Graduates without health care

By Mike Boylan
The Collegian

While the Democrats in the U.S. Congress continue their five-month long quest to pass health reform legislation that would provide basic health insurance to all U.S. citizens, college students and young adults hope to remain healthy.

According to a new report from the Government Accountability Office, more than 20 percent of college students have no health insurance, totaling 1.7 million students, and only 57 percent of universities in the United States provide health care plans for students, which vary dramatically in terms of services covered.

College students and young adults are likely to be without health coverage. According to a Gallup poll, Hispanics (41 percent) have a higher percentage of individuals without health insurance than young adults between the ages of 18 and 29 (27 percent).

Students at Fresno State have access to health and psychological services that are covered by fees in their tuition. These services include urgent care visits with physicians and nurse practitioners, an on-site pharmacy, x-rays, health education, family planning, and psychological counseling.

In addition to services at the Student Health Center, students registered for nine units or more are eligible for student insurance, run by the California State University system through Blue Cross.

But for recent college graduates who have yet to enter the work force or have failed to find a job with an employer that offers private insurance, some are left in a precarious position.

Students who have access to the Student Health Center on campus, are still susceptible to catastrophic medical conditions that would present unforeseen and unbearable financial costs.

The lack of insurance has forced many students to move back home with their parents, while others who don’t have this option must try and make ends meet and hope they remain in good health.

Fresno State alumnus Morgan Boushell knows this all too well.

“I had medical coverage while I was a student,” Boushell said. “I moved out of my family’s house and had to get a position in retail that

See INSURANCE, Page 6

Distracted Drivers by the numbers

A three-month study conducted by Dr. Tamyra Pierce, the graduate director of the mass communication and journalism department who specializes in studying the effects of digital media on behavior, found that even with current laws in place, many students are still using cell phones while on the road. The study was conducted on roads, highways and the Fresno State campus during busy peak hours.

6,829 drivers were observed on the Fresno State campus, city streets, and highways

1,124 or 16% were either texting, looking at e-mail, or talking on the phone without a hands-free device

2,582 drivers were observed during a campus observation

18 nearly ran into the back of another car

4 ran a stop sign

582 highway drivers were observed to be distracted while driving

1 in 3 drivers were observed to be distracted while driving, veering into other lanes.

1 almost hit a pedestrian

Infographic by Michael Uribes / The Collegian
Source: “Observation analysis of distracted driving” by Dr. Tamyra Pierce
Listening to Cali Nanny

Talking on cell phones without a hands-free device while driving is distracting, right? Though some of us may or may not agree, state Sen. Joe Simitian thinks it is. He’s the one behind the whole “hands-off the wheel while driving” law enacted 18 months ago for the state of California. His little brother appeared shortly after, making it illegal for drivers to text. If you’re like most people and completely disregard the new law, you’d better look over your shoulders more carefully because Simitian has no more tricks up his sleeve. He wants to either triple the fine or place one point on your driving record if you are caught using a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving.

Nannette Miranda on the Web site of ABC30 Action News ran a story on Jan. 21, stating Simitian’s intentions. The story also featured a study done by the Highway Loss Data Institute, which revealed that California’s number of accident claims were no different than other states without the new law.

Miranda’s story also said that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) disagrees with the study, saying that the number of traffic fatalities decreased in the first six months alone. The CHP has issued more than 231,000 tickets since the new law’s inception, that doesn’t even count local sheriff and police department-issued tickets. It’s no wonder they’re in favor of it.

This story basically points out that despite having a law against handling a cell phone while driving, people still continue to do it and California’s accident rate is no different than other states without the law. How dare citizens defy their government. Holding a cell phone to your ear while driving may or may not be distracting. What Simitian fails to realize is that holding a cell phone while driving is no different than holding a burger in one hand while talking to a passenger. Isn’t that equally distracting? “Oops, I just dropped ketchup on my seat. Quick, take the wheel while I wipe it down!” It’s not just cell phones that distract people while driving. Sen. Simitian. Food, drinks, stereo, and high-tech automobile features are just some of the things that can also be distracted by. If people drive and use a wireless device while doing so, wouldn’t they be prone to distraction by the conversation alone? Because the law is seemingly ineffective, California’s elected officials are planning to ram it down our throats even further, with the hope of trying to eliminate a percentage of traffic accidents. It’s just another case of big government trying to oppress the rights of citizens.

