

Lisa Lieberman.



A Bundled Selection of
Articles by Lisa Lieberman for
Fresno State Campus Magazine

FresnoState

The Magazine for the New California



Our green
commitment



Healthy eating habits help students and the environment

By Lisa Lieberman

Here's the scenario: You're 18 years old. You're at college, away from home for the first time. You're eating dorm food with as much dessert and as many helpings as you could possibly want. There's no one around telling you what to do; no one telling you to clean up after yourself; no one saying what to eat or what not to eat.

College can be an easy place to develop some bad habits. The "Freshman 15" — the average weight gain, according to studies, among first-year students — is one of the first and worst habits that freshmen pick up.

But Fresno State is trying to change that and to instill some good habits as well.

For starters, the University Dining Hall, which serves about 450,000 meals a year, pulled all of the trays out in fall 2008.

The main economic and ecological reasons for going trayless were saving energy and the thousands



Above: A new program encourages students to buy healthful foods produced by students and marketed through the Gibson Farm Market. Below left: A recycling station, where Plant Operations staffer Jennifer Owens disposes of cardboard, and compostable food containers in campus restaurants help develop lifelong habits to reduce, reuse and recycle.

In the long run, the amount of food that is prepared can be cut, which helps the university hedge against increased costs to students. McDonald, who chairs the Associated Students Inc. green operations and is president of the campus Recycling Club, joins other students encouraging their peers to become better stewards of the campus.

For the 2008-09 academic year, the Recycling Club installed bins for plastic, glass and bottles on every floor in all the University Courtyard residence halls. Students also successfully petitioned the University Dining Hall to stop using Styrofoam containers. University Dining services gave students in the residence halls reusable green plastic bottles to discourage bottled-water purchases on campus.

"The students can use the bottles to take beverages away from the dining hall, and they also can bring them to other campus locations where they can get discounts for using those specific bottles," says Brent Hansen, marketing coordinator for Fresno State Auxiliary Corporations of which Dining Services is one enterprise.

University Dining Services also began using eco-friendly products at all of its catering events in summer 2008 and at the Bucket Grill and Pub on campus. Cups, plates, bowls, utensils and to-go cartons are made from sugar or corn and are 100 percent biodegradable, so they can be composted, Hansen says.

Even the trash bag liners are designed to break down in a compost pile, he adds. And composting is the next step in the multifaceted effort aimed at turning the university into as green a

of gallons of water a year it takes to wash trays. The trayless system also could make a huge difference in students' eating habits.

Instead of loading up trays with everything that looks good from the all-you-can-eat hot-dish buffet, dessert selection and salad bar, students have to think a lot harder about how they're going to juggle plates of food en route to a table.

"If you don't have a big tray to carry around, you're probably not going to be taking as much food because you can only carry so much at a time," says sophomore Briana McDonald. "When you don't have trays, you're more likely to take the amount of food you're actually going to eat and not throw so much of it away."

Right: Freshman business major Jose Espinoza is getting used to a trayless University Dining Hall, which cuts water and energy use and wasted food. Below: Marketing coordinator Brent Hansen of Auxiliary Corporations has helped implement green initiatives among students.



campus as possible by modeling programs that help develop personal habits to reduce, reuse and recycle.

There are five rows of material from the farm and landscape plantings on campus where compostable items are collected and turned regularly to produce compost that can be used on campus. Part of the composting operation involves animal waste, to which food waste from the University Dining Hall will

be added. The resultant compost will be applied to animal feed crops, says Dr. Ganesan Srinivasan, director of Agricultural Operations.

One of those operational enterprises he oversees, the Gibson Farm Market, is enhancing the healthy-eating aspect of the trayless dining hall by teaming with the Student Dietetic Association on a weekly small-scale farmers market in the campus Free Speech Area.

Each Tuesday around the lunch hour, association members and market employees sell student-grown fresh fruit, nuts and herbs, prepackaged raisins and almonds and a selection of other student-made foods such as olive oil, chocolate milk and beef jerky.

The food provides a low-cost alternative to the fare at many campus restaurants and also is intended to help students develop healthy-eating habits, says junior dietetics major Clarissa Armas, president-elect of the Student Dietetic Association.

Jennifer Sobieralski, the Farm Marketing manager, says it also introduces students to the market. "A lot of them don't know we're there, because we're kind of at the edge of campus. We want them to know where we are so they can take advantage of the healthier food we sell," she says.

She adds, "We're really trying to encourage healthy eating and show students it can be just as convenient as food they typically grab at fast-food places. This is one way to get students started on healthy habits that will help them throughout their lives."

And it's another way to counter that dreaded "Freshman 15."

Lisa Lieberman is a freelance writer based in Three Rivers.

One student's commitment starts recycling

Jennifer Fortel already was a veteran of environmental projects at Clovis West High School when she arrived on campus, so mobilizing students to start the Fresno State Recycling Club came naturally.

Her efforts were rewarded with a \$1,000 scholarship she is using to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy after receiving her bachelor's degree in May 2008.

Q. How did the Recycling Club get started?

A. I started the club so we could get financial help from Associated Students to buy recycling bins. Members of the Smittcamp Family Honors College are required to do community-service hours. It was a perfect pool to get friends to help. Spring 2004 was the official start for the Recycling Club. We got six small bins donated to start with. Plant Operations has generously given us bags for our bins. We used money from recycling to buy more bins and within a year we had them for plastic, cans, glass and paper in all the dorms and on every inside floor.

Q. What was your role?

A. As club president, I organized weekly collection of recyclables from the bins. There are nine dorm buildings, so there was a lot to be collected. Sometimes we needed to empty the bins twice a week. We tried to make it a fun social event and we always felt good after going to the recycling center and seeing how many pounds we saved from going into the landfill.

Q. What else did the club do?

A. We placed informational booths in the Free Speech Area for America Recycles Day and Earth Day. We gave out Recycling Club shirts to students and recycled products like pens, rulers, wristbands, etc. given to us by the city of Fresno. We helped plant trees for Make a Difference Day and the Clovis Botanical Garden, and have had a team for Light the Night since 2004. The club has given money to other environmental efforts and won the 2007 Mayor's Recycling Award.

