

CALU

REVIEW

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MAGAZINE • SPRING 2020



LISTENING AND LEARNING

Students conduct
hearing screenings

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Throughout its history, our University has embraced the ideal of community service. California's historic mission in teacher education arose from the conviction that communities benefit when their residents are knowledgeable and skilled. As our school's vision grew to include the liberal arts, science and technology, its commitment to community service expanded as well.

Today, that service takes many forms, from conducting hearing screenings for thousands of local children to supporting area historical societies to mentoring our region's first-generation college students.

Cal U faculty and students are bringing art to a nearby town and expanding cultural awareness at a neighboring high school. Projects like these, and so many more, underscore our University's longstanding role as a regional asset.

A culture of community service benefits our students, as well as our neighbors. It gives them opportunities to put their classroom learning into practice and see the real-world difference it can make. It builds social responsibility and a sense of purpose. Through volunteer activities, students learn that we enrich our own lives when we act on behalf of others.

As our generous alumni demonstrate time after time, these are lessons that last.

Although many outreach activities were curtailed this spring in the interest of public health, Cal U remains committed to serving our neighbors, our region and the commonwealth.

In this edition of the *Review*, you'll meet Cal U students, faculty, staff and alumni who are making a difference in western Pennsylvania and beyond. If you are inspired to join them, let us know. There are many opportunities to support our students, and to join our Cal U community in service to others.

With warmest wishes,



Geraldine M. Jones

Geraldine M. Jones
PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CAL U REVIEW

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ON THE COVER

Graduate student Abby Cover places headphones over second-grader Tyler Mueller's ears during a hearing screening at Marion Elementary School in Belle Vernon, Pa.

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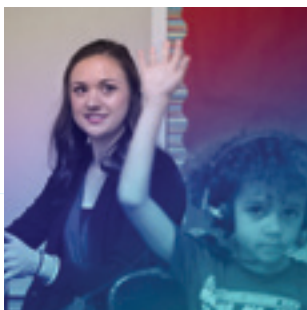
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LISTENING & LEARNING

Communication disorders students conduct hearing screenings



Graduate student Camryn Dugan checks a child's hearing.

With whispered words and a buzz of excitement, first-graders in the California Area School District lined up outside a classroom, waiting their turns.

It was hearing screening day in the district, as mandated in Pennsylvania for students in kindergarten, first, second, third, seventh and 11th grades, as well as for special ungraded classes.

The children were excited to interact with Cal U graduate students in the communication disorders program, who were ready to administer the tests.

"Listen carefully, and raise your hand when you hear a beep, OK?" the instructions went.

Students in the communication disorders program have helped area schools with hearing tests since 2001. During the 2019-2020 school year, these master's degree candidates tested thousands of students in area school districts.

The screenings are a first step in identifying hearing deficits that can interfere with

a child's speech, language, social and emotional development, and school readiness. Those who don't pass are referred for follow-up testing.

"Rather than reading about it in a textbook and practicing among themselves, our students get to experience working as a team, working with different age levels, and working with children with special needs," says Dr. Ralph Belsterling, who created the partnership with school districts almost two decades ago.

"They also gain interprofessional collaborative experiences with other healthcare providers and professionals."

The hands-on experience is valuable for Cal U students — and school districts appreciate the help.

At California Area, more than 400 children must be screened each year, says school nurse Sharon Leonard '93, who also is busy managing complex medical conditions, like the student who was having her insulin level checked on the day of the screening.



**It's a win-win-win.
The local schools, our
University students, and
especially the children
we screen all benefit."**

EMILY SMEARCHECK '19

"For us to bring in 16 of our graduate students and screen 250 students in two hours is very much appreciated," Belsterling says.

"It gives our students an idea of the workloads they may have as school-based speech-language pathologists. A speech clinician might work with 60 children, and a school nurse might be responsible for up to 1,500 students."

Emily Smearcheck '19 is pursuing her master's degree after earning a bachelor's in communication disorders at Cal U. She reached into her speech-language pathologist's "bag of tricks" during her screening experience.

"We screened such diverse populations," she says. "These included children with profound hearing impairments who wore hearing aids that we needed to know how to remove, children for whom English is a second language, and students with special needs."

