California higher education: A half-century of the Master Plan

Fifty years ago, a pledge was made to all Californians, one that promised universal access to a college education. Built upon a commitment to access, the Master Plan was to be the ladder through which the population could move into higher education and serve as the engine behind the state’s work force.

The formula raised academic standards while at the same time allowed more Californians to go to college. However, adherence to that vision over the past five decades has been uneven. Overburdened by mismanagement of large-scale growth in enrollment demand and a weakened state economy, the Master Plan has inched further from the reality laid out by the plan’s framers.

The threat of that altered reality has not been lost on the thousands of students who attend one of the 10 University of California campuses, 23 California State Universities or one of the 112 California Community College campuses.

Constructing a plan for higher education

Born out of the needs of the Post War Era, California in 1960 adopted a lofty blueprint for higher education that would merge the state’s colleges and universities into a coordinated system that sought to produce a well-educated work force during a period of rapid population growth.

“The Master Plan was a product of stark necessity, of political calculations, and of pragmatic transactions,” remarked Clark Kerr, the 12th president of the University of California and key figure in the plan’s development, in his personal memoir.

The plan established different functions, admission guidelines and priorities for each of the three systems, each with its own designated enrollment goals. The University of California would pull from only the top 12.5 percent of high school graduates; state colleges would draw from the upper 33 percent; community colleges, would

Dorms will host tolerance tunnel

The University Courtyard’s Diversity Committee will offer Fresno State students a glimpse into the world of oppressed groups Monday when the Tunnel of Oppression is open. The free event is meant to show people how oppression affects society today. The tunnel is a one-day event. It will be in the Atrium of the University Courtyard from 8-11 p.m. The tunnel consists of different rooms that display various oppressed groups in society, such as homeless people, the gay and lesbian community and people with eating disorders.

Devin Puente, the assistant resident director and committee chair of the diversity committee, put the event together and hopes that it will have an impact on the participants that walk through.

“We hope that after people cross through the tunnel, they will have a changed perspective,” Puente said. “We want to get the subject directly in people’s faces. Some people are oblivious to the groups that are featured in the tunnels.”

The tunnel will contain active and passive rooms for the participants. “In the passive rooms, we have different pictures and posters of the
@issue: Should marijuana be legalized? Columnsists Denton Dubbels and Mike Boylan debate.

Setting it Straight

Denton Dubbels

In November, California will have the grand opportunity to reform our criminal justice system by creating jobs and reduce police corruption. This can be done by voting in favor of AB 264, the proposition to “decriminalize” marijuana in the state of California. This is a perfect time for the our state to enter the drug dealing business. If you’re in dire straits, what else can you do?

In spite of having some of the highest state taxes in the nation, California spends money like Lindsay Lohan, while its state employees across the board are facing layoffs and furlough days. Apparently, this doesn’t matter to the suits in Sacramento. Instead, they seem to think that this is the perfect time to grow government.

If the state can barely afford the employees it already has, why not hire more? Sounds like a good idea. However, instead of keeping employees, record keepers and vendors of California bud will all be hired to ensure proper taxation and distribution. And as if that was not enough, Proposition 19 and the 2008 economy made the claim that the bill would create jobs.

When you’re a Keynesian (leaning more toward moron/cliches), you realize that the bill itself is one of the passage states that besides establishing the “wholesale and retail sales regulation program,” taxation within the proposal includes, “special fees to fund taxation within the proposal.”

In addition, anti-marijuana reports composed by bureaucrats, lawyers and law enforcement officials claimed even moderate use incited violent crime and insanity. At that time marijuana was placed under the category of “menace to society” was undermining government authority by trafficking can- nabis, cultivating it in many states that resulted in widespread use, as reported by the National Bureau of Narcotics.

Marijuana use in California is seemingly accepted. There are many “bongs” spread around town, selling bongs and pipes typically not used for smoking tobacco. Last Tuesday was April 20, the California marijuana enthusiast’s user’s day. What’s wrong with the way things are? If you’re caught with a small amount on you, there are places to buy pipes and paper; and even a special day recognizing the fact marijuana is used is out, man. You get a little rush, being defiant as you purchase your package, and once you’re home, life is good.