Q. What impact has the club had on campus?

A. Although we are only a small group of people, we have diverted thousands of pounds of recycling from a landfill, provided students an opportunity to help the environment and raised student awareness.

Q. What still needs to be done?

A. The amount of paper used by students is incredible and yet there aren't many places where students can recycle paper. Professors also can have an impact by double-sided assignments and tests. Some of my professors have had us complete assignments online.

Q. What is your philosophy about environmentalism?

A. It is a way of life. It is all the little things a person can do to have a smaller impact on the environment. We all need to eat, drink, breathe and live in a clean environment. Therefore, we are all equally responsible. Every life depends on it.



Fresno State



Catalyst for change

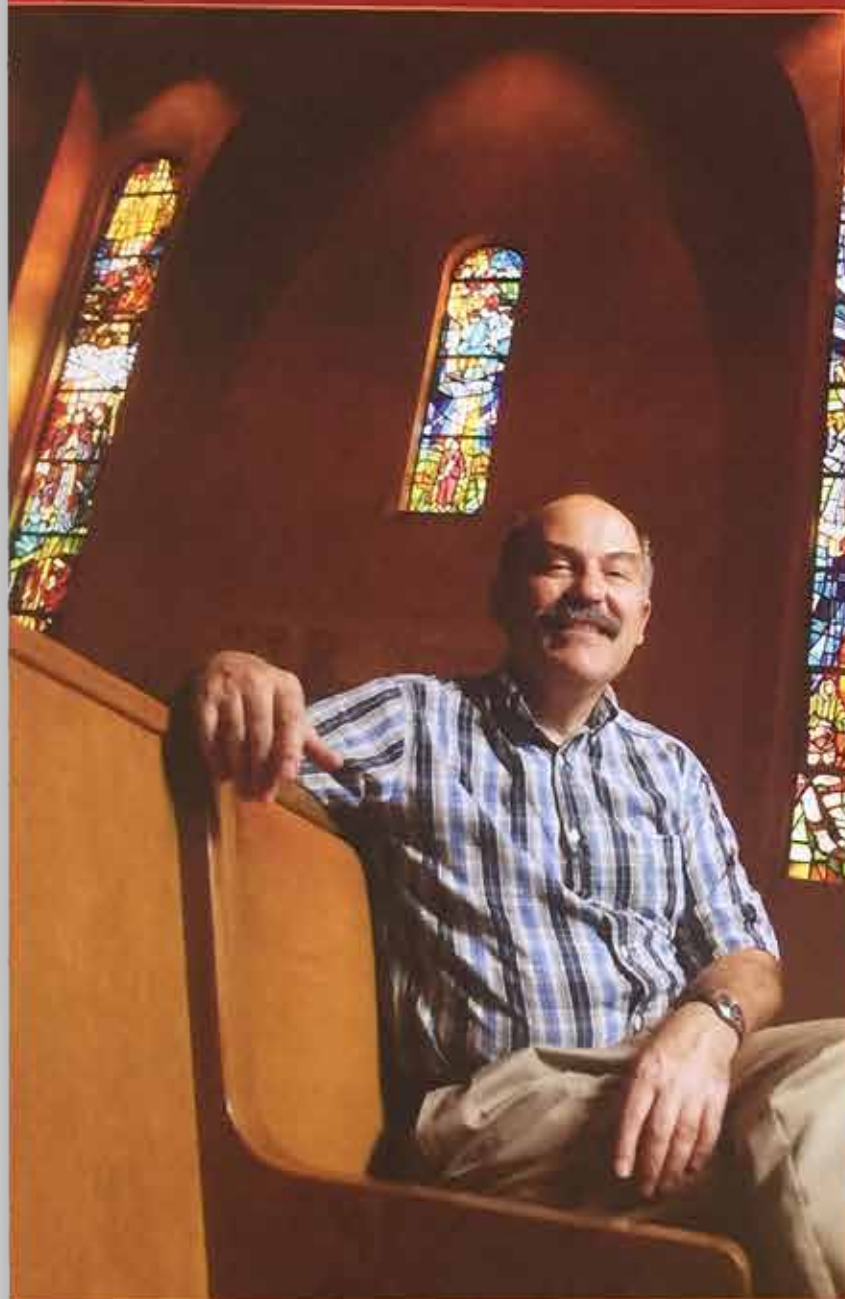
University's vision transform
Central California

Professor John Suen is finding and saving water
for future generations. Page 28

Profiles of transformation: Dickran Kouymjian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Expanding views in a shrinking world

By Lisa Lieberman



Perry Cooper



Zaven Sargislian

Dickran Kouymjian, right, on opening night at the Armenian Christian art exhibit at the Louvre with architect Alain Davenian, who designed the interior decorations for another Armenian art exhibit in Paris.

College of Arts and Humanities

DEAN:

Dr. Veda Samian

DEPARTMENTS:

Armenian Studies
Art and Design
Communication
English
Linguistics
Mass Communication and Journalism
Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
Music
Philosophy
Theatre Arts

STUDENT MAJORS:

2:393

FACULTY:

130

WEB ADDRESS:

<http://artium.csufresno.edu>

KEY FACT:

The college hosts CSU Summer Arts, a gathering of students of varied abilities from throughout California for intensive courses and public performances

Courtesy Dickran Kouymjian



Displayed in the Armenian Christian Art exhibit at the Louvre in Paris, this 13th century metal shaped like a dove from whose breast the Holy Spirit was believed to descend during sacramental rites.

Students in Fresno State's Armenian Studies Program gain a worldview that few of their peers can claim, studying one of the world's ancient civilizations and one of the Central San Joaquin Valley's most-prominent and-oldest immigrant groups.

Classroom lessons come alive as some students join professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian on summer treks to Armenia for a first-hand look at the landscape and people they've encountered in textbooks.

Other students get front-row seats in Fresno for lectures by Armenian dignitaries, scholars and politicians who regularly travel to the university as guests of the Armenian Studies Program. Among those who've been to the campus are the American ambassador to Armenia and the Catholicos of Armenia, the country's highest-ranking religious dignitary.

