U.S. Poet Laureate Philip Levine visited Fresno State Saturday night to share his works in front of an audience of 200, which included President John Welty, Provost William Covino and Dr. Vida Samiian, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities.

Levine, who is now our country’s Poet Laureate and who is indeed an American poet laureate, said his initial intention was to read his very first poem, but ran into a problem. “I couldn’t find it,” said Levine, which elicited laughter from those in attendance.

Levine went on to explain an involved introduction to a poem he wrote in 1968 against capital punishment, “L’homme et la bête” (The Man and the Animal). Even at 84, Levine’s reading of his poem held the Music Building Concert Hall audience in thrall and elicited sustained applause.

Levine finished his presentation with his poem, “Gospel,” an upbeat poem replete with images from the outdoors. When Levine finished reading, there was a sustained 60-second standing ovation.

Covino praised Levine of his accomplishments and informed the crowd of the annual Levine Prize through the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing Program. “We have an MFA program here at Fresno State that rivals the best program anywhere that produces poets and novelists and essayists with rich and compelling voices and visions whose work has resonated throughout the world,” said Covino. “This would not have been possible were we not all standing on the sturdy shoulders of Philip Levine, who is now our country’s Poet Laureate and who is indeed emblematic of an American experience that calls to us, that makes us see life and lives in ways that transform our own.”

Covino related the story about his first experience of reading a Levine poem in 1975 when he was a master’s student in English, during a break while playing a party with his cover band.

“Dr. Vida Samiian, dean of the annual Levine Prize through the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing Program. “We have an MFA program here at Fresno State that rivals the best program anywhere that produces poets and novelists and essayists with rich and compelling voices and visions whose work has resonated throughout the world,” said Covino. “This would not have been possible were we not all standing on the sturdy shoulders of Philip Levine, who is now our country’s Poet Laureate and who is indeed emblematic of an American experience that calls to us, that makes us see life and lives in ways that transform our own.”

Covino related the story about his first experience of reading a Levine poem in 1975 when he was a master’s student in English, during a break while playing a party with his cover band. He had read Levine’s “Animals are Passing from our Lives,” saying he immediately understood that the pig in Levine’s poem, who is being driven to slaughter by a farm boy, “becomes an example for all standing on the sturdy shoulders of Philip Levine.”

“This would not have been possible were we not all standing on the sturdy shoulders of Philip Levine.” — Dr. William Covino, Fresno State Provost

Photo courtesy of Cary Edmondson/University Communications

Liberalism spreading among college freshmen, survey finds

By Matt Kupnich

McClatchy-Tribune

Already inclined toward liberalism, college freshmen are leaning even further left on key political issues, a nationwide survey of first-year students has found.

An all-time high of 71.3 percent of the new students support same-sex marriage, 6.4 percentage points higher than in 2009, according to the annual survey of more than 200,000 freshmen conducted by UCLA’s Higher Education Research Institute.

Nearly 43 percent of conservative freshmen said gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry.

Opinions on abortion, marijuana legalization, immigration and affirmative action also grew more liberal in 2011, according to data released Wednesday. The 270-school survey—the country’s largest sampling of college students—was first used in 1966.

“It’s not so much that liberal students are becoming more liberal,” said Linda DeAngelo, one of the report’s authors. “It’s that students who describe themselves as conservatives are becoming more progressive. A little more than 22 percent of respondents described themselves as conservative or “far right.” About 30 percent said they were liberal or “far left,” while 47.4 percent called themselves “middle of the road.”

Despite the apparent liberalization, political advocates hoping to recruit students to their causes need to realize the survey is more reflective of young people’s tolerance on social issues, not enthusiasm, said Ange-Marie Hancock, a political science professor at the University of Southern California.

“They’re not like ATMs, where you can just withdraw their support,” she said. “You have to cultivate them as voters.”

Conservative students in the Bay Area said they weren’t surprised by the shift to the left. In a region that gave birth to California’s gay-marriage push, political views are not always black and white, students said.

“My time is spent more on fiscal issues,” said Mark Luluan, a 24-year-old Cal State East Bay graduate student in English. “I didn’t see the shift to the left.”

