ASI execs talk about plans for the next academic year

By Megan Poindexter
The Collegian

The Collegian met with recently-elected ASI executives Jessica Sweeten and Lauren Johnson. Sweeten, who has held the position of executive vice president since 2008, was elected to serve as next year’s ASI president, and Johnson will be returning to serve for another year as ASI’s vice president of finance. Here are some of the things they had to say about what students can expect for next year.

Q: What are your goals for ASI for the coming school year?

SWEETEN: To lay a solid foundation for years to come and to address the needs of students. I want to start by establishing a few senate and presidential cabinet. I want to look at the needs of students such as the price of textbooks and continue to work to put students on campus committees.

JOHNSON: My main goal is to increase ASI’s exposure and communication with students. I plan on having more collaboration with clubs and programs on campus to ensure that they receive crucial funding so that they can operate optimally. Additionally, before creating the 2010-2011 budget, I would like to perform significant evaluations on current ASI programs and the possibilities of having new ASI programs so that I will be able to adjust the budget to meet the students’ wants and needs for next school year.

Q: Did you feel that the elections were done fairly considering the elimination of all 10 PE.D.R.O. members?

SWEETEN: I do think that elections were done fairly. The student court took action that they felt was needed.

JOHNSON: The Student Court spent a lot of time reaching the decision they made and I support it.

Q: What will be your biggest challenges?

SWEETEN: Overcoming past problems. I will work with the ASI team to accomplish our goals and create a positive ASI.

JOHNSON: A major challenge will be regaining the trust and faith students have in ASI. To restore the image ASI should have, I will be even more transparent than I have been.

A DAY OF remembrance

Community members gather at Fresno State to commemorate the Armenian genocide

By Brian Maxey
The Collegian

A monument built of 12 free-standing and inward-tilted basalt slabs, each a representation of lost history, encircles a flame that burns eternally. Flanked by a sky piercing pillar that cast a shadow over a cemetery where thousands of displaced people were laid to rest, is a symbol of an entire country.

44 years after its erection, Armenian’s still gather in front of the Martyrs Monument to remember the more than 1.5 million Armenian’s who perished in what many historians say was the first genocide of the twentieth century. A group of Fresno State students and faculty gathered in front of a mock-up of the Armenian Martyrs Monument Thursday night in a candle-light vigil; and then again Friday afternoon in one of the many commemorative events that mark the 84 years since the Armenian genocide. The candlelight vigil and the Commemoration Rally were two events held in Fresno State’s Free Speech Area.

A moment of silence was held as well as individual prayers in the native language. The rally also included genocide-themed Armenian dance, and impromptu speeches from students to honor those lost. In addition, a film examining genocide, “Screamers,” was screened in the East Engineering building.

“Every year you get new students, so you can never do it once and just forget about it.”
— Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Professor, Armenian Studies

The processions marked the anniversary of the mass slayings of Armenian intellectuals at the hands of Ottoman authorities during World War I. The day of remembrance came to be known as Martyrs’ Day — the most important secular holiday of the year for Armenians. The day is usually marked with a statement from the White House issued to the press.

Past presidents, however, have disappointed the Armenian community on Martyrs’ Day by not characterizing the purge from 1915 to 1923 as genocide.

See GENOCIDE, Page 2

Photo courtesy of travel.webshots.com

Bulldog football back in action with Spring scrimmage, Page 8

USU Fashion show features designer dress, Page 4

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**ASI: Executives say experience will help**

CONTINUED from page 1

been, and continue to be accessible to students, faculty, and staff. Ideally with this transparency, students will be aware of how their ASI student fees are spent and find that ASI is very responsible when distributing funds.

Q: Lauren, what kind of leadership will you take in helping the university negotiate the economic crisis?

JOHNSON: I will work closely with University Administration to ensure that the inevitable cuts are not made to the detriment of students. I will make it imperative that students are heard when making difficult decisions regarding funding cuts. Similar to how I plan on writing the 2010-2011 budget on the fly with student collaboration to evaluate existing programs, I will encourage University Administration to do the same so that cuts are not made to programs that students especially value.