Fresno State's connection to Armenia — nurtured for many years by Der Mugrdechian and program head Dr. Dickran Kouymjian — was celebrated in 2004 when President John D. Welty traveled to the capital, Yerevan. While there, Welty signed a collaborative agreement with Yerevan State University, ensuring more exchanges.

The scholarly activity, discovery and exchanges are testament to the stature of the Fresno State program, which is considered one of the world's best.

Of the 12 Armenian Studies programs at American colleges and universities, Fresno State's is the largest and has the most diverse undergraduate curriculum, offering courses in language, literature, history, art and architecture, film, music and genocide studies. The classes draw Armenian-American students and non-Armenians alike.

Kouymjian founded the program 30 years ago. Der Mugrdechian, who was one of his students, joined him in teaching 10 years later.

The two launched the world's only student-run Armenian-English newspaper, Hye Sharzhoom (Armenian Action), which has subscribers in the United States, France, Germany, Turkey, Italy and Armenia.

They also created a home for the international headquarters for the Society for Armenian Studies.

The Fresno State program has an endowed chair (it was the university's first) and an endowed professorship. It also hosts an Armenian film festival, a lecture series and commemorations of the Armenian Genocide each April 24.

The program's Web site is an important point of contact between the public and the university, says Der Mugrdechian, adding that it has been accessed by people from 150 countries.

Locally, the community expresses its appreciation with generous financial support from people such as Dr. Arnold Gazarian of Fresno, a retired dentist, who with his family has made numerous contributions. Gazarian says the program has been instrumental in keeping Armenian culture alive in Fresno.

Kouymjian, who lives part time in Paris, recently helped organize "L'Année de l'Arménie" (The Year of Armenia) in France. Armenia is being honored with hundreds of museum exhibits, concerts, theatrical performances and conferences in 40 French cities through July 14.

"The largest and most splendid exhibition ever of medieval Armenian Christian art opened Feb. 22 at the Louvre Museum," says Kouymjian, who also had a hand in several other major exhibits.

Kouymjian received his undergraduate degree in European cultural history at the University of Wisconsin, his master's in Arab studies at the American University of Beirut and his doctorate in Armenian and Near Eastern studies from Columbia University.

He has taught at universities in Beirut, Cairo and Paris and at UC Berkeley, Columbia and Yerevan State. Recently, Karekin II, the Catholicos, honored Kouymjian in Armenia for his "Album of Armenian Paleography" and had the work translated into Armenian.

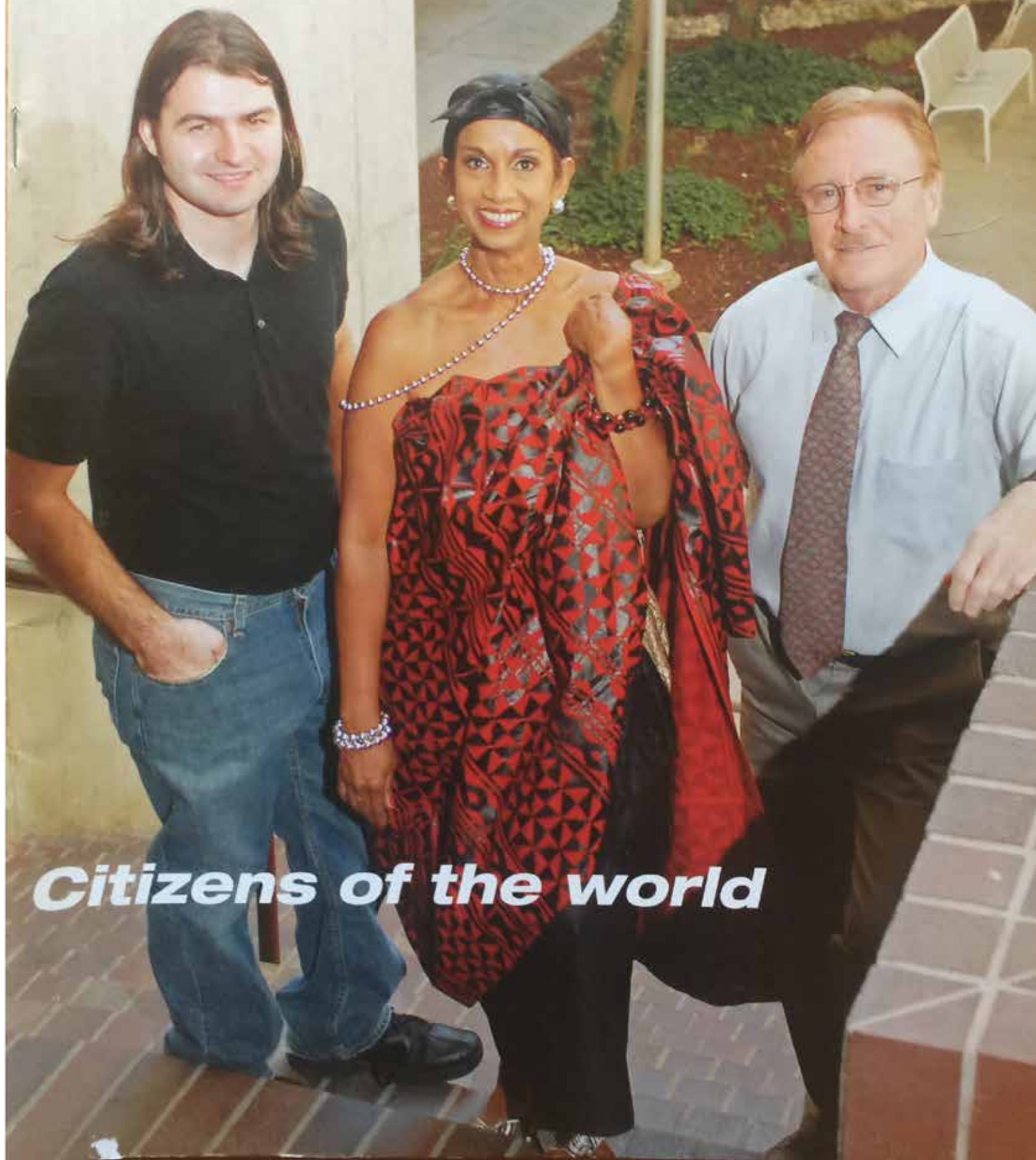
As the Armenian Studies Program continues to gather acclaim, Kouymjian and Der Mugrdechian also have major goals: a full-fledged degree program and a new building on campus to house a museum, auditorium and classrooms. ■

Lisa Lieberman, a graduate student pursuing a master of fine arts at Fresno State, teaches technical writing at the university.

