



L-R: Jim Mattes, Kristi Mattes, Mary Castro, President Dr. Joseph Castro, Marvin Meyers, Tish Meyers, Professor John Cordeiro, student Hannah Price, coach Brad Mendes, Dean Dr. Sandra Witte.

Meyers Livestock Judging Team

In the past three years more than 70 alumni, friends and organizations including the Silkwood Family Foundation have donated more than \$2 million to the Ag One Foundation to support Fresno State's Livestock Judging Team. The first donor to support this effort was alumnus, farmer and businessman Marvin Meyers. In recognition of Meyers' commitment to the livestock judging program and students, University President Joseph I. Castro announced that Fresno State's team has been named the Meyers Livestock Judging Team. Donors Jim and Kristi Mattes of the Silkwood Family Foundation also joined the naming announcement celebration.

About Ag One

In 1979, several faculty, alumni and friends of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology had a million-dollar idea—to start a foundation that would benefit, promote and support the college and its programs. Today, Ag One has raised more than \$17 million in endowed funds and has provided over \$500,000 in student and program support during the 2015-16 academic year.

To learn more about joining Ag One, please contact Sadie Hemsath at shemsath@csufresno.edu or 559.278.4266.

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www.agonefoundation.org



Ag One welcomes new members to the Jordan College Family

- **Dr. Serhat Asci**
Assist. Professor,
Ag Business
- **Matt Brain**
Winemaker
- **Tony Branquinho**
Rodeo Coach
- **Arlan Hartmann**
Mechanic
- **Michael Flores**
Mechanic
- **Michael Martinez**
Mechanic
- **Dr. Eric Person**
Interim Chair, Viticulture &
Enology
- **Belinda Rossette**
Admin Coordinator, Food
Science & Nutrition/ Child,
Family & Consumer Sciences
- **Danika Sandoval**
Admin. Assistant, Food
Science & Nutrition/ Child,
Family & Consumer Sciences
- **David Sieperda**
Farm Manager
- **Terrence Wan**
Academic Counselor
- **Dr. Jacob Wenger**
Assist. Professor,
Plant Science
- **Tahler Winfield**
Academic Counselor

Ag One Connection

Benefiting, promoting and supporting the students and programs in the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology since 1979.



Spring 2016

In Memory



Mrs. Dee Jordan

On November 17, 2015 Ag One and the Jordan College lost a dear friend. Mrs. Dee Jordan passed away in San Francisco at age 87. Dee and late husband Bud, along with her brother-in-law Lowell, were responsible for the largest cash gift in Fresno State's history - \$29.5 million to Ag One in support of the Jordan College. This gift remains the largest single cash gift ever received by the California State University system. She, Bud and Lowell have forever transformed agriculture at Fresno State. We will greatly miss her.



Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr.

Fresno State alumnus and longtime supporter Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr. passed away on November 11, 2015 at the age of 76. An active supporter of Fresno State since the 1970's, Harry's contributions benefited numerous University programs including the Bulldog Foundation, Armenian Studies, Athletics, the Kremen School of Education and Human Development and the Jordan College. In 2007 he honored his parents, Harry and Nevart Moordigian, by establishing an Ag One endowment to support students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology.



Jordan Agricultural Research Center

On Friday, May 13, Fresno State President Joseph Castro, Jordan College Dean Sandra Witte, Chris Henson, daughter of Dee Jordan, and stakeholders of the Jordan Agricultural Research Center ceremonially cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of the research center, the first-of-its-kind in the California State University system. We are thankful for generous supporters of the JARC: Mr. and Mrs. Bud and Dee Jordan, Bayer, Mr. and Mrs. Earl and Beverly Knobloch, Dr. Harry B. Moordigian, Jr., OLAM and The Wonderful Company.



Dr. Sandra Witte, who has been serving as interim dean of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology at Fresno State, has been appointed permanent dean. Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said Witte's exceptional work as interim dean made her the best person for the position. Previously, Dr. Witte jointly held the positions of associate dean of the Jordan College and dean of the Division of Graduate Studies. She joined the Fresno State faculty in 1992 and took her first administrative assignment in 2007.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Witte!

Taste of Vino Event raises \$40,000 for V.E. Petrucci Library



The Jordan College received a \$40,000 gift on October 23, 2015 from funds raised at the Taste of Vino event hosted by Vino & Friends Wine Store and Bistro, coordinated by owners Chuck and Jen Van Fleet. The annual event was held Aug. 9, 2015 and was attended by over 850 guests. The contribution was made in support of a campaign that is nearly halfway to its \$3 million goal to ensure the V.E. Petrucci Library’s use for future generations of students and industry members. This donation will help the library continue to offer the most up-to-date grape and wine knowledge and research from around the world.

Central Valley Rodeo Inc. pledges gift to Fresno State Rodeo Team



The Fresno State Rodeo Team has a new coach because of a generous donation to support the program. Central Valley Rodeo, Inc., a local nonprofit organization, led by president Eddie Arakelian has pledged a five-year commitment allowing the Jordan College to hire alum Tony Branquinho, to lead the team. Tony comes from a family with strong roots in rodeo and a passion for education. He will work alongside faculty advisor, Dr. Art Parham and department chair, Dr. Randy Perry to continue to grow the success of these talented young men and women athletes. Cowboy hats off to Central Valley Rodeo, Inc. for helping to make this all possible.

