Board’s Eye View Questions: Clark Porter

Clark Porter (Class of 1948) served as the Commissioner of Athletics on the Associated Students Board, was inducted into the Chico State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993 for his role on the Chico State Baseball Team, and established the Clark Porter Biological Sciences Scholarship to enable other students to seek out futures in the field of biological science. Porter joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors in June 2005, and assumed the role of chair of the Membership Committee February 1, 2008.

Q. How did you come to attend Chico State?
A. I was born in Chico, attended Chico elementary schools and Chico High School. I enrolled at Chico State in fall 1942 because I could live at home and was offered the opportunity to play varsity basketball. I enlisted in the Navy (VWII) during spring 1943 and was called to active duty fall 1943. I returned to Chico State fall 1946 following discharge.

Q. How did you meet your wife, Betty (Class of 1950)?
A. Betty and I met one summer evening (1947) as she was with a friend in a convertible and a friend and I were in a pickup after a hard day of knocking almonds. After introductions, we all continued to our favorite drive-in in the convertible. Betty and I were married in Chico June 18, 1950.

Q. What did you do following graduation, what was your career path?
A. I graduated from Chico State (Biology 1948) and enrolled at Oregon State at Corvallis, where I completed a doctorate in botany in 1952 with emphasis on biochemistry and physiology of plant virus diseases. My first job was in Yonkers, NY, at Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research as a virologist conducting cancer and virus research in addition to consulting on air pollution effects in agriculture. In 1962, I joined Monsanto Agricultural Co. in St. Louis Missouri as a senior fellow conducting basic and applied research for 29 years on agricultural plants, pests, and chemicals.

President’s Column

As I kick off my term as president of the Chico State Alumni Association, I cannot help but share the enthusiasm of alumni I meet. Chico State Alumni are truly special and unique. We all feel strongly about this place where we spent so much time, and learned so much. The best part, though, is how willing Chico State alumni are to share their experiences with others. Last summer I had the pleasure of attending the Sacramento Summer Send-off. Chico State alumni attending this event did what Chico State alumni do best—they shared their stories of Chico State and the surrounding community with incoming first-year students and their families. Stories about Bidwell Park, Lake Oroville, and Downtown Chico were intermingled with stories about living in the residence halls, student organizations, and, most of all, lifelong friendships that were formed at the University.

I encourage all of you to make an effort to attend one of the Send-Off events that will be taking place in a city near you this summer. I also encourage you to get involved with the chapter of you live in Chico, Sacramento, the Bay Area, or Orange County. Contact information and a list of upcoming events are available on the alumni Web site at www.csuchico.edu/alumni.

I thank you for being a member of the Alumni Association, and for helping us ‘Enrich the Chico experience by supporting alumni, students, and the University to ensure a lifelong connection and enduring legacy.’ The next year promises to be an exciting one for the Alumni Association. I look forward to sharing with you our progress in the renovation of the Alumni Glen, the building of stronger and more active chapters, and improving communication between the Association and alumni.

Serving as your Alumni Association president is important to me, and I want to hear from you. Please send me an e-mail at tcolbie@carlsontravel.net and let me know what the Alumni Association can do to make your membership experience outstanding. I look forward to meeting with many alumni as possible.

Next issue, I will talk about “Coming Home to Chico.”
Chico State Homecoming is most definitely back! In February 2007, the University split Alumni and Parents’ Weekend into two events, keeping Family Weekend in the fall, and moving the alumni part of the weekend, Homecoming, to February. February 1–2, 2008 was the University’s second Homecoming under this new structure.

Homecoming events included the Annual Chico Chapter Receptions and Basketball Games, presentation of the Golden Graduate Class of 1958 at halftime of the men’s basketball game, the Golden Graduate Luncheon, and the opening of the 1938, 1948, and 1958 Time Capsules. All of the events were very well attended, and everyone had a great time. “The turnout was great, the food was good, and the spirits of alumni in attendance were high,” says Matt Jackson, president of the Chico Chapter, of Friday night’s receptions.

Members of the class of 1958 were escorted out onto the basketball court during halftime of the men’s game by members of the Chico State women’s basketball team. “Initially both the basketball players and the golden grads were a little shy,” says Susan Anderson, director, Alumni and Parent Relations and executive director of the Alumni Association, “but both groups warmed up quickly, and they really seemed to have a good time.” Saturday afternoon saw a large gathering of alumni in the Bell Memorial Union for the annual Golden Graduate Luncheon. The earliest grad year represented at the luncheon was 1927 by Beula Balmer, who graduated with a degree in mathematics. The group was led by Len Whitegon (class of 1951) in a rousing rendition of the Chico State fight song. Immediately following the luncheon, the 1938, 1948, and 1958 time capsules were opened. The 1958 time capsule contents were kept in pristine condition by a time capsule so strong, it took Ricardo Carillo and Danny Alexander from the Facilities Management and Services department more than 15 minutes to open it. Inside the time capsule was a scrolled sheet of a location in one of our send-off cities and the coordination of these events. If you know of a location in our send-off cities that will work for a send-off event, please contact the alumni office at 530-898-6472. More information about each of these events will be posted on the alumni Web site at www.csuchico.edu/alumni/
Tradition Continued:

Signed by all members of the class of 1938, a copy of The Record (the yearbook), and some senior graduates, and on Friday, May 23, 1938 issue of The Wildcat.

Opening of the Class of 1958 Time Capsule

Another bit of good news was the state of the 1958 time capsule. This capsule also had the additional safeguard of plastic wrapped around the capsule contents. Inside this capsule were a copy of The Record from 1958, binder paper sheets (regular three-ring lined binder paper) with the signatures of the members of the class of 1958, a class standing list for men and women graduates, and a copy of The Record.