The influence of the church in Armenian history is among the topics in Barlow Der Mugrdechian's Armenian Studies classes.

Fresno State

The Magazine for the New California



Citizens of the world



Found in translation

By Lisa Lieberman

It's only fitting that a university with such a culturally diverse campus community serving a region that counts about 100 ethnic and cultural groups should be getting a growing international voice.

That's because Fresno State faculty who are authors have been "discovered" by readers around the world thanks to translations of their literary works into dozens of languages.

"If you start looking at universities around the country that have bigger reputations than Fresno State, you'll find that they don't have faculty that are getting published in as many places as some of the people who have taught here," says Steve Yarbrough, the James and Coke Hallowell Professor of Creative Writing at Fresno State.

Emeriti faculty and poets such as Philip Levine, Peter Everwine and C.G. Hanzlicek, and the recently retired Lillian Faderman, a pioneer in multiethnic literature and women's studies, were among the first to put Fresno State on the international literary map. Current faculty like Yarbrough and others are extending the tradition of global literary reach directly from Fresno State.

Yarbrough, who grew up in the Mississippi Delta and is the author of seven books, often writes about racial issues. His work has been published in Polish, Spanish, Russian, Dutch, Japanese and Swedish.

The themes covered by Yarbrough, whose 2004 novel "Prisoners of War" was a PEN/Faulkner Award finalist, resonate with international readers because he shows a difficult side of America.

"I think that people are always surprised to find out that race relations in the Deep South haven't advanced any farther than they have," Yarbrough says. "What you have is a school system where all black kids go to public schools and the white kids go to private schools. It's a completely racially divided society."

International readers relate to the racial inequities in his stories, Yarbrough says, because most countries have their own "dirty secrets."

"Poland's dirty secret is its anti-Semitism," he says. "There are fewer than 10,000 Jews left in the country, and so prejudice is something that Polish readers understand very easily."

Two newer writers are recent additions to the Fresno State Department of English — Alex Espinoza and David Anthony Durham — also are making a splash internationally.



Alex Espinoza

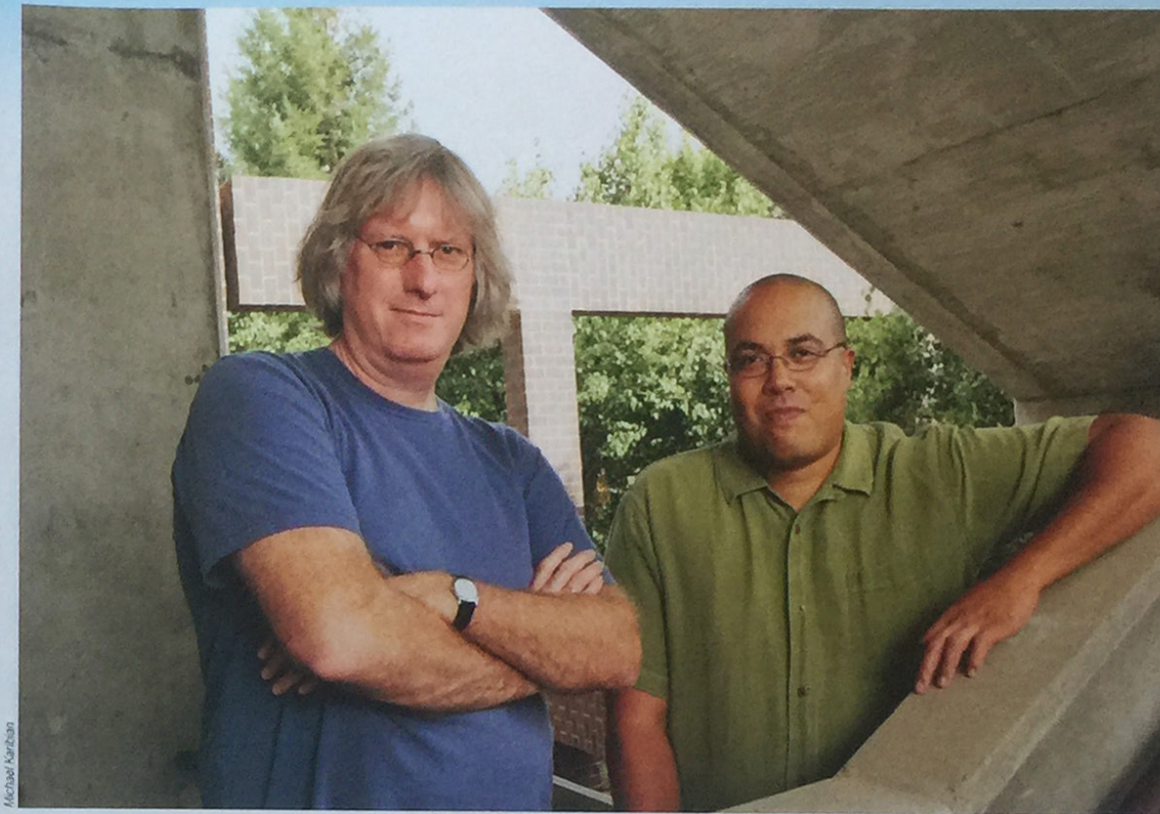
Espinoza, who was born in Mexico and raised in Southern California, had his first novel, "Still Water Saints," published by Random House in January 2007. The novel has appeared in Spanish and is being translated into Italian.

The story is set in a small Latino community and centers on a 72-year-old proprietor of a general store who helps her clients cope with issues of sexuality and cultural identity.

"The trick with the novel is that it's about situations that aren't just specific to one culture," Espinoza said. "They're struggles that everyone faces."

Durham attracted international audiences with his 2006 novel, "Pride of Carthage," which tells the historical tale of Hannibal and his 218 B.C. march on Rome. The book has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian and Polish. The Spanish edition spent seven weeks on the best-seller list in Chile.