It should not be the government’s job to tell people what they can or can’t do in their own cars. If California’s elected officials think driving while holding cell phones is distracting, they need to consider all the other possible distractions. With a law like this, what’s good for the goose is good for the gander.

Remember when Motorola and GTE used to make phones specifically built for cars? It was a luxury feature that at the time, only well-off people could afford. Maybe in 15 years, cup holders in cars will be a thing of the past. The objects that occupy them, sodas, beard trimmers, French fry cartons, would be too distracting for drivers, if we listened to California’s elected nannies.

Setting it Straight

Denton Dubbels

“With a law like this, what’s good for the goose is good for the gander.”
The Collegian  •  Arts & Entertainment

Arts & Entertainment Editor, Danielle Gilbert  •  collegian-features@csufresno.edu

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

ACROSS
1 __ St Ives: Cornwall
5 Drift
9 Caught on video
14 *First family member
15 Muppet who testified before Congress
16 Spry
17 *Old street corner
19 Director De Mille
20 Keys
21 *Arthur in a dress
23 Orkan sign-off word
24 Express gratitude to
25 *Receptacle for choice slips
27 Publisher often seen in PJs
28 Park, in NYC
30 Cpl.’s superior
31 Valuable rock
32 Mine entrance
34 Cover letter letters
36 Diamond stat
38 Demonstrate effectiveness, and a literal hint to the puzzle theme found in the answers to starred clues
42 Farm dweller
43 Musical ability
44 D.C. fundraisers
45 Summa __ laude
46 Radar guns, e.g.
47 *Brit. award
50 Summa __ laude
52 Eastern principle
54 “Murder, __ Wrote”
55 *Danseur noble’s partner
56 Eucharist plate
57 Bard’s “below”
61 Chops finely
62 Lip soother
63 Besieged
64 West who said “To err is human, but it feels divine”
66 Repeated nursery rhyme opener

Puzzle by Gary Cee

PUZZLE SOLUTION: http://collegian.csufresno.edu
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Word of the Day

Midday crisis

When one is in desperate need of a siesta because they become extremely tired in the afternoon and coffee isn’t cutting it any longer.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com

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The daily crossword
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis
Los Angeles Times

Midday crisis

When one is in desperate need of a siesta because they become extremely tired in the afternoon and coffee isn’t cutting it any longer.

Source: UrbanDictionary.com
Arts

against the walls of the dorms wasn’t a crowd
sounds of “Creep” by Radiohead reverberating
and University Courtyard student assistant, the
very own self-taught troubadour.

have had their eyes and ears on something new: it’s
Arts Page 4 • Arts & Entertainment Editor, Danielle Gilbert • collegian-features@csufresno.edu • Friday, February 5, 2010

piled by Yahoo.com.

based on estimates of ticket sales com-

Friday, Feb. 5, through Sunday, Feb. 7,
the weekend of
box office for
new films at the

Here are the top
Box office

1. ‘Avatar’
Distributor: Warner Bros. Pictures
Weekend gross: $31,280,029
Overall gross: $595,792,416
Release weeks: 7

2. ‘Edge of Darkness’
Distributor: Warner Bros. Pictures
Weekend gross: $17,214,384
Overall gross: $17,214,384
Release weeks: 1

3. ‘When in Rome’
Distributor: Walt Disney Studios
Weekend gross: $12,350,041
Overall gross: $12,350,041
Release weeks: 1

4. ‘Tooth Fairy’
Distributor: 20th Century Fox
Weekend gross: $9,998,109
Overall gross: $26,104,387
Release weeks: 2

Dear John

Review by Connie Ogle
McClatchy Tribune

The first thing you need to know
about the latest adaptation of a
Nicholas Sparks novel is that it won’t
make you cry as hard as the last one
(“The Notebook,” which no human
being has ever sat through dry-eyed, not even Miley Cyrus).

Sparks’ books have spawned the films
“A Walk to Remember,” “Night in
Rodanthe,” “Message in a Bottle” and the
upcoming “The Last Song” with
Miley Cyrus, the idea of which is more
than enough to make this reviewer sob
openly. So your tear ducts are virtually
guaranteed to get at least a brief work-
out during the romantic “Dear John,”
in which a Special Forces soldier on
leave (Channing Tatum, “G.I. Joe”) falls
for big-hearted Charleston college
girl Savannah (Amanda Seyfried of
“Mamma Mia!”). John (Tatum) isn’t much of a talker,
possibly because of the reclusive,
reserved nature of his possibly autis-
tic father (Richard Jenkins), with
whom John shares an arm’s-length
relationship. Fortunately, a quick
dive off the pier and the retrieval of
a dropped purse capture the attention of
Savannah, who is the sort of girl who
doesn’t drink and spends spring break
dive off the pier and the retrieval of
a dropped purse capture the attention of
Savannah, who is the sort of girl who
doesn’t drink and spends spring break
on the novel by Nicholas Sparks.
The film, staring Channing Tatum and
Amanda Seyfried, opens worldwide today.