"We had to learn how to get the students to respond to the sound stimulus if they didn't want to raise their

hands. We asked one girl to give us a high-five, and she loved that!"

Smearcheck is proud to provide a community service.

"Practicing good hearing health is crucial," she says. "Some students may only have their hearing screened through this service Cal U provides, so it's nice to know we play a role in preventative care."

The chance to experience real-world scenarios as a student makes the communication disorders program at Cal U stand out, Smearcheck adds.

"Freshmen have the opportunity to have hands-on experience from the start," she says. "It's a great feature. Students at other (schools) may not experience this until later in their academic careers, or they may have to seek out their own experiences."

"And many of the professors in the department are still practicing speech-language pathologists. They're up to date with the trends in the field, which is crucial for preparing students to enter the workforce."

Belsterling started the hearing-screening program in 2001, when he first came to Cal U.

"Our students love doing it; they love putting their education tools to use," he says.

"It's a win-win-win. The local schools, our University students, and especially the children we screen all benefit." ■

*By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U*



It's hearing screening day at California Elementary School, where communication disorders student Aimee Kefauver fits a child with headphones.

Therapy for Parkinson's patients



People with Parkinson's disease who may benefit from speech-language therapy have a resource at the free Speech and Hearing Clinic at Cal U.

The clinic is directed by professor April Wright '07, '09, a specialist in adult neurogenetics, with a focus on Parkinson's disease. The category includes other acute events or progressive disorders – stroke, dementia, ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, and traumatic brain injuries.

Wright has been a faculty member in the Communication Disorders Department since 2018. She also works at the Cahouet Center for Comprehensive Parkinson's Care at Jefferson Hospital, part of the Allegheny Health Network.

At the on-campus clinic, Wright supervises graduate students in the communication disorders program as they assess and treat clients of all ages.

"Our students are getting excellent real-world experience," Wright says. "They are seeing one or two clients per week."

Wright has used her community connections to bring more Parkinson's patients to the clinic for evaluation and treatment.

"I go to Parkinson's support groups. I take my card. I tell people, 'If you need speech therapy, we're here,'" Wright says. "I explain that they can get quality therapy here two days a week. And it's free."

In spring 2020, more than 50 clients received therapy at Cal U's Speech and Hearing Clinic. Three of those have Parkinson's.

"Overall, our speech therapy clinic completes about 80 visits a week," Wright says. "We just received two new adult referrals who suffered strokes and whose insurance only covered six visits. What do they do now?"

"Here we are."

The on-campus Speech and Hearing Clinic closed temporarily during the COVID-19 emergency. It is expected to reopen in fall. For more information, visit calu.edu/speech.



PIECES of PAST

FRAGMENTED REMAINS CHALLENGE YOUNG ANTHROPOLOGISTS



The Greene County Historical Society is partnering with Cal U to help identify and match hundreds of uncatalogued remains, believed to be from Native Americans.

The bones – teeth, skulls and other fragments – need to be reported under terms of the Native American Graves Repatriation Act, says Matthew Cumberledge, executive director of the historical society.

The goal is to report the remains and

to facilitate the process if any tribal descendants should wish to claim them for burial.

Anthropology professor Dr. Cassandra Kuba and a team of Cal U students have been working on the project. They are analyzing 700 adult teeth, 150 baby teeth, 30 complete and partial skulls, and other remains, including 42 mandible pieces, to verify they are Native American and match what they can.

"The students are taking measurements and taking note of evidence of disease or infection

or other features that might allow us to reaffiliate the remains," Kuba says.

"The measurements of certain teeth should be consistent, and there are certain diseases that affect the health of bones that allow us to say they came from the same person. It tests (the students') ability to determine if separate fragments really do belong together.

"The remains could represent 10 different sites or more, from all sorts of time periods."



DENTAL ANOMALY

Anthropology major Amanda Ryczek says analysis during the spring semester revealed some teeth with evidence of C-shaped roots in mandibular molars, a characteristic that varies by population.

"We haven't seen that before, so we are looking at what that might mean or why it may be happening. It helps with matching similarities, and it may even be helpful to future research," she says.

Kuba is excited by the find.

"In the thousands of teeth I have analyzed in 20-plus years of dental anthropology, I have never come across them. It definitely indicates a genetic link. The students and I will be diving into the literature to see if anyone in our area has reported this trait."

