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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2007

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THREE ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS ARRESTED IN SCHEME TO HACK INTO FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY'S COMPUTER SYSTEM TO MAKE UNAUTHORIZED GRADE CHANGES

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that late Wednesday afternoon a third and final defendant was arrested by law enforcement on an outstanding warrant issued on October 25, 2007 after a federal grand jury in Fresno returned an indictment charging LARRY DONNELL JONES, 31, CHRISTINA MICHELLE DAVIS, 35, both of Anchorage, Alaska, and ANTONIO LAMAR PRATT, 32, of Fresn/Clovis, with conspiracy, honest services wire fraud, unauthorized access of computer and identity theft related to a grade changing scheme perpetrated against California State University, Fresno.

These cases were the result of an extensive investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Cyber Crimes Task Force and the Fresno State Police Department. The Cyber Crimes Task Force consists of the FBI, Fresno Police Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, California Department of Justice and United States Secret Service. Both intrusions were discovered by Fresno State University while performing an audit on their grading software.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stanley A. Boone, JONES, a student and Fresno State employee, was able to access the university's computer system by obtaining user names and passwords without the user's permission. Utilizing this information, JONES assumed the identities of Fresno State's Registrar and Assistant Registrar, allowing him to make grade changes for himself, his girlfriend DAVIS and friend PRATT. In all, JONES made 44 grade changes. The FBI arrested JONES and DAVIS late Friday evening in Anchorage, Alaska. They made their initial appearance in Anchorage, Alaska, on Monday afternoon, November 5, 2007. PRATT had been a fugitive for over a week until he was arrested late Wednesday afternoon in Clovis, California. The indictment had been sealed pending the arrest of these defendants.

Last week, two other defendants involved in the grade changing scheme, JOHN ESCALERA, 29, of Fresno, and GUSTAVO RAZO, JR., 28, of Pasadena, California, made their initial court appearance in federal court on similar charges involving conspiracy, honest services mail fraud, identity theft and unauthorized access of computer. They were indicted on October 25, 2007 by a federal grand jury. Their next court date is set for November 16, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. before United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill.

The maximum charged counts carry a maximum of 20 years in prison and/or a $250,000 fine. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only an allegation, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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