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ASI senators should have passed the new code

By Paula Simon
McClatchy-Tribune

“No problem!” Have you noticed that the traditional words “You’re welcome” have recently been replaced by that trite phrase? It bothers me. I simply bother me when I’m purchasing a good or service from someone who does not acknowledge my custom. When I say to an employee “Thank you” and the following all-too-familiar conversation takes place:

Vendor: “Here’s your receipt, ma’am.”
Me: “Thank you.”
Vendor: “No problem.”

Actually it is a problem. What I expect is to be thanked for my patronage — not to be dismissed with this casual automatic response — a response that indicates to me that the person does not get what “you’re welcome” means. The phrase implies, “You were kind enough to shop here and thanks for allowing us the privilege of serving you.” When I hear “no problem,” what I think in my head is: “You’re right — it’s no problem at all for you, patronize another vendor/business next time.”

Maybe you’re thinking, “Come on now, I’m not an Andy Rooney; it’s just a popular expression — and no harm is meant by it.” Yes, I’ll give you that much. But then that aggravates me even more, because it reinforces the notion that people just aren’t listening to or paying attention to one another — which is already a problem at an epidemic level.

People are sitting next to or across from others with whom they’re clearly associated but who are choosing to have contact only with the 5- by 8-inch monitor in front of their faces and flying fingers. Try thanking one of these automatons for moving his chair one foot so you too may have a small space at the low eshop table, and you’re likely to be reciprocated with, "No Problem.” Trust me; he’s not thinking, "You're welcome to join the table." He’s thinking, “No problem — you that only bothered a bit.”

I’ve anecdotally studied whether “no problem” is a generational phrase that is only used by those much like "whatever" (stated most commonly by young boys). And yes, I’ve found that this phrase is more likely to be spoken offhandedly by younger people in response to just about any comment made. But the scarier thing to me is that “no problem” seems to be pervasive; it’s taken hold in a way that fits no single demographic. There is an outbreak of “no problem” everywhere you go.

So, the next time you’re about to utter that dismissive phrase, pause a minute and think about how much more there (and why) you said to each other (with some eye contact and a smile): “You’re welcome.”

Got it?

No problem.

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What’s up with ‘no problem’? (opinion)
POET: More than 200 in attendance to honor distinguished former professor

CONTINUED from page 1

anyone who has ever been objectified, and swallowed up.” He said it became very difficult to concentrate on singing Elton John and Captain & Tennille songs after reading Levine’s poem. The incident led him to what he called the “Encino Epiphany.” “Peace of mind had never taught me anything, never moved me to action, or passion. The disturbing and ironic force of ordi- nary life and human failings and the courage and grace to say ‘No, not this pig’, resonated… I realized that it was this disturbing tension between conventional and comfortable ways of being and poetic ways of seeing that had brought me to literature, that had brought me to teach, that keeps bringing me back to poetry, and has made Philip Levine’s poetry a force in my life and the lives of so many others,” said Covino. Covino finished by reciting the stock answer he gave peo- ple from then on who asked his plans for using his English degree. “I am going to remain disturbed—the kind of disturbance that ignites the imagination. Thank you, professor, for disturbing us,” Covino said.

Samian then spoke on behalf of Mayor Ashley Swearengin and read a City of Fresno proclamation that made Jan. 20, 2012, Philip Levine Day in Fresno. Samian also announced that there will be a special exhibit on Levine’s life and books on the second floor of the Madden Library and encouraged people to come by and take a look. The Fresno State Winery also announced a limited edition blend honoring Levine, which offered pre-release orders for the red blend at the event. In February, Levine will meet with enology students to select his favorite of several red blends crafted by the student-run winery, which will be released this fall. The proceeds from all sales will benefit the Department of Enology and the Philip Levine Scholarship in Poetry.

SURVEY: Freshmen more accepting of same-sex marriage

CONTINUED from page 1

dent and chairman of the campus College Republicans chapter. “Over the past four years, we haven’t really dealt with traditionally conservative issues. Students are more concerned about getting a job after graduation. The same is true among San Jose State University conservatives, said 19-year-old sophomore Mark Williams, chairman of that school’s College Republicans. “I think the conservatives in our club are not as focused on same-sex marriage. At the University of California, Berkeley, where liberal politics have long been the cultural norm, several students said Wednesday they rarely discuss politics with their peers and they rarely come across students who are outwardly conservative.