Cumberledge says the remains were excavated in the 1930s, mostly by founding members of the historical society.

Under the Works Progress Administration, professional and amateur archaeologists were paid to excavate sites, he says.

"Unfortunately, over the last 70-plus years, the remains have been moved and repacked, and they lack context. They were all in one box, somewhat loose. One or two sets may be connected to a specific site, but the rest are not.

"Today, if you came across human remains at a site, all work would immediately cease. That was not the case then."

Cumberledge says the historical society appreciates the collaboration.

"I'm not an anthropologist, and you don't just look in the Yellow Pages to find someone who does this type of scientific study," he says.

"Dr. Kuba and her students have been a tremendous asset, and the enthusiasm the students have had for this project, and the care with which they have treated the remains, has been exceptional."

SPECIAL SKILLS

Anthropology major Leighann Wharton, president of the Anthropology Club, relates a story to illustrate the skills students are learning.

"We had one set of vertebrae and sacrum that were wired together, as if they were a set, but I could tell at a glance that the vertebrae weren't in the right order. Someone unfamiliar with physical anthropology wouldn't necessarily know what they were looking at.

"They are very fragmentary," she says of some of the remains. "It is a special skill to learn to work with tiny pieces like that. I've gotten much better at it."

Cearra Mihal, also an anthropology major, has enjoyed applying her classroom instruction in the Frich Hall lab. Like Wharton, she worked on the project in the months before Cal U classes moved entirely online.

"Working with co-mingled remains means having to go through and test what I've learned for four years," the senior says.

"We've had to decide if the differences we see in the bones are the result of pathologies or normal deviations.

"The fact that we can help (the historical society) with this project makes me feel good. It's a great learning opportunity for us, and it helps them solve some mysteries."

"I like to be able to contribute to the field," Wharton says. "There isn't a lot of skeletal information about the Monongahela population."

Adds Cumberledge: "To a small degree, I feel like I've gotten to meet these people. Dr. Kuba has shared what she has learned from studying the remains, and I've gotten a sense of who they were as people, as opposed to the bland, impersonal facts. On a human level, it's been quite a wonderful experience."

What once was a box of uncatalogued fragments has become part of a people's story.

"It's been a neat experience to work with a North American tribe's remains to retell their past," Ryczek says. "Even though they're not here to do it, their bones can do it for them." ■

*By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U*



The fact that we can help (the historical society) with this project makes me feel good. It's a great learning opportunity for us, and it helps them solve some mysteries."

STUDENT LEIGHANN WHARTON

CAL U HELPS TEENS EXPAND LANGUAGE SKILLS

The Spanish IV class was a little nervous. Sure, the seniors at California Area High School had been studying the language for years, but could they converse with a native speaker?

And what about the specialized course they'd be taking, Spanish for Professionals: Medical Spanish?



Dr. Andrea Cencich speaks with high school students who studied medical Spanish.

"It's not your native language," student Sydney Smichnick points out. "You don't want to sound foolish."

They needn't have worried. All 16 learners received certificates for completing the 30-hour course developed by Dr. Andrea Cencich, assistant professor of Spanish at Cal U. She is working on a similar program for business professionals.

"This course introduces the rigors of college learning to high school students," Cencich says. "It is part of our mission to provide services to the community that promote diversity and increase cultural awareness."

"It's about feeling comfortable with people from different places – that was my higher objective. You wish there were even more programs to expose children to different cultures."

Spanish teacher Haley Bashada '16, '19 taught the course at California Area High School. The Cal U alumna has undergraduate degrees in secondary education with concentrations in English and Spanish, and a master's degree in secondary education and administrative leadership.

Cencich, who was born in Chile, joined the class in a video conference each week, so the teens could learn to understand her dialect, which differs from Bashada's.

The course helped students who are considering medical careers, and it improved the class's overall skills in conversational Spanish.

"It was great to see all the progress you made," Bashada told her students at a certificate-presentation ceremony.

High school principal Leigh Ann Folmar '88, '91 was there to applaud their success, along with Dr. Kristen Majocho, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Arcides Gonzalez, chair of Cal U's Department of Art and Languages.

"They were all nervous to talk with Professor Cencich the first time, but they got so much more comfortable talking to her, me and each other," Bashada says.