Q: How will your past experience in ASI influence your choices and decisions for the new administration?

SWEETEN: My past experience will be a great tool. Being involved I know what works and what does not work. I will be able to use all my knowledge to create programs that work. I have seen how ASI can create programs that truly work.

JOHNSON: Because I know the internal processes of funding and how money is disbursed by ASI to clubs and programs, I would like to make that process easier by having one-on-one meetings with them to walk them through the processes and educate them on the funding opportunities available. I also know the history of ASI, and what has worked for it in the past and what hasn’t. I plan to address and repair the shortcomings of ASI and build upon ASI’s many strengths.

Q: Jessica, what should students look forward to most in the next year?

SWEETEN: Students can look forward to some exciting opportunities to serve within ASI and campus committees. As well as ASI to fund their clubs and organizations. Students should also be looking forward to chances to affect higher education through a lobbying corps.

**GENOCIDE: Some attendees critical of Obama’s language**

Continued from page 1

In similar fashion, President Obama avoided using the word “genocide” Friday in his written statement on the matter. Instead, he referred to the events as “atrocities.”

During his candidacy, Obama pledged to support recognition of the Armenian genocide. Even openly acknowledging the matter in a YouTube video aimed at Armenian voters, Armenian-American groups have since criticized Obama for not honoring his campaign pledge.

Obama’s word choice let down many Armenian hopefuls, but he contends that his stance on the matter has not changed since taking office.

Vickie Kalajian, a local Armenian, expected President Obama to stand by the promise he made while on the campaign trail. “He should have respected his promises, not only until he collected his votes,” Kalajian said.

Der Mugrdechian, likewise, said he was deeply disappointed that the President decided against using the word “genocide” in his statement. “He broke the promise that he made to the American people.”

However, Obama used the phrase “Meds Yeghern” in his statement—which is Armenian for “The Great Crime” or “The Great Tragedy,” a reference that Der Mugrdechian believes is a strong affirmation of what occurred in 1915.

“If he used the word genocide, Turkey would have been upset,” Der Mugrdechian said. “But, I think it would have gotten them to think about change, and it would be more productive than continued denial.”

Earlier this month, President Obama visited the Turkish capital of Ankara, where he addressed the parliament and spoke optimistically about a breakthrough between the two countries. “But Turkish officials made it clear that any genocide statements in Washington would bottleneck the process. Turkey, a NATO member and strategic ally with the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, has the geographic advantage of bordering Iran and Iraq, which has meant the United States has been careful not to strain diplomatic relations with the country.

“That has been the major stumbling block,” Der Mugrdechian said. “The US does not want to upset Turkey, because of military and economic ties. They’re afraid that if Turkey gets upset that somehow those ties will be cut.”

Although the Turkish government contends that the death toll was exaggerated and disputes the branding as genocide, talks of a rapprochement began last Wednesday in an effort to “normalize” relations between Turkey and Armenia.

For some Armenians, like Der Mugrdechian, optimism that a president will recognize the genocide as such remains elusive. “I believe that the President can make good on his promise by working to get Turkey to acknowledge the Genocide,” Der Mugrdechian said. “The sooner the better.”
Cash savin’ clippings

Pepsi & Prozac
SARAH A. PETERSON

My grandmother, bless her soul, hated the C-word. Couponing. Nothing annoyed her so much as some poor soul digging through their coupons, holding up the checkout line at the grocery store, all in a futile attempt to save a measly 50 cents on yogurt and canned peas.

Boy, if she could only see me now, rushing through the Sunday paper for the ads and coupon inserts on my lunch break.

In fact, it has gotten so bad, I’m almost ready to start lugging around one of those bulky coupon organizers like the kind my mom has.

It all began innogenously enough, when I started clipping out diaper coupons for a co-worker with two kids under 2. I probably got the hang of it too fast; pretty soon I was doling out more Huggies money-savers than she could fast; pretty soon I was doling out more.