But being conservative would not earn a Cal student a scarlet letter, said 18-year-old freshman Alex Mangels. “I don’t think being conservative would be a huge problem,” said Mangels, who said he did not yet know how to describe his political beliefs. “They’re not going to hate you for it.” The survey also revealed that alcohol consumption dropped to an all-time low in 2011, with 30.4 percent saying they drank beer as high school seniors. Just less than 50 percent of respondents said they were attending their first-choice college — the lowest num- ber since 1974 — and more high school students took advanced placement courses and studied longer than in the past. “I think high school students are stressed about getting into college,” said DeAngelo, of UCLA. “There’s an increased pressure to perform.”

A new program at Fresno State was introduced to help Afghanistan with a self-sufficiency agricultural system. Agriculture Development for Afghanistan Pre-deployment Training (ADAPT) shows those in the program how to plant trees and vines for Afghanistan Pre-deployment Training (ADAPT) shows those in the program how to plant trees and vines. The Fresno State Winery also announced a limited edition blend honoring Levine, which offered pre-release orders for the red blend at the event. In February, Levine will meet with enology students to select his favorite of several red blends crafted by the student-run winery, which will be released this fall. The proceeds from all sales will benefit the Department of Enology and the Philip Levine Scholarship in Poetry.

ASI Run for student government!

Associated Students, Inc. Election Petitions now available in USU 306.

Want more info?
Attend an ASI Elections workshop: Tues. Feb. 7, Noon – 1 p.m. in USU 310 Wed. Feb. 15, 1 – 2 p.m. in USU 311
**African Peoples' History Month will kick off Wednesday in the Peace Garden**

By Taylor Gonzalez  
The Collegian

Every February, Black History Month is held across the nation to honor African-American history, and the struggles endured during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is always a big part of the ceremonies across the nation and will be highlighted during the kick off of African Peoples' History Month on campus, starting Wednesday.

Students and faculty have joined in efforts to help National Black History Month gain exposure. The African Peoples’ History Month committee has been on top of coordinating a celebration in honor of African-American culture.

Events will take place both on and off campus and are arranged on a calendar throughout the month. The events calendar is available for viewing online and will also be presented on campus this Thursday.

Senior Brittny Gilbert has been at work in preparation for African Peoples’ History Month and all the events that it encompasses. She has high hopes that the student body will get involved.

“The reason we are calling it African Peoples’ History month is because African goes back further than black people, it broadens history,” Gilbert said.

Feb. 1 is the kick off of African Peoples’ History Month, and all interested students and faculty are welcome to attend. Opening ceremonies will take place at the Fresno State Peace Garden at noon. The event will be held near the monument that honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The opening ceremonies will give students the opportunity to explore the Peace Garden that was created in 1990. Peace activist Mohandas Gandhi was the first historical character to receive his own statue in the Peace Garden, followed by Cesar Chavez in 1996.

The unveiling of the most recent dedication monument took place in 1998 and pays respect to King.

A list of potential future additions to the gardens can be found online.

Each year, there is a theme presented for the African Peoples’ History Month and this year it is centered on African women. African women such as civil rights activist Rosa Parks will be honored during this month. Discussions of these women’s contributions to history will take place, as well as celebrations for their works as historical figures in black history.

Speakers and artists along with films and art exhibits are all included in Fresno State’s celebration of Black History Month. Those who attend will be taught the meaning of the month and how it came into existence.

Historical figures are not the only ones who will be honored this month. Students will be honored as well. The Rosa Parks Awards reception, which will take place on Tuesday Feb. 22, will be highlighting students in academics and community service.

The Center for Women and Culture organized the school’s celebrations to honor the month this year. Gilbert is also involved in the Center for Women and Culture. When asked for her reasoning behind getting on this team she said, “I wanted to increase the amount of black representation on campus.”

**Ethics Center raises awareness of child sex abuse**

By Bianca Lopez  
The Collegian

The Ethics Center’s spring 2012 lecture series began on Thursday, in the Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Garden at noon. The event will be held Wednesday in the Peace Garden every February during National Black History Month to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 2008, these visitors left flowers to honor King.

Visitors come to the Fresno State Peace Garden every February during National Black History Month to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 2008, these visitors left flowers to honor King.

**“I wanted to increase the amount of black representation on campus.”**

— Brittny Gilbert, Fresno State senior

Muscat’s goal was to keep the audience engaged throughout the lecture and to educate them on how to handle the situation and what the right thing to do is. Fresno State student and audience member Cassie Dewitt believed her biggest motive for attending was to know what to do for the child’s best interest.