"All of them will appreciate learning Spanish and will probably use it at some point in their lives, professionally or personally."

Majocho, Gonzalez and Cencich emphasized the role of a university in a community, and the cultural importance of languages and the liberal arts.

"It's important to teach children how to interact with people of different backgrounds," Gonzalez says. "They have opened a door by learning a second language, and it will be helpful in a variety of careers – education, medicine, criminal justice and more."

Learning a language is key to cultural appreciation, Majocho adds.

"When you learn a language, you learn humanity. The students all have had an experience that many people don't, and it will help them to understand the world in a way their peers cannot." ■

By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U



Spanish teacher Haley Bashada '16, '19



Canvas

Art Club mural stars Fredericktown Ferry

Fred the Ferryboat lives on. Todd Pinkham, an art professor at Cal U, and student members of the Art Club are creating a mural depicting the Fredericktown Ferry – aka “Fred” – which navigated the Monongahela River between Washington and Fayette counties.

The boat operated from 1948 until 2013, when a bridge was built nearby as part of the Mon-Fayette Expressway.

The mural is going up on walls below a Route 88 bridge over the Fredericktown boat launch. It’s part of a new park being developed by East Bethlehem Township.

The Mon River Towns Program, which provides funding to promote towns along the Monongahela River as regional assets, gave the Art Club \$5,000 and paid for materials so Pinkham and his students could create the mural.

Their concrete “canvas” consists of two walls roughly 14 feet tall and 85 feet long. The style is impressionistic, Pinkham says. He sketched out the scene in black-and-white, using marine-grade paint that can be applied only with rollers.

“It’s going to be atmospheric and colorful,” Pinkham says. “I’m going to focus a lot on the water. We’ve added some horizon lines to give depth to a flat surface. It’s a bit of a period piece.”

Art is an important component of community revitalization, says Cathy McCollum, River Towns program director.

“Art beautifies communities,” she says. “It makes a first impression: Does this place look nice? Does it feel cared for?”

“The overpass is an entrance to both the town and the river, and we really wanted to beautify it.” ■

By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U



Artists at work

See more photos of the Art Club’s mural depicting the Fredericktown ferry and the Monongahela River at calu.edu/review



NURTURING dreams

TRIO MENTORS ADD 'EXTRA LAYER' OF CONNECTION

Counselor. Consultant. Cheerleader Mentor. For first-generation college students, a mentor can help to ensure success.

"A mentor is a resource for job opportunities, internships and a deeper connection to campus resources," says Laura Giachetti '96, '02, an assistant professor in the Department of TRIO and Academic Services and director of the TRIO Student Support Services Program.

Federally funded TRIO programs assist first-generation students – those whose parents or guardians did not attend a university – as well as low-income students and students with disabilities as they progress from middle school through college.

To help first-generation students succeed at Cal U, Giachetti developed the TRIO Mentor Program.

In Fall 2019, 24% of Cal U's undergraduate enrollment – or 1,167 students – were identified as first-generation.

Almost 40 faculty, administrators and staff members have volunteered to offer academic, professional and personal guidance to those students who would like the additional support. Students will be encouraged to sign up during their first year of college.

"We already have a lot of resources for these students," Giachetti says. "They have a faculty adviser to help with scheduling. We have tutoring services. They may even have a peer mentor.

"The TRIO Mentor Program is meant to be an extra layer. It's our goal to be sure we are providing all the avenues for our students to connect with Cal U and complete their degree."

MAKE A CONNECTION

"Faculty and staff have a great platform to be able to help these kids out," says Dr. M. Scott Zema, assistant professor in the Department of Health Science.



Laura Giachetti '96, '02

"It's not always enough to have them in our classes and maybe just say 'hi' to them. We have an opportunity to make a connection with them, so they feel that affinity, stay in school and earn that degree."

The TRIO Mentor volunteers provide "real talk" to let students know they can overcome obstacles, it's OK to have questions and doubts sometimes, and they have what it takes to earn a degree.



The TRIO Mentor Program is meant to be an extra layer. It's our goal to be sure we are providing all the avenues for our students to connect with Cal U and complete their degree."

LAURA GIACHETTI '96, '02

Dr. Kimberly Woznack, a chemistry professor, shares a humorous story from her own first year, when she accidentally enrolled in a 300-level Shakespeare class.

