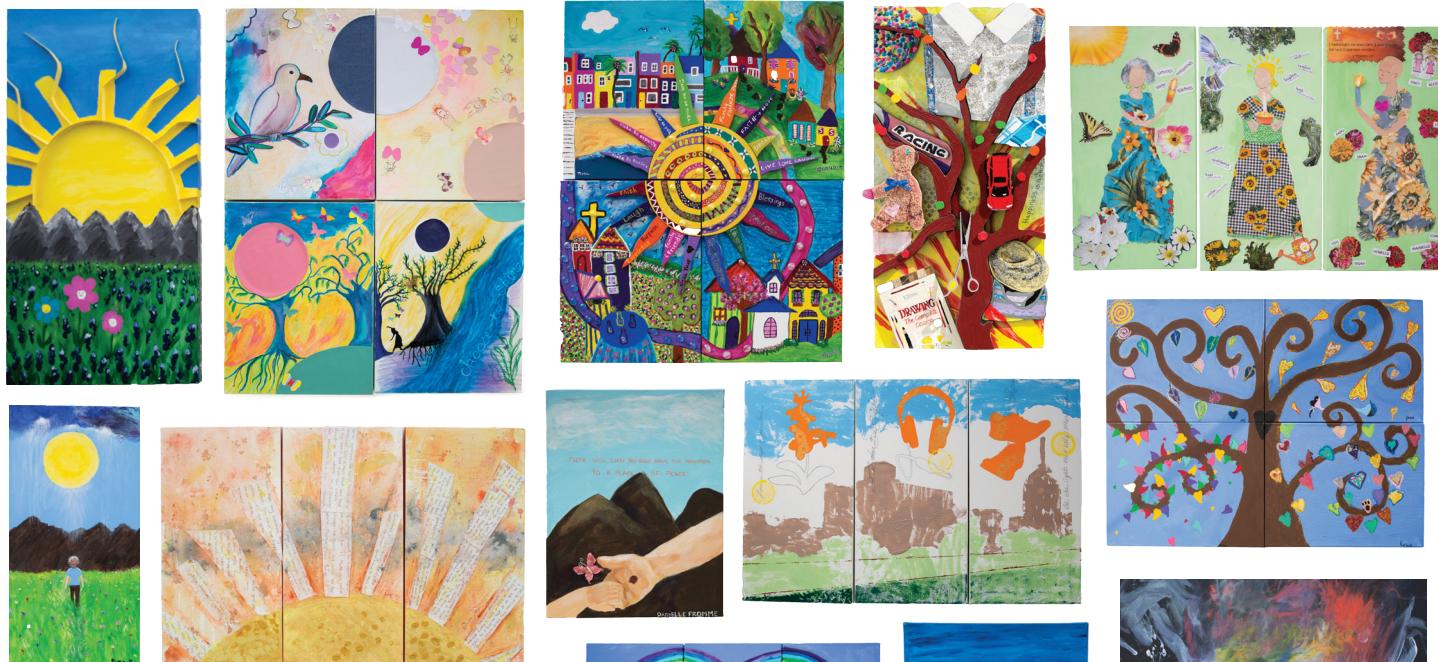


THE COLLEGIAN

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2014

FRESNO STATE'S STUDENT VOICE SINCE 1922

FRESNOSTATE.EDU/COLLEGIAN



LIFE'S A CANVAS



Story by Ricardo Cano | Photo Illustration by Darlene Wendels

Cancer survivors illustrate journey through art

The three-piece painting was a collage of spring – bright green, sunflower yellow and sky blue. Suzanne Blattel, of Fresno, and her two friends Sharon Lawson and Diana Garrison – all of them cancer survivors – shared their work, “God Shines Through,” to family, friends and the public Sunday afternoon outside the Satellite Student Union. Each third of the painting featured imagery and words that helped them “shine on” through tumultuous times.

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STUDENT LOANS

Default rates down, but costs increasing

By Jesse Franz
@JesseOfTheNews

The rate at which people default on their student loans is decreasing nationally, according to the newest numbers from the U.S. Department of Education, even though the average debt owed by each student continues to reach historic highs.

The most recent three-year fed-

eral student loan cohort's default rate dropped to 13.7 percent for students entering loan repayment who attended public, private or for-profit institutions. The rate, which is widely used by the government to assess colleges' abilities to make education financially beneficial, is down from last year's 14.5 percent – the highest mark reached during the years after the 2007 recession.

While the national rate at which

students default on their loans declined, 650,000 additional students were forced to begin repaying their loans in the U.S. compared to the previous year.

College is also getting more expensive. Students in the class of 2014 on average are projected to graduate with a record \$33,000 in debt, according to a study by edu-

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Blast from the past

British Valley Auto Club brings back classics at auto show in Old Town Clovis. See Page 4 for more.

Sexual assault bill passed, infrastructure funding vetoed

Gov. takes action on two bills that impact CSU system

By Nadia Pearl
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In a crucial weekend of state legislation affecting California universities and their students, Gov. Jerry Brown took action on two key bills that will directly impact Fresno State in the future.

Brown signed the “yes-means-yes” campus sexual assault bill into law Sunday. The bill requires federally funded universities, such as CSU campuses, to adopt the standard of unambiguous, affirmative consent been given when engaging in sexual activity. It will also mandate new requirements for colleges to follow when investigating reports of sexual assault.

The signing comes amongst the nationwide push lead by the Obama administration to tackle the issue of sexual assault on campus. California is the first state to adopt the standard of “yes-means-yes,” replacing the previous standard of “no-means-no,” which put the responsibility on the victim verbalizing they did not want to engage in sexual activity.

Meanwhile, Brown vetoed part of a budget bill on Saturday that would have granted the California State University and University of California systems \$50 million each for deferred maintenance.

Brown cited property tax revenues being below budget estimates as the reason for the veto, explaining the money should be used for unforeseen state costs.

“Making investments to maintain the state’s aging infrastructure continues to be a major priority for my administration, as is paying down the state’s debts and reducing other long-term liabilities,” Brown wrote in his veto message.

“However, we are nearly one quarter into the fiscal year now and we should not commit additional general fund monies of this magnitude when we are facing unanticipated costs such as fighting the state’s extreme wildfires.”

Daniel Clark, a Fresno State student and president of the student-governed California State Student Association, said Brown’s