Durham's fourth novel, "Acacia," was published this summer. The 592-page fantasy, published by Doubleday, chronicles the rise and fall of the imaginary Akran Dynasty, whose



Steve Yarbrough, left, and David Anthony Durham

empire is built on the slave and drug trades.

Unlike some fantasy novels, where white characters are portrayed as being "good" and black characters are "bad," Durham's "Acacia" is more multidimensional.

"So many fantasy novels are populated with just white people, except for maybe an elf or a dwarf, which stands for cultural diversity," says Durham, who is African American. "Even in 'The Lord of the Rings,' there are no people of color, who have meaningful lives. What I have in my novel is a much more noticeably diverse world, where there are lots of imagined cultures."

These new books by Durham and Espinoza, according to Yarbrough, continue the thread of diversity here from writers such as Levine, who came from an ethnic background in Detroit; like Faderman, an openly gay Jewish writer; and like Hanzlicek, a Czech American.

"What all of this says about Fresno State is that it doesn't matter where you came from or how you got here,"

Yarbrough says. "All that matters is your talent as a writer and your ability to connect with readers."

— Lisa Lieberman is a freelance writer based in Three Rivers.

Durham attracted international audiences with his 2006 novel, 'Pride of Carthage.' The book has been translated into Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Swedish, Russian and Polish.



Randy Vaughn-Dotta

Libraries of her life

By Lisa Lieberman



Michael Karlbien

Church is the place many people go when they're looking for peace and truth and the answers to life's most-universal questions.

My sanctuary has always been the library – the place I'd go to do a book report on how stars were made for seventh-grade science class and where I'd ride my bike to be with my friends in the summers when I was 12 and living in Chicago.

We would check out Nancy Drew or "Little House on the Prairie" books and then sneak into the adult section to find out things we weren't supposed to know about.

I first fell in love with the library when I was 4 and my mother took me there for "story time." I sprawled out on the carpeted floor with the other preschoolers, and the librarian transported us to other worlds with stories from "Bedknobs and Broomsticks" or "Mary Poppins" or "The Wizard of Oz."

I remember the libraries of my life like most people remember their loves.

When I was a freshman at UC Berkeley, there was the main library – Doe – with its French classic revival architecture and imposing monolithic pillars. It opened in 1911, the same year Fresno State began.

The Doe's hundreds of thousands of books were housed in underground structures that most undergrads were not allowed to touch. You had to have a special pass or proof that you had passed Library Science 101 to have access.

Stern reference librarians stood behind thick wooden desks guarding those books, dispensing them to students only on special request and presentation of the requisite documents.

I have to admit that I was too intimidated to use the library at Berkeley very much, although during finals week I sometimes skulked off to the undergraduate library allegedly to "study" but really to fall asleep in one of the cushy chairs with a book over my face.

When I came to Fresno State in 2004 as a graduate student in the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing program, I was impressed by how open and accessible the Henry Madden Library was. I could send my freshman composition-writing students there to get tutorials about how to use the library's resources. And my students could actually touch the books.

When the library shut down for construction in 2005 and the books were all moved to a warehouse somewhere, I, like so many others, I'm sure, held my breath, thinking, "It's never going to open again." And then when it did open in February 2009, my breath again was taken away because it's the most inviting library I've ever seen.

For starters, the library's 900,000 books are housed on the first floor in one place. In one place! It is the largest installation of books on one floor in any library in North America that's open to the public.

The next thing I noticed was students sitting in big, open, airy rooms with natural light pouring in the library's north wall, made entirely of glass.

"The building was designed so that people would be able to be by windows near the light and the books would be in the center of the building, away from the light," says David Tyckoson, the associate dean of Library Services, who proudly gave me a library tour just after the opening.

Tyckoson couldn't stop smiling in his new surroundings. What struck me the most as we walked up and down the stairs along the north wall of the new North Wing was the sheer number of places to study.

Students sat at long rectangular tables in wide-open rooms, hunched over laptops and books, some with buds in their ears to listen and learn. I saw small, individual study rooms with doors that closed so one or two students could study and larger rooms available for students who wanted to work together in groups.

And then – my favorite part of all – a Starbucks café on the second floor. Wait a minute, a Starbucks? *In the library?*

"The number one request when we polled the students was for a coffeehouse," Tyckoson says. "This way students can get their coffee and work in here without having to leave the building."

I ask, "But aren't you worried about people spilling coffee and getting food on the books?"

"This is a food-friendly library," he answers. "Students are welcome to bring food anywhere in the library, except where we have special exhibits or the audio and video room."

Never heard of a "food friendly" library, I thought. As if reading my mind, Tyckoson says, "When we had a 'no-food' policy, people smuggled it in anyway. Now, we'd rather be open about it because if you're not trying to hide something, you're less likely to spill it."

In addition to being "food friendly," the lounge-like area outside Starbucks is "noise friendly," Tyckoson says. "If people want to talk or listen to music, we're declaring this to be the 'noisy' area."

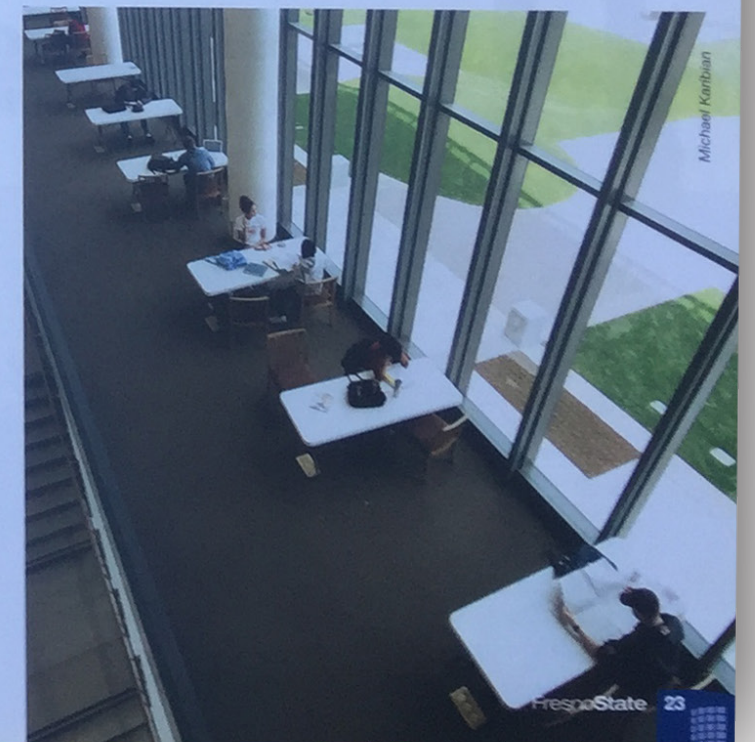
Most of the rest of the library, of course, is supposed to be quiet, and the older South Wing on the second floor is designated as the "real quiet" space, Tyckoson says.