The couple spends the rest of John’s
leave together, and as long as they’re
romping along the lovely Carolina
shore life seems rosy and full of prom-
ise. Savannah even salvages John’s
relationship with his dad to an extent.

But soldiers have to go back to war.
John and Savannah promise to write,
with the plan that they’ll get back

Dear John

We’d like to believe people behave in
such totally unselfish ways, but such
goodness and charity leave director
Lasse Hallstrom (“The Shipping News,”
“Chocolat,” “The Cider House Rules”) without many shades of gray in his
melodramatic palate. Worse, he makes
the colossal mistake of shortchanging the
diehard romantics by wrapping up the
story too suddenly; you literally feel
startled when the credits roll.

Still, there’s an audience for old-fash-
ioned romance, and “Dear John” will
please most of it, given its attractive
cast, cozy beach settings and brazenly
uplifting outlook on human nature.
The movie looks good. It just doesn’t bear
much resemblance to the way most of
us live.

A’chord’ing to Adam

By Maddie Shannon
The Collegian

The students and staff at University Courtyard
have had their eyes and ears on something new: it’s
very own self-taught troubadour.

Unfortunately for Adam Stephens, business major
and University Courtyard student assistant, the
sounds of “Creep” by Radiohead reverberating
against the walls of the dorms wasn’t a crowd
pleaser.

“You don’t get much love when your belting out how
you feel in the middle of the night,” Stephens said.

Inspired by folk music, the environment and Tool
vocalist Maynard James Keaton, the 25-year-old
musician describes his style as a more emotional type
of music than anything.

“I play wherever I can find inspiration. The
people that I played with all had their musical talents
and now I’m going the solo route,” Stephens said. “It’s
a little bit hard to mesh your style with everybody
else’s, so I eventually just went on my own.”

“Inspired by folk music, the environment and Tool
vocalist Maynard James Keaton, the 25-year-old
musician describes his style as a more emotional type
of music than anything.

“More from the heart, less mainstream,” Stephens
said. “The great thing about music is you can always
transform melodies to apply to you.”

...
California snags $2.34 billion for speed rail

By Doug Begley and Ben Goad
McClatchy Tribune

Tens of thousands of new jobs could be coming to California now that the state has snared $2.34 billion for high-speed rail projects.

Proponents said the money all but assures that bullet trains will streak between San Diego and Sacramento within 30 years.

But construction jobs, especially in places like the Inland area that are part of the second phase, are years away. And the entire train system will cost billions of dollars more than the federal stimulus funds announced Thursday.

Federal transportation officials and the White House announced 13 projects that would receive a share of $8 billion set aside as part of last year's federal stimulus program.

California got the most money. The state received $1.3 billion. California's $2.34 billion is divided between $2.25 billion for high-speed rail and $94 million to improve existing intercity train routes, such as the Pacific Surfliner Amtrak route between San Luis Obispo and San Diego.

The stimulus money must be matched with state and local funds. Californians approved a 2008 proposition committing the state to sell $9 billion in bonds for high-speed rail.

The federal money can be used to purchase land, conduct environmental reviews and possibly start construction.

"This is a breakthrough across the country, putting people to work building high-speed rail lines, because there's no reason why Europe or China should have the fastest trains when we can build them right here in America," President Barack Obama said Thursday.

Officials have estimated that high-speed rail could cost $43.5 billion throughout California. Most of the cost will be borne by state and state coffers, but proponents have said they'll also need federal and private support.

Trains could start running between Los Angeles and San Francisco by 2019, based on 2008 estimates by the high-speed rail authority.

"The day will come when you can travel from Los Angeles to San Francisco in three hours going 220 miles per hour without spending a moment stuck in traffic on a congested highway or waiting for a weekend, weekend flight," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said.

Nursing student finds inspiration in silent cause

By Michelle Furnier
The Collegian

Miriam Mahfoud struggled with deciding on a major while in high school. She eventually decided on nursing after she visited a school in Cambodia, a rural village in Cambodia. The 19 year old was on a mission trip with her church.