“If you don’t report it, [the child] is either going to think the behavior is ok or that they have no power over stopping it,” Dewitt said.

Dr. David Schechter, political science department chair said “These types of crimes occur all the time and all over and they’re underreported.”

His two biggest goals were to provide outlook and a potential place to come talk for people affected by this act.

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“Regardless of our professional background, we each have ethical obligations to our most vulnerable citizens.”

— Dr. Bernadette Muscat

Regardless of our professional background, we each have ethical obligations to our most vulnerable citizens.”

— Dr. Bernadette Muscat
Silent auction supports autism awareness, raises funding

By Erica Hernandez
The Collegian

A fundraiser for the Central California Autism Center was held Saturday night in hopes to raise money for an expansion of the program. While guests browsed the auction tables, a live band played in the background.

The CCAC, which is located in the Kremen Building at Fresno State, opened in 2007 with only a handful of children. In 2012, CCAC is providing services to 15 children. Among them is the son of Chris Riley, who is a Fresno State liberal arts graduate and is now attending the dual credential program. Riley’s son is 5-years-old and has been attending the CCAC for two years.

“It’s a safe place,” Riley said. “It’s a place that understands my son that knows exactly what he needs. They tailor their program to meet his needs not what the state thinks he needs or the school district thinks he needs.”

The event was held on the Golden Palace Banquet Hall and started at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction that offered various donations ranging from purses to paintings. Special guest emcee, channel 24’s AJ Fox, helped introduce sponsors for the event such as Dog House Grill, Target and Home Plate.

Director of the CCAC Amanda Adams gave a special thanks to those who helped put the event together and gave a brief history on the center’s existence.

The purpose of the silent auction was to raise public awareness of the CCAC and to help fund transition and new comprehension programs for older children with autism.

The center uses evidence-based techniques that have been researched and proven to help kids with autism.

“The key of it is that it’s based in research,” Adams said. “Some of the other techniques that are popular with autism right now are not necessarily evidence based at this time.”

The applied behavior analysis program, which is the curriculum used at the CCAC, specializes in learning studies and behavioral techniques that may be used with any type of population, however, it works particularly well with children that have autism. They require a more detailed-oriented form of education.

“With an early diagnosis we need an early treatment, so starting treatment at an early age is the very most important thing,” Adams said. “The thing tonight is kind of indignant that even once they’re a little bit older they can continue to learn…they can still learn things that will significantly change their quality of life in the long run.”

The CCAC is funded by California services, such as Central Valley Regional Center, and offers services to children around the Valley.

“Not much attention has been focused on autism, as it has been considered a fairly new diagnosis on non-typically developing children. It’s seen to be more common in boys than girls. The diagnosis rate also seems to be growing in the United States yet only 1 percent of research funding goes to it. Many people are still unaware of exactly what autism is.”

“Autism is a neurological disorder that affects three areas. One is socialization, one is communication and language, and the third is behaviors and stereotypical behaviors or behaviors that are excessive.”

“All kids throw a fit every now and then, but kids with autism often throw much bigger fits and more often. All of the behaviors that kids with autism display are really pretty typical, but they’re just in one particular way continuing longer or bigger than what should be happening at their age.”

CCAC focuses on these behaviors and works very closely with their clients to help them better adjust to societal norms so that eventually some will be able to function more easily as they age.

“It’s been such a support to us as parents I feel like it’s a place we go everywhere we understand us,” said Riley. “As parents, we don’t always get the understanding and compassion that we really need, and we get that at the Autism Center.”

Cancer’s most isolated patients: For decades, needs of adolescents, young adults with disease have been slighted

By Anna Gorman
McClatchy-Tribune

LOS ANGELES — She has had four surgeries to remove her thyroid, parathyroid and vocal cord nerve, along with muscle and tissue.

Once a year, she goes to a hospital and swallows a radioactive iodine capsule to attack the remaining cancer cells — and then remains in isolation for four days. During what she calls her quarantine, she can’t touch — or even be in the same room as — anyone else. The treatment causes soreness, swelling, nausea and headaches.

Each year, as the ordeal approaches, she scans the Internet for support groups. Once, she reached out to another cancer patient, only to discover that the woman was 64.

Erica Martinez is 22.

“No one can really relate to what I am feeling,” she said. “I can’t find anybody else who has a similar cancer.”