If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it. If you’re a user, why would you want the government regulating another aspect of your life? At that time marijuana was placed under the category of “menace to society” was undermining government authority by trafficking can-

Thumbs up

New Fresno State season ticket packages

If you haven’t seen it, YouTube it. (It’s OK to use YouTube as a vet, right?) My personal favorite is the old couple who think it’s not so bad. If you haven’t seen it, YouTube it. Apparently, Matt Stone and Trey Parker (the creators of “South Park”) have pissed people off again, this time it involves the Islamic website RevolutionMuslim.com. (See page 4.) Comedy Central even censors the show that talked about the Muslim prophet Mohammed. “South Park” is an equal oppor-
tunity insulter—it makes fun of Muslims (and every episode), Scientologists, Christians and, yes, Muslims. While each particular group may not like it when the show’s barbs are directed at them, that’s the price you pay for liv-

New Feature!

Having a problem that needs solving? Want to make a life-altering deci-
sion and you don’t know what to do? The Collegian offers a Websider with an all new advice column in the Opinion section soon. So send your letters to collegian-opinion@csufresno.edu and look for it!
Leadership Recognition Awards

Individual Awards:
Outstanding Leadership in Service: Melissa Watkins
Outstanding Club Advisor: Dr. Joy Goto
Outstanding Student Leader: Tania Shani Sandoval

Group Awards:
Outstanding Educational Program: Project ASAP
Outstanding Service Program: Magkaisa Filipino Club
Outstanding Leadership Development: NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute)
Outstanding Campus Involvement: Delta Sigma Theta

Congratulations to all of the winner of the 2009-2010 Leadership Recognition Awards, presented on April 22, 2010. We are proud of you for your hard work and commitment to the members of your organizations, campus, and surrounding community!
The terrorists won. It’s become something of a joke, that line, overused to the point of banality; a punch line so easy a child can use it. But when Comedy Central decided to bleep mentions of the prophet Muhammad from a recent “South Park” episode because, and only because, an extremist website had made what amounted to death threats against co-creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the terrorists won.

Because that is the point of terrorism to use acts of violence, in this case the murder of the Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, who dared to make a film critical of Islamic society, as a continual and pervasive threat in order to change social and political policy. In this case, that policy would be free speech. Free speech has never meant you can say whatever you want.

Regulation of content occurs all the time on television, where certain words and acts of sex, violence, vulgarity, racism and other forms of incitement to hate are not allowed. There are rules, after all, even on cable. But “South Park” did not break any of them. Neither did the network’s decision to modify the content of the second half of a two-part episode, in which the prophet Muhammad appeared in a bear suit, come as the result of rational protest or conversation with Islamic watchdog groups. No, it was made out of fear; for the lives of the show’s creators and perhaps the network executives who decided, basically, that the joke wasn’t worth the risk. And so the creator, or creators, of what purports to be an Islamic extremist website was allowed to dictate American policy by taking free speech hostage.

Now, I’m no huge fan of “South Park,” a show I find occasionally funny, occasionally offensive and mildly irritating mainly because I’ve spent hours explaining to my kids why they can’t watch it, even though it’s a cartoon. But it doesn’t matter, because what happened this week isn’t about “South Park” or even Comedy Central. It’s about whether we, as a society, are going to allow a group of crazy people to dictate what we see on television.

It was not just the brutal murder of Van Gogh that the bullets on this website used as a threat; it was also 9-11. On that day, extremists hijacked not only planes but the power of television to terrorize a country so large and powerful they could never hope to wage, much less win, an actual war against it. By claiming to be religious extremists, these particular bullies and murderers also hijacked Islam, just as those who have killed or terrorized physicians performing the legal act of abortion hijacked Christianity.

If one group of crazy people claiming religious outrage is allowed to use the threat of violence as a way to control the public dialogue, what’s to stop every crazy person with an objection or a grudge or a website and too much time on their hands from doing the same? Certainly “South Park” has managed to offend every physician performing the legal act of abortion hijacked Christianity. But “South Park” has a point of banality, a punch line, overused to the point of satire: to, by the act of offending, force society to contemplate its definition of offensiveness and, more important, acceptance. It operates, by its very nature, at the far end of free speech. A good satirist steps over the line all the time, but a satirist moves or even erases it. Irrevocably, mistakes are made, both in decisions to say and air certain things and to avoid or delete them. But the punishment is never death.