While in Cambodia, Mahfoud spent most of her time playing with the local children. She said that she became filled with compassion during her time there after noticing that several of the children were disease stricken or had deformities.

She knew that she wanted to do something for children. To help in some way.

While in her high school anatomy class, Mahfoud said she fell in love with how complex and intricate the human body could be.

This love for anatomy combined with her desire to help those less fortunate prompted Mahfoud to become a registered nurse.

She began her college career as one of the youngest students in the nursing program on campus. The sophomore plans to graduate in fall 2012.

Mahfoud, a nursing major and American Sign Language (ASL) minor, became interested in ASL while sitting in her chemistry class watching an interpreter translate the class to another student.

Her ASL minor is currently on hold for the semester because the classes did not fit into her schedule. However, she says that she plans to continue with ASL next fall.

To keep her skills sharp, she says that she practices with her friends so that she doesn't forget what she's already learned.

As if being a nursing student wasn't enough for Mahfoud, she is also involved with several organizations, including the ASL club, the Recyling club and she recently joined the California Nursing Student Association (CNSA).

She also works on campus at the University Courtyard in the marketing office and has done so for more than a year.

Mahfoud also volunteers at her church to help run a cafe that supports students who want to go on mission trips.

Despite her lack of spare time, she said that she enjoys being with her three sisters, baking and going to the local frozen yogurt shop with her friends just about every Friday.

Q: What did you find intriguing about the use of an interpreter in a class?

A: I was just amazed. An interpreter was able to translate a semester's worth of chemistry without words! I was mesmerized by how quickly the interpreter's hands would fly about and translate the lecture.

Q: What made you decide that you wanted to major in nursing?

A: After that chemistry class I knew I wanted to at least take ASL 1 (introduction to ASL or hard of hearing clients). As of right now I am just focusing on one thing at a time. Right now I am just trying to get through the nursing program and finish my minor. I will continue to look for any opportunities or places in need of a nurse fluent in sign language. However, I am sure I will encounter deaf patients in any registered nurse position.

Q: Was this the first time you found an interpreter interesting or was it something you've always found intriguing?

A: I always thought sign language was an amazing way to communicate, but I was never really exposed to it or had any deaf friends or family that used it. This was the first time I found an interpreter interesting.

Q: Will you incorporate it into your career or do you want to do something with it on the side?

A: My intention is to incorporate it and use my skills in ASL. I have been researching the opportunities with nursing and sign language and although I have not found anything specific, there seems to be a need. I have heard of some nursing positions that require ASL and hospitals or clinics with mostly deaf patients. I have not found anything specific, there seems to be a need. I have heard of some nursing positions that require ASL and hospitals or clinics with mostly deaf patients. I have not found anything specific, there seems to be a need. I have heard of some nursing positions that require ASL and hospitals or clinics with mostly deaf patients. I have not found anything specific, there seems to be a need. I have heard of some nursing positions that require ASL and hospitals or clinics with mostly deaf patients.
New board member has FLYP connection

President Welty sees high value in Fresno’s Leading Young Professionals.

By Thaddeus Miller
The Collegian

A local community advisory committee added a new member to Fresno State’s Leading Young Professionals (FLYP) last week.

As a board member, Sotomayor will provide the board with president’s advice on university issues and serve as a link to the community, Welty said in an e-mail interview.

“[FLYP] is often able to offer perspectives from the community which are important for us to consider,” Welty said.

Welty explained that Sotomayor’s connection to Fresno’s Leading Young Professionals (FLYP), where she served as the board chair, is important to the university: “The organization is designed to attract and retain young professionals to the Fresno area.

“[From FLYP] I thought we could get good advice and they would also be able to articulate how the university could better serve this population, especially at the graduate level,” Welty said.

John Boogaert, the chair of the advisory board, said the connection to FLYP is tantamount. He said the connection will aid the board as it tries to get the state to place a higher priority on education during the budget crunch.

“We are trying to become an advocate for the university,” Boogaert said.

Boogaert said Sotomayor has already been an asset to the board.

Sotomayor, the youngest member on the board, currently serves as the Chief of Staff for Fresno city council member Andreas Borgeas. In an e-mail interview, Borgeas voiced his approval of Sotomayor’s appointment.

“I commend Dr. Welty for including members of the young professional community on the Advisory Board, and I believe Stephen’s experience has been and will continue to be a valuable asset to the board,” Borgeas said.

