

MEMO

June 26, 1999

to: June Allison via email
Lisa Hagel
Ginger Hellmann via email
Cookie Hirn via email
Michael Jablonowski via email
Leigh Jordan
Jack McIlroy via email
Jack Meyer via email
Tom Origer
Sunshine Psota via email
Jim Quinn via email
Suzanne Stewart via email
Mike Stoyka via email
Scotty Thompson via email
Christian Gerike via email

from: Mary Praetzellis

re: my section of Dave for Wednesday's meeting

Boy did I regret taking on this task in a moment of guilt-inspired weakness. I realized that each of you has your own thoughts on Dave and where his importance lies, etc. But here it is. Comments/additions/whatever most welcome—I am not sensitive about my writing.

David A. Fredrickson (or DAF as he is affectionately known), Director Emeritus of the Anthropological Studies Center, was born in Berkeley in 1927. He did well in school, distinguished himself as a wrestler, and played country songs on the guitar. Dave graduated from historic Sequoia High School in Redwood City and spent a few semesters at U. C. Berkeley before joining the military, where he was training in air combat when WWII ended in 1945. Returning to UCB on the GI Bill, Dave discovered archaeology and learned to dig under the tutelage of Robert Heizer and others. During the 1950s, Dave took a brief hiatus in the world of instrumental folk music where he performed, recorded, and taught, while driving a taxi to support his family. Then, in 1961, he accepted a job with the Central California Archaeological Foundation directing state-sponsored archaeological projects throughout California. Once back in archaeology, Dave decided to pursue an advanced degree. He received his M.A. from U.C. Davis in 1966 and, in 1973, completed his much-cited Ph.D. dissertation: "The Archaeology of the North Coast Ranges, California." Meanwhile, Dave had taken a teaching job at what was then Sonoma State College, where he and Mildred Dickemann made plans for a Department of Anthropology.

With the passage of the National Environmental Protection Act in 1969 and the California Environmental Quality Act in 1970, the era of public archaeology was born. Beginning in 1973, Dave ran the "Regional Clearinghouse," or Information Center, and began to take on contracts for CEQA-related projects, thereby providing educational and employment opportunities to students. During these early years, Dave donated \$500 every month or so for supplies and student wages to run the clearinghouse and what became the Anthropological Studies Center. The contract archaeology business grew and demand was such that, in 1977, the University approved the Master's program in Cultural Resources Management. By 1980 Dave had fully implemented his plans and the ASC was thriving (for more on

Dave's career, see Greg White's excellent tribute in "There Grows a Green Tree: Papers in Honor of David A. Fredrickson," Center for Archaeological Research at Davis Publication No. 11).

Although Dave has received numerous awards for his work—most recently the Society for American Archaeology's 1998 Cultural Resources Management Award—it is doubtful that any of us on the Endowment Committee are there solely because of his scholarly contributions. Rather, it is Dave's deep personal commitment to his students, his willingness to take risks on our behalf, his ability to get the most out of things—whether it be a seemingly poor data set or a less than brilliant graduate student—and his remarkable agility in bridging what, to everyone else, appear to be irreconcilable differences.

Dave has always been an investor in people. Many cultural resource practitioners in California received their first training and research opportunities under Dave's protective wing. His high ethical principles and standards of fair play became ingrained in those who worked with him. The relatively congenial environment enjoyed by CRM archaeologists in northern California can be partly credited to Dave's strong influence. The **David A. Fredrickson CRM Award** continues this tradition by providing a means whereby the employees of ASC can invest in the future of students and staff by providing funds to help them achieve their research goals.

Dave's genius has always been in envisioning research opportunities in places and things that other archaeologists overlooked in their search for spectacular, National Geographic-type sites and artifacts. Through micro-constituent and obsidian analyses, surface-transect units, and other focused field and analytical techniques, Dave led the way in the reconstruction of the prehistoric past of the North Coast Ranges. The **David A. Fredrickson CRM Award** seeks to support similarly innovative approaches that strive to make the most of the sometimes apparently meager results of CRM-based archaeology.

There is hardly an aspect of California CRM that has not been influenced for the better by David A. Fredrickson. Ours is a new field that did not even exist when Dave entered U.C. Berkeley so many years ago. Those of us who have observed CRM in other states or countries know how fortunate we are to have Dave here, working on our behalf. This award reminds us all of how we came to be here and that we honor Dave best by making sure that his open, generous, and optimistic approach to both people and the practice of archaeology is passed on to the next generation.