No doubt, the “South Park” numbers will jump in the next few weeks, and I suppose that’s one way of making a statement. But it is important for us to remember that the airwaves are just as vital and fragile as our airspace. And if we are serious about national security, it must protect our essence as Americans with the same dedication it protects our lives as Americans.

Free speech, in all its messy, profane, heretical, irritating and soul-stirring glory, built this country. And whether it’s “South Park” or the State of the Union, we, as a society, are going to have to keep the danger of logic on the far end of free speech.
pictures and they will be getting their display board,” Manriquez said. The Fresno Grizzlies also donated about 2,000 pictures and they will be receiving their own board.

As for printing out this massive amount of pictures, Manriquez hopes for the support of a company. “I am sure if we get the photos, we can get in touch with a company that will print all of them out because they will be a part of a world record,” she said.

The group has yet to print out the nearly 40,000 photographs for the exhibit. But, Manriquez said that with the help of a printing company, they will be able to print all of them.

The world’s largest number of people to spoon

One group from this class has banded together to break the record for the largest number of people spooning, which will not only provide people with an attempt at breaking the world record, but give people a chance to donate to a good cause.

Mike Peron, Nick Conway, Morgan Williams, Lance Christensen, Courtney Chooljian, Patricia Sanchez, Jennifer Martinez and Michelle Lawhon chose to partner with the Bulldog Pantry to help out the charity and Fresno State.

“First, we thought of the tag line Spooning for Hunger; so we started thinking of people we could donate our canned food and proceeds to,” Mike Peron, business administration-marketing major said. “We decided to incorporate the food drive to do something for a good cause while completing the world record and their class assignment.

The event is set to take place on May 1 at noon, and the record breaking attempt will start at 1 p.m. Participants in the event will spoon on the Fresno State Marching Band practice field near the Science Two building. The current spooning record stands at 432 people.

“Guinness World Records, Inc. requires that everyone must stay spooning for a minimum of five minutes with at least one arm around each other,” Peron said.

The group projects about 600 people to be at this event to break the world record. Participants can, but are not required to give a donation of $10. “For $10 the person will receive a commemorative ‘I Spooned for Hunger’ T-shirt and an official Guinness World Record Certificate that proves you were a part of breaking a world record,” Peron said.

The group is also collecting donations of canned food for The Bulldog Pantry at this event.
Psychology major awarded volunteer of the year

Celeste Pilegard, 21, plans to continue volunteering as much as she can throughout the rest of her time at Fresno State.

Celeste Pilegard, 21, won the 2010 University Student Volunteer of the Year for her hard work in multiple charities on campus.

Pilegard, along with being the current volunteer coordinator for the Bulldog Pantry, was also an ambassador for the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning. She also was an active member of the recycling club and did volunteer work for Smittcamp Family Honors College.

Pilegard is a founding member of the Bulldog Pantry which provides groceries every Saturday morning for about 200 needy families around the Fresno State campus.

“I was a freshman at the time and I got to meet a lot of great people working with the pantry,” Pilegard said. “It was really the first thing that got me involved at Fresno State.”

A Fresno native, Pilegard decided to stay in her backyard for college.

“I grew up in Fresno and I decided to stay here for college because I felt like I could make an impact here in some way,” Pilegard said. “I decided to challenge myself to see how much of an impact I could make because I know the town and what the community needs.”

Pilegard was surprised to learn that she had won the award. This award carries with it the title, a letter of recognition from President Welty, a plaque and a $1,500
scholarship from the Marc and Marjorie Radin Award for Excellence in Service.

“I know a lot of active volunteers at Fresno State,” Pilegard said. “It is hard to feel deserving when I know a lot of people that dedicate every free moment they have to helping other people.”

The decision of who is bestowed the award falls on an anonymous group comprised of faculty, staff and students. In her work as an ambassador for the Richter Center, Pilegard served as a liaison between the center and campus various programs to infuse community service into the university.