Sotomayor served in the Army and was deployed to Germany and Iraq, and attained his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona. He also received the Bronze Star Medal while serving as a captain in Baghdad.

CONTINUED from page 5

INSURANCE: After graduation, young people struggle to remain insured.

doesn’t offer health insurance.

Sarah Lanfranco, a supervisor at the Bulldog Shop, is concerned because her position is not offered health insurance, she can’t get basic preventative care.

“I haven’t had health insurance since I graduated in 2007, and I can’t even afford to get routine physicals,” she said.

She also had a dental emergency last year which required a root canal that she had to pay for out of pocket. “This set her back on paying off student loans from Fresno State and National University where she has been going in order to get a teaching credential.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, most students who drop out, do so for work-related reasons.

Jeffrey Cummins, an associate professor of political science, said the problems with the California budget will likely put health care on the back burner.

“A few years ago Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed a similar plan, but when the cost estimates came out, it was completely squashed,” Cummins said.

Cummins said insurance young adults would not only be beneficial to those who are currently without insurance, but also pragmatic.

“It makes sense to want to pull in young and healthier workers in order to help bear some of the medical costs for a universal plan,” Cummins added.

“It is why there are discussions on mandating young adults to buy insurance.”

CONTINUED from page 5

SPEED: Estimated cost of speed rail in California is $42.6 billion

The start of high-speed rail

President Barack Obama announced $8 billion to fund 13 high-speed rail corridors. Where the major projects will be:

CONTINUED from page 5

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CONTINUED from page 5

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The start of high-speed rail

President Barack Obama announced $8 billion to fund 13 high-speed rail corridors. Where the major projects will be:
Hill signs 21 new players

Hill shows excitement toward 2010 recruitment class

By Vongni Yang

For coach Pat Hill’s 14th recruiting class, he reeled in 21 new players who will join the team for the fall 2010 sea- son.

The highly skilled high schoolers and a junior college transfer signed National Letters of Intent to play college football for Fresno State.

“I’m extremely excited about this 2010 class,” Hill said dur- ing a press conference.

The 21-man recruiting class is highlighted with plenty of speed. Hill positions from wide receivers and run- ning backs to safeties and cor- ders. Many of the players who signed also played multiple positions in high school so Hill’s liking.

Another thing that I really believe in, multi-positional players, guys that can play a lot of different positions,” Hill said.

Edward Dillihunt, a defen- sive back from Tulare Union High School is an exciting recruit for Hill because of his athletic ability. He played wide receiver, running back, safety and corner- back. He’s an exciting recruit for Hill his liking.

Isaiah Burse is best when the ball is in his hands,” Hill said. “So we have to work out a way to get the ball to this guy.”

Three players were listed as athletes. Their positions will be determined once they complete their first official visit.

“We were able to find some outstanding players,” said Hill.

2010 Recruiting Class

Sean Alston, Defensive Back, 5-10, Aloma, Calif. (Los Oso)

Isaiah Burse, Athlete, 5-11, 180, Modesto, Calif. (Modesto Christian)

Davon Dunn, Athlete, 5-11, 170, Bakersfield, Calif. (Frontier)

Victor Dean, Wide Receiver, 6-5, 200, San Diego, Calif. (Lincoln)

Edward Dillihunt, Defensive Back, 6-2, 199, Tulare, Calif. (Tulare Union)

Vince Copeland, Running Back, 5-11, 190, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Banning)

The track meet will be the final invitational here, next year and the next year and the next year and the next year and the next year and the

The meet will have a total of 47 running events and 17 field events in the university open and elite divisions held on the opening day of the two-day event. Saturday will feature the youth and high school divi- sions.

The best the Bulldogs have to offer will also be on hand this afternoon. Fresno State sophomore and one of the university’s, the men’s side, All-American junior Tim Greene is seeded third in the 100-meter dash, first in the weight throw. Jordan and Greene are just two Bulldogs looking to improve on last year’s six firsts and four seconds. In addition, Fresno State will be represented by former star from Araus Pacific, Cal Poly, CSU Bakersfield, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Stanislaus, Cal State Los Angeles, USC and Fresno Pacific.

But Jordan and Greene will not be featured in what is expected to be tonight’s main event, the pole vault. The event has been Olympic gold medalists, Tim Mack, competing for Nike, and Stacy Dragila. Mack won gold in the 2000 Olympic games in Athens, Greece while Dragila received gold ten years ago in Sydney.