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Chapter Chatter

Chico Chapter

The Chico Chapter held their Annual Basketball Receptions and Games in conjunction with Homecoming on Friday, February 1. More than 250 people were on hand to help the Women Wildcats celebrate an important win over UC San Diego. The men’s team did not fare so well.

This annual event brings alumni and friends of the University together for a very fun evening of socializing and camaraderie. Chico Chapter president Matt Jackson welcomed everyone to the event and made a nice “shout out” to the Golden Grads in attendance, especially the members of the Class of 1958.

Next on the schedule for the Chico Chapter is the Annual Tri-Tip Barbecue on Thursday, May 1. Barbecue sponsorships are available for $100. All sponsors will receive recognition at the event and the name of their business/organization on all event signage. Barbecue tickets are available for $18 each or 2 for $15. Call the alumni office at 530-898-6472 to arrange for your sponsorship, or to purchase tickets.

If you are interested in getting involved with your local chapter, we are interested in hearing from you! Our chapters are run by volunteers, and we can always use more help. To get involved with the Chico Chapter, contact Matt Jackson at matt@jackson1006@comcast.net, for the Sacramento Chapter contact Vanessa Volksen at vvolsken@accountantsinc.com, and for the Bay Area Chapter contact Alicia Schwemer at aschwemer@hotmail.com.

Bay Area Chapter

The Bay Area Chapter held a fantastic event at the Golden State Warriors vs. Sacramento Kings NBA game on Saturday, February 9. More than 125 Chico State alumni and friends were in attendance. Thank you to Kristin Cantlin from the Warriors (also a Chico State alumna) for helping us put this event together and for making it such a great success.

The chapter has scheduled an event for the Tuesday, April 29 San Francisco Giants vs. Colorado Rockies game. Tickets are $25 each, and include a view level seat to the game and a pre-game event at Gordon Biersch on the Embarcadero. Call the alumni office (530-898-6472) to order your tickets—we only have 25, so they are sure to go fast.

Sacramento Chapter

The Sacramento Chapter held an informal mixer event on Wednesday, February 6 at the River City Brewing Company. Informal mixers are great networking events that take place every other month, with no charge to attend. To find out about the next mixer, please contact Sacramento Chapter president Vanessa Volksen at vvolsken@accountantsinc.com.

The Sacramento Chapter is holding their Annual Spring Mixer on Friday, April 11, at River City Brewing Company in Downtown Sacramento. Unlike the informal mixers, this event is a fundraiser for the chapter. There is a $10 per person charge to attend this event, which does include hors d’oeuvres (bar is no-host). Please order your tickets in advance by calling the alumni office at 530-898-6472.

We have a date now for the Ninth Annual Alumni Day at AT&T Park—Sunday, August 10—to watch the San Francisco Giants take on the Los Angeles Dodgers. Tickets for this event are $45 each for Alumni Association members, $50 each for nonmembers. Ticket price includes a view level seat to the game, and a pre-game tailgate reception in Parking Lot ‘D’ at AT&T Park. This event typically sells out early, so buy your tickets soon (530-898-6472).

Student Services Center

This four-level, 120,000 square foot facility is slated to open in the spring of 2008. It is a LEED Gold Certified building and will be a “one-stop-shop” for students. Departments being housed in the center include Academic Advising, Admissions, Disability Support Services, Psychological Counseling and Wellness, Career Center, Student Financial Services, Financial Aid, and Student Employment, just to name a few.

View the Live Webcam at www.csuchico.edu/fcp/SSC/graphic/Feed.shtm.

Wildcat Activity Center

This two-story, 109,000 square-foot facility will include a three-court gym, a 15,000 fitness facility, climbing wall and boulder area, an indoor running track, and a 10-lane recreational pool and spa. This facility is an Associated Students project and is a “Pay as you Play” endeavor. Students will not be charged the $175.00 per semester fee until spring 2009 when the facility is scheduled to open.

Sutter Hall

Phase one of this two-phase project has already begun with the demolition of the residence hall recreation building. This 112,000-square-foot facility will house 220 students as well as a new residential dining center. The $52 million project is funded from state revenue bond sales, and the bond debt obligation will be paid with University Housing rent revenues. The long-term goal of the University is to be able to house 3,000 students.

Northern California Natural History Museum

The museum project, long a dream, is slated to soon become a reality. The California State University Board of Trustees approved the project at their November 2007 meeting and construction is slated to begin in spring 2008, shortly after the museum’s groundbreaking ceremony on April 24. The museum will be built on CSU, Chico land adjacent to Bidwell Mansion, and the funding of $6 million is coming from both private and state-grant funds. The museum is also going to be a LEED-certified project and will feature a geologic time walk, a valley gallery, a hands-on Discovery Room, a Demonstration Laboratory, as well as a museum store and exhibit production space. For more information on these projects as well as details of the University’s Master Plan visit www.csuchico.edu/fcp/masterplan/mpindex.shtml.

Perspectives

by Susan Anderson

CSU—The California Impact

The Chico State campus is in the midst of a building boom! Buildings under construction or are soon to be in the construction phase include the Student Services Center, The Wildcat Activity Center, Sutter Hall, and the Northern California Natural History Museum.

If you are interested in getting involved with your local chapter, we are interested in hearing from you! Our chapters are run by volunteers, and we can always use more help. To get involved with the Chico Chapter, contact Matt Jackson at matt@jackson1006@comcast.net, for the Sacramento Chapter contact Vanessa Volksen at vvolsken@accountantsinc.com, and for the Bay Area Chapter contact Alicia Schwemer at aschwemer@hotmail.com.

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