“I was lucky to get selected for the Richter Center,” Pilegard said. “They were looking for students leaders and I was recommended by someone at the Bulldog Pantry.”

Mellissa Jessen, assistant director of the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service-Learning, is supportive of the decision of Pilegard winning this award.

“I am very impressed by Celeste’s work. She consistently demonstrates a mature professionalism way beyond her years,” Jessen said. “She is very gracious in her work with others, showing respect to all she encounters. She is also very creative and she uses that creativity to help promote service at Fresno State.”

Renee Delport, special events and projects coordinator for the Richter Center, thinks that Fresno State needs more people like Pilegard.

“The university would only benefit from people like Celeste,” Delport said. “One person can make an impact and volunteering is definitely a way to make your voice heard.”

Pilgard plans on graduating with a psychology degree and applying to Ph.D programs. Her goal is to become a university professor.

“People that come to Fresno State and do not volunteer are missing out on something that is critical to the Fresno State experience,” Pilegard said.
AYERS: Controversial speaker visits Fresno despite protests

Bill Ayers, an elementary education theorist professor, presented a film, despite protests

AYERS: CONTINUED from page 1

Monday, April 26, 2010

of it. So, yes.

Berkeley], and he’s been part of it. So, he keeps me abreast of it. So, yes.

Q: Do you have any general thoughts about it?

A: I do. I think that one of the things we’re witnessing, and I think we have to worry together about it very deeply, is we’re witnessing a kind of full-scale attack on public higher education. And I think the implications of it in the long run are devastating.

So, when they talk about raising the tuition at Cal (Berkeley) 32 percent, and they talk about cutting offerings, and they talk about you kids graduating from college when 20 years ago you graduated with an average debt of about $5,000 and today you’re graduating with a debt of $25,000, not counting credit cards and other loans. That is an outrage in terms of the promise of education.

The promise of public education was to create equity and create equal access. [It] was to create the possibility of a future that was not so dominated by privilege and oppression. I think that the way we’re going in California, in Illinois, in New York, in Massachusetts, is catastrophic for that future. I think that we have to really have a very major focus on rethinking the role of public higher education.

We need to have a focus on connecting that desire for a robust public education system to opposing, for example, a trillion dollar military budget. These things are related. And we can’t spend everything we have on war, and expect we’re going to have butter as well. Bombs and butter, it’s not possible. So, I hope that students, in their activism, and in their wisdom are able to reframe the debate about public education and make it a human right, which it is. Education is a human right. You have, I believe, in California something like 50,000 kids who are qualified to get into the state system who will not get in, because of your budget. Something like more than 100,000 kids who are qualified in community colleges who won’t get in. You’re going to have a class size in some of your high schools in California of 38 or 37. This is an abomination if we want to have a democratic future.

As students get engaged in the struggle to save their schools, they should also think about how to transform those schools. I know that at [Cal] Berkeley, when the students took over the library, and said that the library should be open 24/7. And then they took an unprecedented step, they invited the community into the library. The community had never been invited into the library. So, suddenly you had a vision not just of saving the library, but transforming the library and making it into a public asset.

The need for faculty layoffs, if any, will not be determined until we have greater clarity this summer, Covino said.

After the fall semester begins, Covino said, the university will be able to assess how many fewer lecturers are working, as compared to fall 2009. Lecturers are not considered tenure-track employees, so if they are not rehired, they are not considered layoffs.

Covino said the board of trustees would determine any future fee increases.

Over the past two years, the university has dealt with the $44 million shortfall with a position freeze, curtailment of spending and deferment of maintenance across campus.

Since 2008, the faculty head-count has been cut by 111 full-time equivalent positions.

Layoffs: Forty-six state, staff and management employees laid off

CONTINUED from page 1

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In addition, the Athletic Corporation will eliminate six positions. Welty said further athletics reductions and furloughs may be a necessity.

“These will be finalized in the coming weeks, as the [Athletic] Corporation prepares its final budget,” Welty said.

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PLAN: The 50-year relationship may be eroding

CONTINUED from page 1

accept everyone else while provi-
ding the first two years of underg-
graduate course work.