Mack will face off against Giovanni Larano of Mexico who has won the last 7 years and is a Pan American record holder. For the NCAA Division One Champions Chelsea Johnson and Becky Holman will take on the world’s best at the weight throw.

Tonight’s competitions are presented by both the men and women’s teams. The event has been Olympic gold medalists, Tim Mack, competing for Nike, and Stacy Dragila. Mack won gold in the 2000 Olympic games in Athens, Greece while Dragila received gold ten years ago in Sydney.

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From player to coach, Parrish has done it all

By Brianna Campbell  
The Collegian

Assistant coach Amy Parrish has done it all. From full-time student-athlete to mom to professional basketball overseas and now assistant coach at her alma mater.

Parrish currently resides on the first seat on the Bulldog bench as an assistant coach to head coach Adrian Wiggins just four years after graduating.

Parrish who was raised in Hanford, as a junior transfer from Reedley College she was named Central Valley Conference MVP and made the All-Tournament team at the Commission On Athletics (COA) Basketball Championship.

Parrish achieved even more her first year in a Bulldog uniform starting in all 31 games, leading the team in scoring with and was a first team All-WAC section.

As a senior, Parrish continued to juggle the student-athlete lifestyle as well as motherhood. By then Parrish was the mother to a two-year old son Ty, who was one of the of the many support systems she had to make it through.

“My family and friends,” Parrish said is who she leaned on for support.

“They [my family] supported me and helped me more than I could have imagined that they would be able to.”

In her last season, 2005-06, Parrish averaged 15.1 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. She posted four double-doubles and scored in double figures a team-high 24 times. All while maintaining a 3.2 grade point average.

For the second time in two consecutive years she received first team All-WAC selection, coming the fourth player in the history of Fresno State to earn this honor:

Parrish graduated with a degree in Chicano/Latin American studies and began her journey in the work force.

“Then not too soon after I started to doubt my job choice, an old friend of mine called and asked if I was interested in playing because they had a spot on their team,” Parrish said. “I accepted and figured I would give it one more shot!”

For eight months Parrish played on a professional women’s basketball team in Holland. Upon her return she took a position as an assistant coach at Cal-State University Bakersfield where she learned a lot about coaching and the team she wanted to be a part of.

In July of 2009, two years after graduating, Parrish rejoined the bulldogs as a part of the coaching staff for the women’s basketball team. Parrish’s intelligence in basketball and energy will be an asset, Wiggins said in an article on bulldogs.com. “Amy was an important part of the success we had from 2004-06 and she will be an important part of our success as we prepare to defend our WAC championship.”

Parrish continues her journey with the Bulldogs this season as the team continues to fiercely break records. She has enjoyed her time growing as coach along side Wiggins and could not see herself anywhere else.

Q & A:

Q: When was it that you knew you wanted to play basketball at the collegiate level?

A: I basically knew that I wanted to play college basketball once I got into high school and I learned that I could get my school paid for. I loved the game and it was a way to motivate myself to work hard. It kind of came easy to me and I just kept wanting to improve my game.

Q: What was your fondest memory in a Bulldog uniform?

A: My fondest memory is just being around my teammates and coaches. I loved the competitiveness that the teams had while I was here. We fought against each other hard day in and day out, and then to see it come together against other teams was fun. I loved the ups and downs of being around the same people for 6-7 months straight, and knowing that you are all in this together with one common goal at the end.

Q: Only four years after graduating from Fresno State, did you ever imagine being a coach?

A: I actually never thought that I would coach. But once I got back into it I didn’t want to work for anyone else. The Central Valley is home to me and Fresno State is my alma mater. We had talked about me paying my dues and growing as a coach then someday coming back to help here but I never thought it would happen this soon. I am very thankful though. I learned a lot as a player from Coach Brett Frank and Coach Wiggins and I am learning even more from all of them after joining the staff.

Q: What are your hopes and expectations as a coach for this season?

A: For this team to reach their potential!! These girls are amazing young women and talented athletes. They work hard and they do a lot for others. I think they have a great opportunity that they don’t even realize at times; once they do and it all clicks, they will be even more fun to watch.

Q: What is your favorite thing about being a coach?

A: My favorite thing about being a coach is getting to see these girls grow. I love the interaction and having an open line of communication with them so that even though I am their coach and they respect me, they can still come to me if they ever need anything.

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

A: Spending time with my son, family and friends.

Q: Who was your role models/inspiration growing up?

A: My parents. They are very hard working and have always supported their children, even through some very tough times. I would not be the person I am today or continue to grow to be without them!