Before writing her first lab report, she recalls with a smile, she had to write a college paper in an upper-level literature course.

"I had no idea how the numbers worked for college classes," Woznack says. "No one had oriented me to that. It all worked out, but there are so many of those things that can add up to make you think this isn't the right place, that college isn't right for you.

"Sometimes, when students are struggling, they need context. They may wonder if they're too far out of their league, or if it's usual to struggle with a particular course. They may be reluctant to ask their adviser, because they don't want to look like they don't know what they're doing. A mentor can help with that."

Dr. Peter Cormas, a science educator, weaves advice on the intangible qualities of perseverance and hard work into his classes for undergraduate education majors.

"I talk to my students explicitly about what it's like to persevere," he says. "I talk to them a lot about how scientists have to persevere to solve problems, how they have to talk to each other, how they have to learn not to work in isolation.

"We sometimes assume that college students should know these things, but that's not always the case, especially for first-generation students."



Dr. Peter Cormas



KEEP TRYING

Cormas also discusses the reality of failure in a culture where curated social media feeds often show only end results.

"The people who are best at anything fail a lot and make a lot of mistakes," he says. "Nobody is awesome at everything; it's impossible. The best mathematicians and scientists persevere and learn from their mistakes."

Dr. Mathilda Spencer, of the Criminal Justice Department, shares her firsthand experience as a teen in the TRIO Upward Bound program, which prepares eligible high school students for post-secondary success.

"I know the reality of the struggle," she says. "I know what it's like not to have, financially. I was blessed with a mother who said, 'You're going to college. However we have to do it, however it has to work, it is going to work.'

"And I often look at these kids and wonder if they've had someone say that to them. That's where mentoring comes in."

Nurturing dreams is key, the mentors say.



"College is such a pivotal time," Woznack says. "I don't think I would have gone to graduate school if I hadn't had mentors who said, 'If you really like chemistry, there's more chemistry you could learn!'"

"They gave me the confidence that I was grad school material. Without mentors as an undergraduate, I wouldn't have made the same choices."

Spencer tells students, "Simply by making it to college, you have beaten the odds already. Let's keep it going. Let's graduate. Let's get that degree and make everyone proud!" ■

By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U

TRIO MENTORS

Meet the faculty, administrators and staff who have volunteered to help students succeed:
calu.edu/trio-mentors

EMPLOYEES BENEFIT FROM EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

Higher education is the key to building a competitive 21st-century workforce. Now businesses, nonprofit organizations and other corporate entities can partner with Cal U to give their employees the knowledge and skills they need to advance their careers.

When an organization becomes a Cal U Educational Alliance partner, its verified employees save 20% on the in-state tuition rate for eligible on-campus or online programs.

Depending on the partnership agreement, employees may take specific courses, earn a career-focused certificate, or enroll in an associate, bachelor's or master's degree program.

Employees from partner organizations who enroll at Cal U also receive personal attention and paperwork assistance from a designated Educational Alliance liaison who can guide them from application to graduation.

Research shows that tuition assistance programs are powerful tools for building employee engagement and loyalty. Whether a business is large or small, the Cal U Educational Alliance can make higher education more affordable and attainable for its most important assets – its employees.

Visit calu.edu/alliance to learn more.



STAFF MEMBERS HONORED FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE

Two Cal U alumni have been named recipients of the spring 2020 Vulcan Staff Awards.



Dr. Karen Amrhein '88, '98, a director in the Office of Academic Success, received the President's Vulcan Circle Award for outstanding job performance.



Barry Bilitski '07, an assistant director of Admissions, accepted the Vulcan Exceptional Service Award for exemplary customer service.

Nominators praised Amrhein for collaborating across departments to create the Peer Mentoring program, the Summer Success Academy for at-risk students, and

a new initiative to support foster youth, among other endeavors.

Bilitski, who earned his master's degree at Cal U, was credited with "making outstanding customer service a part of every interaction," particularly when engaging with current and future students.

The Vulcan Staff Awards are presented at faculty-staff convocations held near the start of the fall and spring semesters. Recipients are nominated by members of the campus community and selected by a seven-member committee.

DIGITAL BADGES SIGNAL DATA SCIENCE SKILLS

Students who complete Cal U programs in statistics and data science can earn digital badges from SAS,® a leading developer of analytics software and solutions.