Recognizing the sub-stancial pub-
litization of the fram-
ers of the plan confronted the isue of costs by guaranteeing higher education would largely be free of charge.

The Master Plan also called for students to assume a greater share of their education costs by periodically increas-
ing fees to cover non instruc-
tional services such as labo-
atories, student activities and athletics. Financial aid would be made available for students who could not afford these costs, and directly instruc-
tional costs would be paid by the state for all California residents. Ancillary services like parking and dormitories would be self-supporting.

The 10 years following the adoption of the plan, the total growth in higher education grew nearly 300 percent. However, the Master Plan was as much about afford-
ing education to all those who qualified as it was about settling a war of territory between the CSU and UC sys-
tems. The plan’s compromise delegated that the UC would oversee the transfer opportuni ties within public education that were ally benefit from the transfer process, many of which has forced employees to try out, enrollment freezes and redu-
ced class offerings. At the CSU, the nation’s largest public university system, the level of education the future workforce disparity between the segments, and have stated no expectations regarding the number of students the campuses should enroll are a prime example of this.

The value of the plan, Heiman said, lies in its prin-
ciples. However, she argues that it is not sufficient to help policymakers make decisions about higher education in the 21st century.

It creates an illusion of hav-
ing a statewide plan or policy,” Heiman said. “It was a plan to guide growth for a 15-year period, and provided some enduring principles, but it does not provide the guidance we need today.”

Likewise, the community college transfer function has been an integral part of the master plan’s commitment to access, but has faltered in recent years as the transfer process has suffered from disjointed requirements and standards among universities. According to data released by the California Postsecondary Education Commission, relatively few students actu-
ally benefit from the transfer opportunities within public higher education that were central to the Master Plan. In 2007, less than 70,000 trans-
ferred. The result has been a logjam of students, many of which have been unable to reg-
ister for prerequisite courses.

Amending the broken promise

The Public Policy Institute of California, a San Francisco based nonprofit research organization, found in a 2009 report that the state should spend one million college graduates short of its work force needs by 2025. The potential work force disparity between the level of education the future population is likely to possess and the level of education that will be demanded by the future economy is due to the growing demand for workers with a bachelor’s degree, concluded the report.

Ninety thousand graduates leave the CSU every year and enter the work force. The CSU alone educates the majority of the state’s bachelor degree recipients in several critical economic fields, including business, agricultural busi-
ness and engineering, according to a 2004 report.

Despite the fact that tuition hiking has been increasing for years, the three systems have strug-
gled to absorb the see-incongruent cap-
dial drop in state financing which has forced employee turn-
toughs, enrollment freezes and reduced class offerings. At the CSU, the nation’s largest pub-
lic university system, under-
graduate financing have nearly tripled in the past decade. Last year, cuts of more than $500 million from CSU, $400 million from University of California, and $70 million from commu-
nity colleges pushed the high-
er education further from the course of the plan.

The UC President Mark G. Yudof, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed and California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott made a joint appearance at a legis-
lative hearing on Dec. 7 to usher that the state restore enough funding to maintain the Master Plan, where they argued that California’s fiscal crisis has put at risk the ideals outlined in the plan.

“ar Master Plan with its grand ideal of higher educa-
tion for every qualified stu-
dent is clearly in jeopardy today,” Scott said.

The plan’s relevance and util-
ity have become problematic in the past year as California confronts the impact of edu-
cational, economic, and demo-
ographic changes.

Fresno State President John D. Welty in a December 2009 interview with The Collegian said, “The Master Plan is on life support” and the higher education system has reached a point that it is turning away qualified students, a far cry from the original mission of the plan.

“I think that there needs to be a discussion about higher edu-
cation in this state,” he said. “And if the Master Plan needs to be revised, then we will revise it so that it serves the future of this state.”

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Monday, April 26, 2010

14-4. Both games were called 10-run mercy rule 17-6 and Western Athletic Conference's lost both games due to the began on Saturday during the Ribera added another one. junior first baseman Jordan outfielder Dusty Robinson three home runs. Sophomore
Poytress and senior Sean winning 8-3. Sophomore Josh
Bonesteele pitched a combined seven scoreless innings en route to striking out eight.