Fresno State to establish partnership with University of the Azores



A nearly \$50,000 grant to Ag One will provide Fresno State with seed funding to forge a new international relationship in support of agricultural education. Lisbon-based Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) gave \$49,000 to launch a partnership between Fresno State and the University of the Azores, which will open educational and research opportunities for students and faculty at both institutions. Ag One also received a \$2,000 gift from the Tulare-Angra do Heroismo Sister City Foundation to support the program.

The partnership is expected to offer a two-way exchange, creating opportunities for Fresno State students to study in Portugal, as well as for faculty and students from the University of the Azores to learn about agriculture, government relations and Portuguese-American culture in the Central Valley.

Message from the Executive Director

Alcidia Freitas Gomes



What an exciting time to be a Fresno State student – especially in the Jordan College! Helping prepare students for fulfilling careers in their chosen fields while becoming engaged citizens is the cornerstone of the academic experience. In the Jordan College, some of the ways in which the university mission - *to boldly empower students for success* - is put to work is by giving students high impact experiences. This is done through learning, both in and out-of-the-classroom, hands-on experiences on the University Farm Laboratory and through internships as well as research opportunities. We are grateful and appreciate the many alumni and friends who are investing in extraordinary ways to ensure a bright future for these and future generations of leaders.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Ag One Connection as much as we enjoy the many ways our stakeholders are helping Fresno State achieve academic excellence.

Message from the President

Debbie Raven



Many people have asked why a Cal Poly graduate serves as the Ag One President. I am a proud resident of the San Joaquin Valley, my roots lie deep in agriculture, and I am passionate about serving others which largely describes the footprint of the students and faculty in the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

I am so impressed with California State University, Fresno, which not only excels in academics but places special emphasis on “learning by serving” as stated by Dr. Joseph Castro in his State of the University address. Most people don’t realize just how involved the Fresno State students are in the community. This volunteer activity develops the well-rounded students that become the leaders of tomorrow.

I am proud to be a part of this winning team! Go Dogs!

Upcoming Events



North Bay Alumni & Friends Dinner

June 15, 2016

Santa Rosa Junior College, Shone Farm



Ag Boosters BBQ

September 11, 2016

Borba Ranch, Madera

Later this year...

Kern County Alumni & Friends Luncheon

Westside Luncheon

Trap Shoot

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Recap of Fall 2015 Events

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Ag Boosters BBQ

Ag One and CWA hosted another incredibly successful Ag Boosters BBQ on September 13, 2015 at Rancho Vista del Rio (Borba Ranch) in Madera with proceeds totaling more than **\$86,000!** Our sincere gratitude goes to our nearly 1,350 alumni and friends who supported our event. Guests enjoyed an evening full of Fresno State farm products, wine, silent and live auctions and dinner, while helping to raise support and awareness for agricultural education.

Kern County Alumni & Friends Luncheon

Nearly 200 alumni and friends gathered for the *Showcase of Opportunities* at the Kern County luncheon at Sun World International in Wasco on Nov. 5, 2015. Fresno State Ag Ambassadors engaged with prospective students and following lunch Sun World hosted a tour of their research and variety development center. Proceeds benefited the Carl and Barbara Fanucchi Scholarship Endowment supporting students from Kern County.

Trap Shoot

Thank you to all who participated in the second annual Ag One Trap Shoot at the Kingsburg Gun Club on Nov. 19! Our last event for the year went out with a “bang” with more than 65 shooters who participated in the friendly competition. Also, special thanks to the sponsors: naming sponsor RBT, Inc., dinner sponsor Ultra Gro Plant Food, practice round sponsor Nichino America, and trap house sponsors A-C Solar, GAR Tootelian, Inc., Golden State Farm Credit and Solutions4Earth.

Community Salute honoring Antonio “Tony” Campos



Ag One had the privilege to honor Antonio "Tony" Campos on July 31, 2015 at the Community Salute while raising support for the Jordan College. The event, held at the Fresno Convention Center, welcomed 950 alumni and friends to honor Tony for his commitment to agriculture, the community and the industry as a leader and innovator. Proceeds from the event established the Ag One – Antonio “Tony” Campos Endowment.

Farmland at Fresno State

Thanks to everyone who made "Farmland" at Fresno State a huge success. Over 250 students participated in a free screening and Q&A session, while another 150 sponsors and guests attended a second screening and panel discussion. The panelists, Karen Ross, Secretary of California Department of Food and Agriculture; Randy Krotz, CEO, US Farmers and Ranchers Alliance; Debbie Raven, President and CEO, Valley Small Business Development Corporation; Ryan Jacobsen, Executive Director and CEO of the Fresno County Farm Bureau and Ryan Veldhuizen, a fourth-generation farmer featured in the film, addressed the challenges and strategies facing our world’s ag industry today. Special thanks to our sponsors who supported this spectacular event. Proceeds benefited the Jordan College.