Physicians and researchers acknowledge that for decades, the needs of adolescents and young adults with cancer have been slighted. They frequently receive inconsistent treatment and follow-up care, and clinical trials and research focused on this age group have been scarce, according to oncologists and a report by the National Cancer Institute.

More than 72,000 adolescents and young adults — defined by the cancer institute as ages 15 to 39 — are diagnosed with cancer each year. For many, the disease is detected late for various reasons. Patients don’t recognize the symptoms or have no health insurance, or the cancer is initially mistaken for something else.

That may help explain why there has been very little improvement in cancer survival rates among adolescents and young adults, even as the rates for childhood cancers have risen steadily over the last few decades.

On top of the physical burdens of the disease, many young adults feel a painful isolation.

“This was the lost genera-
Physicians realizing they must address cancer in young people

Erica Martinez, 22, poses for a portrait in South Pasadena, California, showing the scar from cancer for which she was diagnosed when she was 15.

The daily crossword

Edited by Rich Norns and Joyce Lewis

Los Angeles Times

Across
1 Fashionable
5 “Blanc, the Alps’ highest peak
9 Wintry mess
14 Prolonged
15 Confused
16 Like horror film music
17 Practice boxing
18 Luke Skywalker's e.g.
19 Postal service symbol
20 DUCK
21 The NFL’s Cowboys
26 Snake’s warning
28 2011 World Series champs, on scoreboards
29 Actor Bert (see 70-Across)
31 Carvey or Delany
32 Ring loudly
34 “Othello” villain
36 “Joy of Cooking” film
37 Fits of anger
41 CRANE
43 Canines
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66 __ in ‘O Pug’, Dr. Seuss
67 Swan’s warning
68 Stiller’s comedy partner
69 iPhone message
70 “I ignore that editing change”

Down
1 “You're too young.”
2 “Time to move on”
3 “Lay it on me!”
4 500 B.C.
5 Cat scratch disease and pre
6 “I obey
7 “Can _ honest with you?”
8 TV screens showing Disney movies and walls decorated with butterflies.
9 Reel from a blow to the head
10 Wife of Jacob
11 Involuntary impulses
12 Eliot’s “__ Marner”
13 Obeys
14 Used to be
15 Upper-left PC key
16 Useful for short
17 Helps with a heist
18 Actor Bert (see 70-Across)
19 Carvey or Delany
20 “The “O” in SRD
21 “Time to move on”
22 Money-saving, in product names
23 Downhill racer
24 Arafat’s org. until 2004
25 Divided by itself
26 Arafat’s org. until 2004
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68 Stiller’s comedy partner
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70 “I ignore that editing change”

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Word of the Day

501k

When one's economic situation has become so tenuous that their entire net worth is in the pockets of their jeans.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

ISOLATION: Physicians realizing they must address cancer in young people

Continued from page 5

“Isolation,” said Dr. Stuart Siegel, director of the children’s center for cancer and blood diseases at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. “It’s very tenuous that their entire net worth is in the pockets of their jeans.”

Now, physicians nationwide are realizing they can no longer ignore this population. The Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology, the first peer-reviewed journal devoted to this age group, began publishing this year.

In addition to studying the biology of cancers and developing more effective treatments, doctors are trying to meet patients’ social and emotional needs. Many adolescents and young adults are trying to form relationships, finish school, begin careers and have children while fighting the disease.

“When one’s economic situation has become so tenuous that their entire net worth is in the pockets of their jeans.”

Erica Martinez, 22, poses for a portrait in South Pasadena, California, showing the scar from cancer for which she was diagnosed when she was 15.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

“Isolation,” said Dr. Stuart Siegel, director of the children’s center for cancer and blood diseases at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. “It’s very tenuous that their entire net worth is in the pockets of their jeans.”

Now, physicians nationwide are realizing they can no longer ignore this population. The Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology, the first peer-reviewed journal devoted to this age group, began publishing this year.

In addition to studying the biology of cancers and developing more effective treatments, doctors are trying to meet patients’ social and emotional needs. Many adolescents and young adults are trying to form relationships, finish school, begin careers and have children while fighting the disease.

“When one’s economic situation has become so tenuous that their entire net worth is in the pockets of their jeans.”

Erica Martinez, 22, poses for a portrait in South Pasadena, California, showing the scar from cancer for which she was diagnosed when she was 15.
Men’s basketball falls in final seconds

The men’s basketball team lost a heartbreaker at New Mexico State, 60-56. It was the second consecutive game the Bulldogs erased a double-digit second half deficit, only to lose.