The pitching staff was pounded by the Nevada hitters, allowing 36 hits and six home runs. The 'Dogs rebounded from the losses on Saturday to split the series, winning 9-3 on Sunday. The pitching staff bounced back to throw a combined seven scoreless innings. Junior second baseman Danny Muno and Ribera each had a home run for the 'Dogs. Ribera had five home runs during the series. The diamond 'Dogs will look to work its consistency when it hosts Dallas Baptist on April 29.

The team's performance at the Invitational was highlight ed with two first-place finishes and many individual career-best performances. Junior distance runner Paul Zwama had a run to remember, finishing first in the 5000 meter run with a time of 14 minutes and 38.88 seconds. Zwama's performance was accompanied by another first place finish for the 'Dogs. Freshmen J'Quoya Moncur-Blue had the longest throw of the day, finishing in first place in the women's hammer throw with a distance of 185 feet and two inches. Sophomore Rosario Sanchez had another strong showing in the women's shot put, with a throw of 50 feet and 1.25 inches. Sanchez' throw was the second-best in the event. Freshman sprinter Breanna Thompson was over a tenth of a second shy of finishing in first place in the women's 200 meter dash. Thompson fin ished in third place, running the event in 24.43 seconds. 14 seconds shy of the leader. Frank Sanders had a strong performance as well. The senior distance runner came in fourth place in the men's one mile run, clocking in at 4 minutes and 23.38 seconds.

The track and field team finally returns home to host its only home meet of the year. The Fresno State Last Chance Meet.

Men's Golf

@ Ping Cougar Classic

With a team score of 282, 6-under par, the Bulldogs finished in seventh place in the 18-team tournament. The Bulldogs held its position at seventh place for 36-holes, having a hard time to fight through to a higher place on the leaderboard.

Individually Brian Sunner was the top finisher for the Bulldogs being 1-under par for the tournament and tied for 11th place. The sophomore has only played in three tournaments this season, this being his highest finish of his career.

Sunner was followed by teammate Michael Gideon shooting even par for the tournament. On Saturday Gideon had two birdies and one bogey. Bhavik Patel was also 1-under par for the first round and tied 24th place overall. The Bulldog golf team heads to Nevada to compete in the 2010 Western Athletic Championships May 3-5.

Women's Golf

@ 2010 WAC Championships

The 'Dogs finished the season well with a joint-team Men's Basketball

Former Fresno State sophomore Paul George declared his entrance into the 2010 NBA Draft last month announcing this past Friday the hiring of his agent. Head coach Steve Cleveland announced George will forgo his final two years of eligibility as a Bulldog. Cleveland is on the hunt to build up his 2010-11 season signing four future student-athletes so far: Bracken Funk, Tyler-Johnson, Kevin Olekaibe and John Ryan. Cleveland will continue his quest for his future roster for the remaining spring signing period.

The McNair Program is now accepting applications for 2011! The McNair Program is a federally-funded program designed to prepare qualified students for graduate study!

Awards and Benefits Include:

- $2,700 Stipend
- Graduate application assistance
- Graduate education seminar series

Eligibility Requirements:

- must be a first-generation, low-income college student and/or a member of a historically-under-represented group in doctorate education as defined by the United States Department of Education
- must be a full-time California State University, Fresno student, possess a minimum G.P.A. of 2.75, have completed 60 academic units as of Spring 2010, and be considering graduate study

Application Deadline: May 20, 2010

Applications available in the Lab School, room 185 or online at www.csufresno.edu/mcnair

For information, please call 278-2946

Baseball

vs. Nevada Wolf Pack
Final: 2-2 (8-3, 6-17, 4-14, 9-3)

Coach Mike Batesole and the Fresno State baseball team suffered from inconsistency this weekend against Nevada at Peccole Park.

On Friday, the 'Dogs had a solid performance all-around, winning 8-3. Sophomore Josh Poytress and senior Sean Bonesteel pitched a combined seven scoreless innings en route to striking out eight.

At the plate, the 'Dogs bat ted well, recording 12 hits with three home runs. Sophomore Blake Bonesteel and senior Sean Bonesteel each had a home run for the 'Dogs. Ribera had five home runs during the series. The Fresno State track and field team had many strong performances this weekend, and many individual career-highs.