On our tour, we walked by students sitting on comfortable chairs next to a window facing the Peace Garden with its statues of Mahatma Gandhi, César Chávez, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Jane Addams.

"If I were a student, that's where I'd be sitting," says Tyckoson, "right next to those windows so I could see who was coming and going."

Me, too, I thought, wishing that I could somehow go back in time and be an undergraduate student all over again in a less-intimidating library where I could enjoy my coffee and study while listening to my music.

— Lisa Lieberman is a freelance writer based in Three Rivers who is in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Fresno State.



Michael Karlbien

Fresno State

Reaching higher

University
boosts region's
economic growth



By Lisa Birrell

Campus Master Plan is blueprint for excellence

For the first time since 1963, Fresno State is updating its Campus Master Plan by assessing strengths and shortcomings as it charts a course to physical transformation into Central California's premier engaged university.

The plan updates the entire campus infrastructure from landscaping and walkways to which facilities need replacement, where new buildings will rise and what flexibility is needed to react to and anticipate changing educational needs.

"It is intended to support the components and framework from which decisions are made for the next 10 to 20 years," says Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Fresno State vice president for administration and chief financial officer. She chairs the Master Plan Coordinating Committee and is lead administrator on the project.

A series of meetings began in summer 2005 with all those who will be affected by the Master Plan, including faculty, staff, students, deans, administrators, alumni and business and neighborhood partners. Nationally recognized Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Partnership of Portland, Ore., is the primary consultant, overseen by university President John D. Welty and the Campus Strategic Planning Committee.

"We are determining which buildings have a future and which don't," says Paddy Tillett, director of planning and urban design with ZGF. "Many departments are



1952 campus view

scattered across numerous buildings, which makes it difficult to develop a sense of collegiality. This influences the effectiveness of faculty and makes it difficult for students to feel a sense of identification."

Already under way are three projects to help the campus meet challenges of tomorrow. The most ambitious is renovation of the Henry Madden Library, adding space to increase collections, improve and expand public facilities that attract the community, and provide more study areas for a projected student population of 25,000 by year 2016. A water technology and clean energy business incubator should open before the end of 2006. Work is nearing the final stages on a campuswide updated telecommunications infrastructure.

Those projects and other elements of the Campus Master Plan underscore the university's commitment to engagement.

"Broadly speaking, an engaged university is active in the community or region it serves. It's responsive, accessible and a leader

in issues facing the area," says Teniente-Matson.

"For the Master Plan, you might accomplish this through visitor-friendly parking, adequate signage, bike and walking trails and easy access to points of interest such as the Downing Planetarium and campus farm."

To reach that goal, those participating in the master planning process developed an inventory of buildings and landscaping and compared it to the needs outlined in the university's Strategic Plan.

"Our shortcomings include a less-than-desirable pedestrian

circulation system and a roadway system that needs improvements," she says. "Our virtues include the heritage of the Central Valley as represented by the university farm laboratory, the magnificence of the Arboretum and major access into a premier entertainment facility such as the Save Mart Center."

Teniente-Matson says the plan is in the draft stage as it goes through the Coordinating Committee before the development of the final document begins. She expects the plan to be presented to the California State University Board of Trustees by early 2007. ■

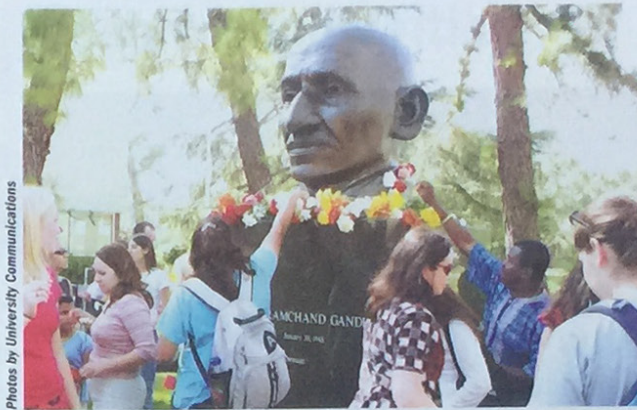
Lisa Birrell is a marketing manager in Fresno and a freelance writer.



Draft 2006 Master Plan

By Lisa Lieberman

Peace Garden is a campus treasure



Photos by University Communications

Students place flowers at Mahatma Gandhi statue to commemorate his birthday.

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it's easy to overlook a university's multiple purpose as a place for academic achievement, a center for personal reflection and a stimulus for social activism to better the overall community.

As a reminder, the Peace Garden at Fresno State was born in 1990 when students, faculty and community members dedicated a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, father of the human rights movement in India and a proponent of social change through nonviolent action.

In 1996, Fresno State erected the nation's first life-size monument of César Chávez nearby, and in 1999 dedicated a 6-foot bronze sculpture of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Peace Garden's newest sculpture was unveiled in spring 2006, to honor social reformer and peace activist Jane Addams, who won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

"I haven't seen any peace gardens like this anywhere in the world," says Dr. Regina Birchem, international president of the

Women's International League of Peace and Freedom, who attended the dedication celebration for the Addams statue.

"Here, in one place, you have César Chávez, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Jane Addams, a very diverse group of people ethnically from different parts of the world who all had the same vision of peace," says Birchem.

Addams authority Dr. Paul Pribbenow, former president of Rockford College in Illinois where Addams earned her degree, was similarly impressed.