Cal U has partnered with SAS to develop 100% online programs that build expertise in SAS analytics, one of the most valuable career-focused skills in today's job market.

Students in Cal U's B.S. in Statistics and Data Science program can earn the SAS badge for Statistical Analysis. SAS-verified badges also are awarded for successful completion of Cal U's graduate or undergraduate certificate programs in SAS Data Science.

Students in these programs manipulate real-world data utilizing the same SAS software found in 80,000 workplaces in Pennsylvania and around the world.

Students who earn the digital badges may use them in their email signatures, online resumes and social media profiles.

"Digital badges are an easy, portable way to convey competence in multiple skills with one image," says Dr. Melissa Sovak, professor of data science at Cal U. "One little badge can convey a wealth of information to potential employers, industry partners and colleagues."



THIS INTERN GAINS CAPITAL EXPERIENCE



Psychology major Chelsea Fullum served in the office of Lt. Gov. John Fetterman this spring as part of The Harrisburg Internship Semester.

THIS gives students from Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education the opportunity to work in state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. Students receive a \$3,500 stipend to assist with expenses while they live in the Harrisburg region.

Until her internship was cut short by the COVID-19 outbreak, Fullum handled constituent services and gave office tours. Her research project focused on criminal justice reform, one of Fetterman's top concerns.

Fullum is a member of Student Government and the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, and recording secretary for the Phi Sigma Sigma social sorority.

JUNE SESSION OFFERS GRAD SCHOOL DETAILS

Would a master's degree or doctorate help to advance your career? Then bring your questions to a virtual graduate school information session on June 24.

This is your chance to discuss the benefits of a Cal U graduate program, learn details about graduate assistantships and ask questions about the application process, student outcomes and more.

"Many of our degrees and certificates are 100% online, which gives working students options to hone their expertise at a pace and delivery of their choice," says Dr. Yugo Ikach, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Cal U offers a variety of master's degree programs in education, healthcare, science and technology, and professional studies. Career-focused certificates, certification and licensure programs also are available, along with doctorates for leaders in educational administration, exercise science and criminal justice.

Learn more or register for a graduate information session at calu.edu/visit.

UNDERSTANDING THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

Empathy and cultural awareness are important, even in the clinical atmosphere of a hospital emergency room.

Dr. Azadeh Block is helping personnel at Jefferson Hospital gain a deeper understanding of the refugee experience.

Block, an associate professor in Cal U's Social Work Department, presented face-to-face cultural humility training to personnel in the hospital's Emergency Department early this spring.



She focused primarily on the needs of immigrants from Bhutan and Nepal who have settled in Pittsburgh's South Hills, an area served by Jefferson Hospital.

"It builds empathy to understand what it's like to be forced to leave your country, only to eventually make it to the United States and not be welcomed," Block explains.

"Being a refugee can impact things like access to nutritious foods for a period of time. Knowing that can inform some of the issues that people might see in the Emergency Department."

About 60 hospital employees attended the training, and online training modules are being developed. The project is part of the hospital's Front Door Initiative for Social Emergency Medicine, which received a four-year grant from the Jefferson Regional Foundation.

Dressed for success

Students at the Nassarawo-Koma Secondary School in Nigeria wear 2008-2010 soccer jerseys donated by the Cal U women's team. Head coach Pete Curtis led the initiative, in collaboration with professor Buba Misawa of Washington & Jefferson College, who regularly collects books, clothing and school supplies for communities in Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia. Curtis came to Cal U after 11 years as head women's soccer coach at W&J.

He says 'it warms the soul' to know 'that across the fields of Africa, Cal U jerseys are being worn with pride.'





MUSICIANS TUNE UP FOR BAND FESTIVAL

The clock tower's chimes are still under repair, but there was music in the air on campus this spring.

For the third time in its history, Cal U played host to the Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival. It was the festival's 73rd annual performance, making it the oldest continuous band festival in the nation.

Student musicians from Cal U and 21 other colleges rehearsed and performed with guest conductor Dennis Fisher, a

professor emeritus at the University of North Texas. His conducting credits include appearances across the United States and in Europe, Asia and South America.

In all, more than 100 student performers and 26 band directors took part in the festival. Cal U also hosted the event in 1987 and in 2012.