So, with a grand total of five Super Pretzel coupons, which promptly led to a soft yoghurt and canned peas.

I’d still be out $4.

There are usually no more than a few winners, and sometimes I’ll even end up tossing a coupon or two if the savings just aren’t worth it.

Every coupon fanatic has their own way of doing it. Some try to extract coupons for just a few of them will match up with Target’s food selection. There are usually so much more than a few winners, and sometimes I’ll even end up tossing a coupon or two if the savings just aren’t worth it.

I’m not going to buy two cans of Pringles at $2.99 a pop, just to get a dollar off. I’d still be out $4.

Once in a while, however, I’ll make a total killing, like the Suave coupon for 75 cents off. Because Suave is only 94 cents at Target. I only paid a whopping 19 cents for a stick of deodorant!

Duplicate coupons occur quite frequently in the Sunday paper, and this is how habits develop, on anything from food to cosmetics.

For instance, after dissecting the inserts like an animal in high school biology lab, I came up with a grand total of five Super Pretzel coupons, which promptly led to a soft pretzel addiction.

But these trends never last. After about a month or so, a new flock of brands will take over my favorite section of Sunday’s Blew (with the exception of the ever- resilient Huggies), and as a result, new addictions form. (This is partly responsible for why I’ve been buying up all of the lip gloss at Longs.) I don’t know, maybe it is time for me to get a coupon holder of some kind, because I’m starting to find their soggy remains in the wash along with my jeans and wayward pennies.

And I guess when it comes to my grandmother’s views on coupons, it pays to be prepared when you get to the checkout line.

 Duplicate coupons occur quite frequently in the Sunday paper, and this is how habits develop, on anything from food to cosmetics.

“ Coupons may not save me a lot of dough, but what I do save puts this big goofy grin on my face, like I’ve won the lottery or a trip to Mars. I guess this is just one of the side effects of being a cheapskate.”

Thumbs down

Gangstas

It seems Fresno PD is sending a tough message to gangsters, after 153 people were arrested during a street gang operation this past weekend. Hopefully this means ‘thugger’ is getting harder in Fresno and we won’t see any more shootouts like last week’s any time soon.

Thumbs down

Piggy flu

With 20 confirmed cases of the swine flu in the United States, and seven of those in California, the swine flu is now being labeled as a public health emergency by the U.S. government. Hopefully it doesn’t get any worse, we don’t want to be sportswearing masks while we out and about.

Thumbs up

Cash donors

Economic hard times and yet there’s people willing to donate big cash to high-er education, and even better, to Fresno State. The aggies over at the CAFES College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology received a hefty $29 million donation last week from a Bay area family. The donation is the largest cash gift ever given to a university in the CSU system.

Thumbs up

Women’s Tennis

The Bulldogs took the WAC tournament title on Saturday, making this their eighth WAC title win in a row. The team will head to the NCAA Regionals after they learn who their next opponent is on Tuesday.

Thumbs up

Fresno State NFL draft picks

Zack Faielli is off to Detroit, Tom Brandstater is headed to Denver and Bear Pascoe is staying in good ol’ California to play for the San Francisco 49ers. Hopefully NFL prospects will pump current Bulldogs to play hard come this football season.
Word of the Day
Twatted
The past tense of “tweeting” on Twitter.

From UrbanDictionary.com

In tune with diversity week, local designers, some who are alumni of the university, will be displaying their original fashions and accessories at Fresno State’s first fashion show hosted by USU Productions.

Fashion Fusion will start at 7 p.m. on April 28 in the Satellite Student Union, where a 24-foot catwalk will be erected.

Fresno State’s own dance group BDX will be the opening performance, DJ Nebie will be spinning tracks for the models to strut to during the show and the intermission will feature R&B artist Mateo.