Jane Addams

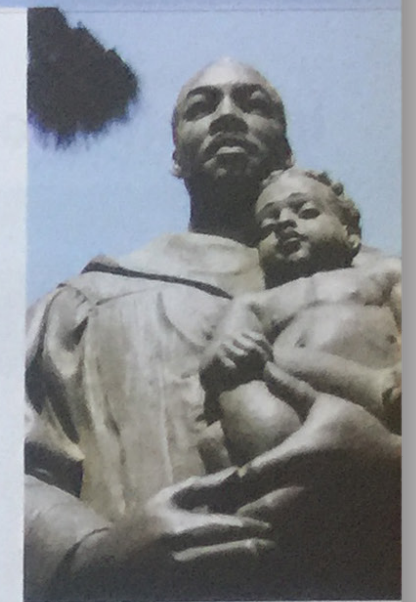
"Universities often have sculptures on campus that honor the university's founders, but this Peace Garden at Fresno State actually honors people who have made an impact in the broader world," he says. That's a special thing, according to Pribbenow. "This garden is a reminder that classrooms aren't just pristine places; that we need to push our students out into the world and see education happening in a broader context."

Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, founder of Fresno State's Peace and Conflict Studies program, who recently retired, sees the Peace Garden as an open-air classroom. He has been actively involved in development of the Peace Garden from its inception.

"There's so much violence around in the world and everyone knows a lot about violence, but they know very little about nonviolence or people like Gandhi, King, Chávez and Addams," Kapoor says. "This is a great learning tool and a great way of bringing people from the university and the community together."

The Peace Garden, adjacent to the Henry Madden Library and the Free Speech Area, is a growing focal point of the campus. Students, faculty and community members gather in the garden for peaceful demonstrations, celebrations of the birthdays of each person memorialized there and special commemorations such as Sept. 11 anniversaries.

A Native American memorial and a peace wall are in the Peace Garden's future. "We have 90-plus



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ethnic and cultural groups in the Central Valley area that Fresno State serves, so we want to have a peace wall that has some symbol or plaque that represents peace in every one of these cultures," Kapoor says.

He also would like to see a meditation knoll, saying, "It's very important to have a contemplative atmosphere where people can come and rest and relax and get centered." ■



César Chávez

Lisa Lieberman is a freelance writer in Three Rivers.

Fresno State

The Magazine for the New California

*A day in the life
of the campus*



Sunlight chases the night as traffic builds around the campus and staff, faculty and students arrive by private vehicle or bus.

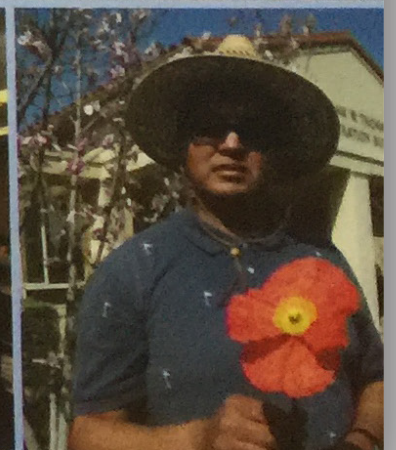
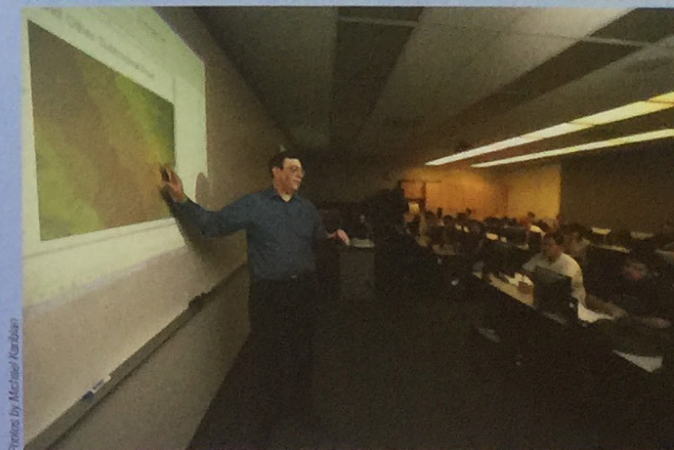
A day in the life of the campus

By Lisa Lieberman

At 6 a.m., pale predawn light pushes its way through a grove of pine trees at Fresno State, where it's quiet and the air is still.

It's the start of another spring semester day on campus, where so much goes on that your mind sees each thing much like the individual tiles in a mosaic. The memorial fountain isn't yet gushing. Birds chirp gently in the Peace Garden trees amidst larger-than-life statues of peace visionaries Mahatma Gandhi, César Chávez, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Jane Addams. A groundskeeper gets out of a golf cart near the Kennel Bookstore, starts a back-mounted blower and clears leaves and twigs from the sidewalk. Construction workers in neon-orange vests and yellow hard hats arrive at the site of the \$105 million Henry Madden Library expansion and quickly fire up bulldozers, backhoes and lifts.

A stormy day's clouds swirl over Fresno State near dawn (opposite page), before traffic begins building on campus streets (upper left, below). Sara Poodry and Amanda Schott hone their skills in a Culinary class (upper right). Outside the Thomas Administration building, gardener Armando Llamas displays a poppy (lower right), while Dr. Stuart K. McFeeters teaches a historical geography class (lower left).



Cooks in the University Courtyard Dining Hall began chopping, frying, boiling and baking nearly two hours before freshly showered football players arrive, ravenous after a practice that began when Bulldog Stadium cast no shadows. As the players leave, more food goes out for residence hall students.

Across campus, animals are fed, cows are milked and enclosures are cleaned by students on the 1,100-acre Agricultural Laboratory, one of the most diversified farms in the nation's richest agricultural area.

Sunlight chases the night as traffic builds around the campus and staff, faculty and students arrive by private vehicle or bus. Students trickling into the academic heart of campus walk, ride bicycles and skateboard. Some gather in the University Student Union to study and get a wakeup jolt of caffeine before their first morning class.

Conversations and study are accompanied by the smell of coffee brewing at the USU Snack Bar. Nearby, the odor of freshly churned earth at the Madden Library construction site is displaced by the perfume of newly blooming flowers. In the rose garden, where Fresno State World War I veterans are remembered, just-pruned bushes show signs of new growth above fresh mulch in three large beds.

