thing I observed over and over was these people are not afraid to work. In the course of our 25 years, we had lots of highs and lows; and, when we really needed that extra push to get past a rough time, the Chico Staters were always there to roll up their sleeves and get it done. They are quick to get a point, love an impossible challenge and are people I want on my side if I ever have to go to war.

Every institution has something special that makes its alumni proud. However, I truly believe CSU, Chico has a special chemistry of community, well taught academic disciplines, work ethic heritage, natural history heritage, student guidance focus, friendly local culture, fun appreciation and a willingness to engage in honest labor. This, I feel, sets CSU, Chico apart.

Kind Regards,  
Gary



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### Upcoming Events and Important Dates

[September](#)

[October](#)

[December](#)

[January](#)

#### September

**September 6** – Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

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#### October

**October 1** – University Scholarship Application Available October 1 through December 15

**October 9** – Chico Chapter Fall Reception

**October 10-12** – Family Weekend

**October 17-19** – Black Alumni Reunion

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#### December

**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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### What's Inside

#### Associated Students Bookstore Discount — Another Great Benefit of Membership!



Did you know that one of the benefits of membership in the Alumni Association is a 10 percent discount on [AS Bookstore](#) merchandise? The discount does not apply to text book, AS Computerworks, or services-related purchases. The Bookstore does carry a wide selection of alumni gear including sweatshirts, t-shirts, and hats.

The [AS Bookstore](#) is in the process of establishing a database of books written by alumni. If you know of an author who attended Chico State, or if you are an alumni author, please send book buyer [Mark Mooradian](#) an e-mail, and tell him about the book.

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#### Official Chico State Credit Card is Here!

The CSU Chico Alumni WorldPoints(r) card is the only credit card that supports the Alumni Association and lets you earn points towards cash back, air travel, merchandise, and more — all with no annual fee and a competitive annual percentage rate! For every new account that is opened and every purchase made with the card, Bank of America will make a contribution to the CSU, Chico Alumni Association — at no additional cost to you! Members may review information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits and apply by [clicking here](#) or calling 1-800-932-2775. TTY users, please call 1-800-833-6262. Please mention priority code **FACJU6** when calling.

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### Contact Us

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

Phone: 530-898-6472  
Fax: 530-898-4407  
E-mail: [alumni@csuchico.edu](mailto:alumni@csuchico.edu)  
Web site: <http://www.csuchico.edu/alumni/>

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530-898-6472