The goal though, is to place the emphasis on the design. “We do have a diverse array of clothing and talent here, we’ll just be showcasing that,” senior Carolyn Harris, an interior design major and coordinator of the Student’s prepare for catwalk

By Victoria L. Jones
The Collegian

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Bryan Cole / The Collegian

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From University Business Center (Bottom Floor)
Sawi Nighbel
Hosted by the Fresno State Salsa Club

Student’s prepare for catwalk

By Victoria L. Jones
The Collegian

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CONTINUED from page 4

Student-made styles are modern

show said.

Seventeen designers are scheduled to feature not just clothing, but hair, hats, jewelry and make-up. The designers are limited to eight to 12 looks for the two-hour show, Harris said there may only be time for eight, but they want the designers to be prepared if there is time for more.

The creator of Private Plane Originals, Falina Marihart, got most of her contacts [designers] for them, Harris said, “so, that has been the easy part, she kind of did all the work for us.

Fellow coordinator and junior Dalitto Ruwe, a cultural anthropology major, contacted Marihart because of the fashion event she hosts in the Tower District called the Fashion Style Lounge. Marihart created the lounge to give indie designers and beauty gurus a place to flaunt their goods in a party-like atmosphere.

Marihart designs classic looking hats with a modern twist and is just one of several Fresno State alumni involved with the show. She is still working on new styles for 2010.

“It’s really hard when you first start out, so you need all the help and breaks you can get to launch a brand and hopefully be successful with it,” Marihart said.

Other alumni who are participating as designers in the show include Courtney Griffin and her Stickie Brand Clothing designs, and Alana Little and her brand Make Pie Not War.

“They are going to have to play off of each other and kind of work together,” Harris said of the designers and their various fashions.

Ruwe screened all the models for the show. There will be a total of 22 models, both male and female with the majority being students.

There will be only one opportunity for a dress rehearsal, the Sunday before the show. It will run all day Harris said, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Each designer is allowed to recommend a style of music they would like to accompany their design, but Harris and Ruwe will have the final say on the music played.

All participating designers will have free space available to sell their merchandise. There will also be space provided for vendors who are not participating in the show, but would like to display and/or sell their products during the event.

Harris said a fashion merchandising major from Fresno State will also be at the show, not as a designer, but just to display the Bohemian fashions from her own closet. Refreshments will also be made available.

Tickets for the show are $7 for the public and $5 for students with a valid school ID.

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**Bay Area goes wideouts**

*By Tim Kawakami - McClatchy Tribune*

Michael Crabtree – diva, devil or divinity? – is everything the 49ers needed and couldn’t have ever expected to receive.

He’s a gift to this woe-begotten franchise, really. A potential playmaking, headlining wideout who was never guaranteed to drop to the 49ers from the sky.

Fumbled away by Al Davis’ Raiders, when you really get down to it.

Crabtree never should have been there for the 49ers, picking him 10th in the 2009 NFL draft. He should have been some other team’s happy discovery and instant celebration.

Of course, Crabtree might turn out to be a bit of a headache, and 49ers Coach Mike Singletary said he never considered crabbing about the possibility Crabtree certainly isn’t the fast-paced, fire-breathing, 20th-century Birthday Bully Darius Heyward-Bey.

Three picks later, the 49ers took Crabtree with the 10th pick in this soft draft immediately becomes the 49ers’ splashiest draft day since taking Alex Smith in 2005.

He could be their most instantly applause-worthy offensive top pick since perhaps Harris Barton in 1987, a quarterback named Jerry Rice in 1985.

And Crabtree definitely is the 49ers’ 1st premium pick ever since Terrell Owens was drafted by the Raiders 1st overall in 2001 almost precisely when the 49ers’ offense went dormant.

It’s a great history behind the 49ers, man. Crabtree said by phone from New York, “A lot of teams have played me. I’ve got big shoes to fill.

Singletary allowed that the team was considering several options at wideout, including a prime tackle. But when Crabtree was available, there was no doubt.

“Our first rounder, Crabtree was available, there was no doubt,” Singletary said.

“Normally when you get great players, sometimes you get a little bit of attitude with them,” Singletary said, “thinking for us, on the offensive side of the ball, a little flash, a little swagger is fine with me.”