Down 39-38 after the start of the second half, the ‘Dogs went on a 14-0 run to take a 43-39 lead, but couldn’t hold for the win.

“We really challenged our guys to be more physical and take care of the details — screening, executing and owning the ball — and there’s no doubt we competed,” said head coach Rodney Terry.

Sophomore Kevin Olekaibe scored a team-high 18 points but shot a disappointing 1-of-9 from the 3-point line. Sophomore Jerry Brown followed with 13 points while grabbing a team-high eight rebounds.

Fresno State (9-14, 1-6) will return for a two-game Western Athletic Conference homestand with its first game against Idaho on Thursday at the Save Mart Center. Tip off is slated for 7 p.m.

Women’s track and field competes at Jacksons Invitational

The indoor track and field team saw success at the Jacksons Invitational in Boise, Idaho over the weekend.

Junior Breeauna Thompson finished first in the 200-meters with a time of 24.75 seconds. Thompson won the event despite it being her first time competing in the 200m on an indoor track. Thompson’s winnings didn’t end there as she took first in the 400m with a time of 55.83.

Sophomore Megan McKee had another successful show after her first-place finish on a team in the weight throw Invitational. McKee led the throw with a third-place finish on a 59-foot-5 throw. McKee proved her dominance in the shot put with a time of 59.25.

The indoor track and field team’s Kimberly Steinbuch by five points. McMee proved her dominance in the shot put, throwing a first-place mark of 59-foot-5. McKee proved her dominance in the shot put, throwing a first-place mark of 59-foot-5. Thompson won the event despite it being her first time competing in the 200m on an indoor track. Thompson’s winnings didn’t end there as she took first in the 400m with a time of 55.83.

Sophomore Hillary West participated in the equitation on flat event during Saturday’s scrimmage. West scored a 75, earning herself MVP honors in the event.

The Fresno State equestrian team couldn’t have asked for better weather Saturday morning during its spring scrimmage that marked the beginning of the 2012 season.

With great weather came great luck, as everybody left a winner. The scrimmage ended in an 11-11 tie with the Blue team winning the Hunter Seat events 7-3, and the Red team winning the Western events 8-4.

Sophomore Hillary West earned MVP honors in equitation over fences as the Blue team downed the Red team 3-1. West, the 2010-11 Rookie of the Year, scored a scrimmage-high 61 points for the Blue team.

In horsemanship, the Red team downed the Blue 5-1 and sophomore Katelyn Haynes was named MVP of the event, scoring a 75. The Bakersfield native and two-time Dean’s List honoree beat the Blue team’s Kirsten McKillop 75-72.5.

Senior Allie Warkentin, junior Christa Beazley, sophomore Shauna Woodward, and freshman Bryn Boyett all won their points for the Red team.

The ‘Dogs will compete in the Winter Equestrian Festival on Feb. 10 in Wellington, Fla. before returning to the arena for their annual Best in the West Invitational slated for Feb. 18-19 at the Student Horse Center.

It was a good showing for co-coaches Stephanie Reeves and Julia Scrivani, who will have a little more than a week to prepare for the team’s first competition since the winter break.

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By Angel Moreno

The Colleagian

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The ‘Dogs put an end to Hawaii’s three-game win streak

By Tim Salazar
The Collegian

Fresno State women’s basketball team dominated Hawaii offensively and defensively in an 83-48 blowout Saturday night, extending its winning streak to six games, and putting an end to its opponent’s own streak as well.

During halftime of Saturday’s game, the Bulldogs celebrated National Girls and Women in Sports Day with a presentation that honored former Bulldog coaches and student-athletes from the 1970s and ’80s. This June will also mark 40 years since Title IX was enacted, the federal law that forbids sex discrimination in sports and academics.

“When I was in high school the girls played six-on-six, they had to practice at night they had to practice at night and putting an end to its opponent’s own streak as well.

Dateline Swimming & Diving

By Tim Salazar
The Collegian

Fresno State was also lethal from behind the arc, converting 11-of-31 3-pointers. Moore said, “I was physical. We rebounded well and I felt we had a lot of energy on the perimeter, which really helped.”

Moore led all players in scoring with 28 points, tying a career high, a feat she has achieved three times this season.

End of the Rainbow

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