Frank Sanders had a strong performance in the men's 200 meter dash. Thompson finished first in the women's 200 meter dash with a time of 24.43 seconds. 14 seconds shy of the leader. Frank Sanders had a strong performance as well. The senior distance runner came in fourth place in the men's one mile run, clocking in at 4 minutes and 23.38 seconds.

The track and field team finally returns home to host its only home meet of the year. The Fresno State Last Chance Meet.

Men's Golf

@ Ping Cougar Classic

With a team score of 282, 6-under par, the Bulldogs finished in seventh place in the 18-team tournament. The Bulldogs held its position at seventh place for 36-holes, having a hard time to fight through to a higher place on the leaderboard.

Individually Brian Sunner was the top finisher for the Bulldogs being 1-under par for the tournament and tied for 11th place. The sophomore has only played in three tournaments this season, this being his highest finish of his career.

Sunner was followed by teammate Michael Gideon shooting even par for the tournament. On Saturday Gideon had two birdies and one bogey. Bhavik Patel was also 1-under par for the first round and tied 24th place overall. The Bulldog golf team heads to Nevada to compete in the 2010 Western Athletic Championships May 3-5.

Women's Golf

@ 2010 WAC Championships

The 'Dogs finished the season well with a joint-team
Six remaining ‘Dogs signed free agent contracts.

By Vongni Yang
The Collegian

After going undrafted in this weekend’s NFL Draft, six former Fresno State football players signed contracts as rookie free agents.

Wide receiver Seyi Ajirotutu will be joining first-round draft pick and former teammate Ryan Mathews with the San Diego Chargers. As a Bulldog, Ajirotutu established himself as the team’s go-to-receiver, finishing as the top pass-catcher for the ‘Dogs. He had a career-best 49 receptions for 677 yards and a career-high seven touchdowns. Ajirotutu earned second-team All-WAC honors as a senior.

Receiver Chastin West will need to adjust from the California sun to the frozen tundra in the Midwest, he signed with the Green Bay Packers. West was a three-year starter and finished his career catching 81 passes for 1,062 yards and six touchdowns. West also excelled on special teams during his time as a Bulldog. He scored three total touchdowns as a returner.

Two players will be transporting their talents to the Sunshine State, receiver Marlon Moore and punter Robert Malone signed with the Miami Dolphins and the Jacksonville Jaguars, respectively. Moore was the team’s standout receiver in 2007. Moore caught a team-high 48 passes for 694 yards and five touchdowns. Malone was a first-team All-WAC selection as a senior after averaging over 46 yards a punt. He boomed 15 punts over 50 yards in 2009 including a season-long 69 yards.

Running back Lonyae Miller will look to compete for a roster spot in a talented and crowded backfield; Miller signed with the Dallas Cowboys. The speedy and tough inside runner closed out his career rushing for 2,062 yards and 20 touchdowns.

Cornerback A.J. Jefferson also inked a free agent deal, signing with the Arizona Cardinals. The speedy corner will look to make an impact on special teams where he excelled as a Bulldog. Jefferson scored four total touchdowns as a special teamer.

The recently signed players will try to impress coaches when they attend their team’s camp for rookies.
The Fresno State softball team continued its dominance at home, winning its seventh straight game at Bulldog Diamond. The New Mexico State Aggies fell victim to the ‘Dogs over the weekend by getting swept 3-0.

On Friday, the ‘Dogs won a nail-biter, winning 4-3 in extra innings. The ‘Dogs took both games on Saturday winning 7-6 and 3-1.

Junior third baseman Nicole Angene got things started on Friday with a walk-off home run to begin the series against the Aggies with a win. Haley Gilleland had a career-setting weekend by becoming Fresno State’s all-time leader in stolen bases with 53 career steals. She had two steals in the series bringing her season total to 16. The junior team captain also had a dominating performance at the plate. Gilleland went 5-for-9 with two RBIs and a home run.

The team improved its overall record to 33-14 and 12-3 in Western Athletic Conference play. The ‘Dogs will look to extend its winning streak when it travels to Honolulu to play Hawaii.