They got lucky. They needed Al Davis to get goofy again. They might be risking a little bit. But the 49ers put some instant swagger back into their offense on Saturday, and it is more than they could’ve ever expected.

**Jets trade up for Sanchez**

*By J.P. Pelzman - McClatchy Tribune*

The Jets pulled off the blockbuster trade hoping they got the top two picks in the 2009 NFL draft, and they did it with the help of an old friend.

The Jets acquired Cleveland’s first-round pick, the 18th overall, on Thursday, and used it to select Southern California quarterback Mark Sanchez. The Browns, now coached by former Jets coach Eric Mangini, were desperate to get Sanchez, which is just as big a media scrutiny of this area.

Sanchez pointed to another top-talent tight end 7th overall.

Sanchez indicated he expects him to be a friendly competition. Sanchez didn’t take advantage of the opportunity by throwing for a touchdown with only 10 interceptions while leading the Trojans to a 1-3 record and a Rose Bowl victory over Penn State.

The Jets were impressed by Sanchez when they met with him last month during the owners’ meetings in California. Coach Rex Ryan said they “targeted” him after meeting him.

Sanchez “lights up a room,” Tannenbaum said.

Offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer and quarterback coach Matt Cavanaugh gave him a scaled-down playbook, and the Jets’ brain trust was impressed with how quickly he assimilated the information.

“I was pleasantly surprised to see a lot of the same plays (from the USC offense) in the playbook,” Sanchez said, adding that the two offensive systems share “very similar concepts.”

As for the players the Jets traded away, Cavanaugh said: “Technical receiver城际线Howie’s Pizza

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Pair of Bulldogs go in the sixth round

By Lorenzo Reyna
The Collegian

Two former Bulldogs will have their last name on a different kind of football uniform this coming fall.

One will take his blocking and receiving to the Bay Area. The other will join a quarterback race in the Rocky Mountains in Denver.

Tom Brandstater and Bear Pascoe are the latest Fresno State Bulldogs to join the National Football League. Both were selected in the sixth round of the NFL Draft on Sunday.

Brandstater was the 174th overall pick in the draft, while his former favorite receiver, Pascoe, was selected as the 184th overall pick.

The Turlock native will suit up for coach Josh McDaniels and the Broncos. Pascoe will now be coached by the 49ers.

Pascoe was able to capture the attention of NFL scouts with his blocking ability. The massive 6-foot-5, 260-pound tight end from Porterville was a helping hand in the Bulldogs’ running game throughout his Fresno State career.

Pascoe isn’t looking forward to playing against anyone in particular or signing any major contract right now. He’s content with where he is.

“I think if anything it’s just being in the NFL,” Pascoe said. “It’s been a dream ever since I was a little kid. Each week, I’m going to line up against some of the best players in the world. That’s just awesome right there.”

Fresno State head coach Pat Hill was a former assistant on the Cleveland Browns from 1991-1994. He has learned one thing about players getting drafted over the years.

“It takes one team to really love them,” Hill said. “Then you never know how that is going to turn out. Both of them are quality young men and that means a lot. I think they have good opportunities to have a chance to get to camp and chase that dream of being a professional football player.”

Hill, however, felt that both men getting drafted isn’t the only thing he can say he’s proud of.

“The main thing that I talked to them about is making sure they get their college degrees and they did. So I’m really proud of that,” Hill said. “The National Football League is not something that lasts for a long time for any player. I wish them all the best of luck and take advantage of it every day, because you never know when that career is going to end. But the great thing they’ve done already is they got their college degree.”

Pascoe admits that he’ll miss being in the bay area. He is proud of that.

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The rite of Spring football

Offense rules

‘Dogs’ annual Spring game, but defense should improve by August

By Logan Hopkins

The Fresno State spring game might have been a relaxing afternoon for fans at Bulldog Stadium, but the players and coaching staff had one thing in mind – replicating a real game.