Throughout the morning, the pace quickens as students go to classes, meetings of faculty and staff are convened and myriad other tasks are performed by 2,300 people to keep this small "city" of about 25,000 running smoothly. Somehow it's always a surprise that activity accelerates again with the extended lunch "hour" – more like two hours – as students pour out of classrooms with serious purpose and not much time.

Some spread backpacks in a circle on a sunny patch of grass outside the Student Union. Others line up at fast-food restaurants while friends stake out tables to study, talk and eat. Exhaust fans push aromas of pizza, fried chicken and hot frying oil into the noontime air.

The ear is caught by voices of students from some of the more than 90 ethnic groups on campus speaking Spanish, Lao, Farsi, Hindi,

Arabic, Tagalog or Chinese. A band plays in the Pit – its amplified music audible from the library to the bookstore. Students closest to the speakers, though, don't miss a beat in conversations, phone calls, study or lunch.

On a clear, sunny afternoon, snowy Sierra peaks glisten along the eastern horizon, promising water to irrigate hundreds of thousands of acres in the San Joaquin Valley. Research by Fresno State and community partners develops water resources and finds new ways to conserve whatever water there is.

Fresno State's farm is home to a dairy, vineyards, a winery, orchards, vegetable and row crops, food processing units, a floral lab and a market where students learn by doing and conduct research with worldwide application. Revenue from student food products and wine is plowed back into the operation.

The farm is an example of how the educational mission is blended with the university's commitment to community engagement and leadership.

The state-of-the-art 15,000-seat Save Mart Center attracts major musical concerts to Fresno and hosts Bulldog and pro sports and other events. It's also a training ground for students planning to manage event centers and organize big events.

In criminology classes and laboratories, faculty and students investigate evidence from government and law enforcement agencies. Art and design students hone their creativity, enhancing community cultural enrichment. Labs teach engineering students construction management skills, how waves flow and the impact of earthquakes on various structures.

Activity ebbs in late afternoon, but the Fresno State softball team is gearing up for the 10th anniversary season of a 1998 NCAA championship with a preseason game. An Air Force ROTC student, decked out in military camouflage, directs traffic on the grass by Bulldog Diamond. ROTC cadets at the first-aid station practice building splints and learn to transport wounded people on stretchers over uneven terrain.

Gretchen Wilson's "I'm Here for the Party" starts playing on the Bulldog Diamond loudspeakers, but the "party's" not over with the softball game on a typical campus day.

Most daytime students, faculty and staff are gone by 6 p.m. as people arrive for night classes, sports events, concerts, lectures or to use the Madden Library, the only California State University library with a reference librarian on duty during all open hours.

Dorm residents study, shoot pool or watch TV during the evening. Some bowl at the USU or work out at the Student Recreation Center. With faculty and staff away, the janitorial team makes classrooms and offices tidy for the day ahead.

By 11 o'clock, it's quiet again on campus and dark, except for the orange glow of sidewalk lighting and the bright blue strobes atop emergency phones. Few cars and trucks roll through campus and fewer people walk or jog on walkways.

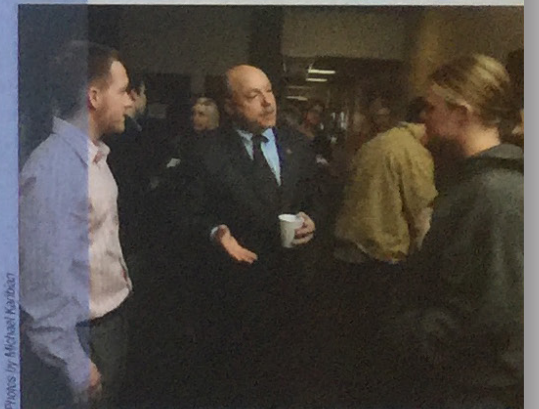
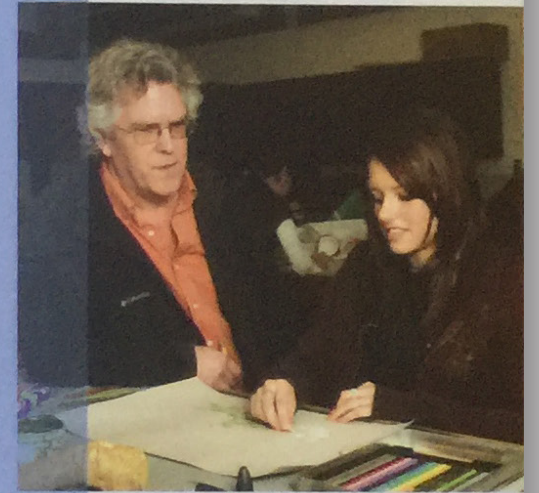
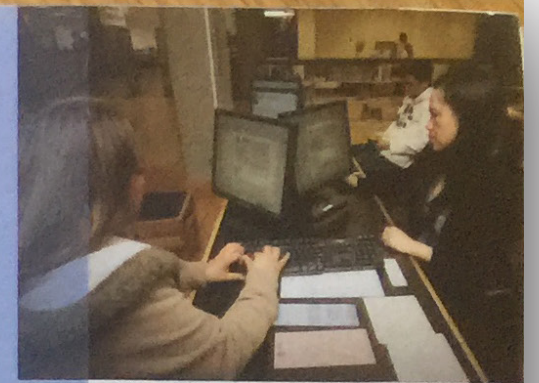
Patrolling University Police officers and their dispatchers – aided by TV cameras, radios and computers – keep watch over the sleeping campus, ready to take action, but hopeful it won't be necessary.

In the Peace Garden, it is peaceful again at Fresno State.

Lisa Lieberman is a freelance writer. Lanny Larson, editor of FresnoState Magazine, contributed to this article.

Students eat, chat and study around a table in the Pit outside the University Student Union (lower left). Librarian Vang Vang, right, helps a student in the Madden Library (top). Art and design professor Doug Hansen works with student Jackie Luke on an illustration assignment (second from top). Dean Doug Hensler of the Craig School of Business chats with participants in his Donuts with the Deans gatherings. The setting sun is reflected in the windows of the Student Recreation Center.

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Photos by Michael Barnhart