For the second weekend in a row, the Bulldogs divided teams to separate offensive and defensive units and played in competitive intrasquad scrimmages.

While imitating a real college football game is impossible, head coach Pat Hill was pleased with the closeness to a game-type situation on Saturday.

“The last two weeks have been about as close to being live as you can be,” Hill said. “It is very hard to duplicate the game of football.”

Players were working on physical technique, comfort level and cohesion of units, as well as playbook memorization. Coaches were focusing on communication andrelaying plays from the press box down to the field in a timely manner.

Both the offense and the defense were practicing hand signals from the sidelines to players on the field and substitutions in correct groups and packages.

The offensive and defensive units may have been working on the same things before spring practices wrap up, but naturally there is rivalry between the Red, offense, and White, defense sides.

“When we go back into the locker room, we’ll be slapping each other on the sides.

But naturally there is rivalry between the series. But even without the blitzes, Harris still felt that bragging rights were up for grabs.

It’s pretty intense, because it’s about bragging rights in the locker room,” Harris said. “We had been dominating them all spring long, every scrimmage we had won.”

The defense had a strong showing early in the spring and seemed to have the upper hand on the offense, but Saturday’s 65-point loss to the Red team forced the defense to dig deep and keep fighting down the stretch.

When Harris needed a little extra to keep his and the defense’s spirits up, he thought of his coach that never gave up.

For two years [defensive coordinator Dan Brown] had brain cancer and never missed a day,” Harris said. “Even though he was losing the battle, he showed up every day.”

Brown passed away in March and will be an inspiration for the Bulldogs in the upcoming season.

“We just think about coach Brown and how he fought,” Harris said. “He stays in our heart the whole time.”

By Logan Hopkins

The Collegian

The Upper Upper Deck

HAsten WillIs

Indecision to name starting quarterback could slow down offense

A n unexpectedly large crowd of 3,000 turned out to watch the Bulldogs’ spring scrimmages as part of a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

Discount merchandise was sold at the gate.

Rich folks ate lunch behind one of the end zones while the players sweated out their problems and troubles a few yards away.

All of this and the university didn’t even have to get another team to show up. Pure marketing genius.

Media members from all the major outlets were studded together right in front of the band. The auditorium buzz was employed to shut down their ability to stir the pot and express liberal bias.

The band sounded great by the way, and rumor has it they will be reunited with the student section next season. If so, it is probably because none of next season’s games will sell out, but let’s pretend it’s for the fans, OK?

Meanwhile, the women’s tennis team won their eighth straight conference title. Why did the gods of sport make football so popular?

Of course, most people came out to form an opinion on the quarter-back controversy.

The offense won the game over the defense 86-31 using some converted scoring system. Derek Carr fumbled his own 30 yard line and the defense recovered. The next play the offense still had the ball at the same 30 yard line, only facing the other direction. The young freshman is learning fast.

Next spring he plans to fumble at his own one yard line.

A left-handed quarterback wearing No. 15 tried to make everyone think he was Tim Tebow, running and throwing so hard he once lost his shoe trying to push the pile.

Pat Hill kept up his laissez-faire attitude toward the quarterback controversy, saying, “If we have to play more than one quarterback, that’s fine. We probably will. It’s good to have three that can play at this level. A lot of [teams] are trying to find one.”

- Pat Hill

Bulldog sound bite of the week

“ ‘Dogs’ annual Spring game, but defense should improve by August

By Logan Hopkins

The Collegian

Spring scrimmage scoring system

Coach Pat Hill implemented a unique scoring system, allowing both the offense and defense to score on Saturday.

Offensive scoring

• Touchdown: 6 points
• Extra point: 1 point
• First down: 1 point
• Field goal: 3 points

Defensive scoring

• Turnover: 7 points
• Hold offense to three-and-out: 2 points
• Force offense to punt: 1 point
• Missed extra point: 1 point
• Offense misses a field goal under 40 yards: 4 points
• Defense misses a field goal under 40 yards: 7 points
• Defense misses a field goal more than 40 yards: 1 point

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