FREE TUITION FOR FAMILIES OF PA. NATIONAL GUARD

Beginning in fall, spouses and children of Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard members can attend Cal U tuition-free under the Military Family Education Program (MFEP).

Authorized by the Pennsylvania GI Bill (House Bill 1324), the MFEP provides five years of higher education benefits to dependents of Pennsylvania National Guard members who commit to an additional six years of service. That's 10 semesters of tuition-free education for family members at the tuition rate set by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Benefits begin with the 2020-2021 academic year. For details, visit calu.edu/veterans or contact the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at veterans@calu.edu or 724-938-4076.

ATHLETIC TRAINERS HONOR PROFESSOR



Dr. Linda Platt Meyer, a professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, has been inducted into the Eastern Athletic Trainers' Association's 49 Club – the "hall of fame" for athletic trainers.

Association's 49 Club – the "hall of fame" for athletic trainers.

Formed in 1949, the EATA consists of more than 8,000 athletic trainers and athletic training students from Maine to Delaware. The '49 Club recognizes members who demonstrate sustained leadership and reflect positively on the association and their home districts.

Meyer teaches in Cal U's online master's degree program in exercise science and health promotion. She was a member of the state Board of Osteopathic Medicine and is involved with the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society.

For 30 years she has volunteered as an athletic trainer for Special Olympics Pennsylvania, and since 1990, she has been the medical coordinator for SOPA's State Winter Games.

Through her efforts, an interdisciplinary sports medicine team is on hand at all state-level SOPA events. Over the decades, she has recruited hundreds of athletic trainers and athletic training students to volunteer for the Special Olympics Winter Games at Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Champion, Pa.

FOUR CENTURIES OF BLACK HISTORY

Cal U reflected on 400 years of history – and looked to the future – during February's Black History Month celebration.

Sheleta Camarda-Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, described the range of programming as "poignant, informational and also very captivating."

"We've tapped into our on-campus resources, because this is an ideal time to use their scholarship to go back and talk about some historical perspective – and also to acknowledge what can happen in the next 400 years."

Events included a special four-part "What's the T? Thoughtful Discussions About National Narratives" series; presentations by Cal U's Frederick Douglass Institute scholars,



Your name here

Current and former presidents of the Foundation for California University present a plaque to University President Geraldine M. Jones. Now on display in Old Main, the plaque honors past foundation presidents and recognizes the organization's role in supporting the University and its students since 1986. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Dr. Charles S. Pryor '73; Dr. David L. Amati '70; Dale L. Hamer '60; Dr. Harry E. Serene '65; first gentleman Jeffrey Jones; Linda H. Serene '64; and William R. Flinn II '68. Other past presidents are the late William Boyd Jr.; Dr. Homer R. Pankey; Dan Altman; Paul R. White; Richard C. Grace '63; and Steven P. Stout '85.

School Color

Workers add a touch of Cal U red to an entrance at Washington Hospital, where a new awning and interior signage identify the Cal U School of Radiologic Technology at Washington Health System. The two-year program prepares radiologic technologists – also known as radiographers or X-ray technicians – for high-demand careers in healthcare. Cal U students in the program attend classes and learn diagnostic imaging skills at Washington Hospital, gain hands-on experience at other clinical locations, and graduate with an associate degree from the University.



Jessica Spradley and Rodney Taylor, and a panel discussion about civil rights and social justice led by first gentleman Jeffrey Jones.

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service kicked off the celebration, and meals featuring Southern-style soul food recipes and African-inspired dishes both nourished and educated Gold Rush diners.

FARMHOUSE RETREAT RE-ENERGIZES WRITERS

For anyone who needs to write, uninterrupted time can be a precious commodity. More than a dozen faculty members took advantage of a writers' retreat to pour some coffee, open their laptops and focus on writing before the spring semester began.

Syllabi and dissertations, research articles and grant applications, manuscripts and creative works – all were on the table during the daylong session at SAI Farm, on Cal U's upper campus.

The retreat was organized by the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U and supported by the College of Liberal Arts.

"The intention of the retreat was to foster a culture of collegiality among academic departments," said lead organizer Rodney Taylor, an FDI scholar in the English Department.

"While each discipline is unique, we all have to write."

COMPETITION PROMOTES FINANCIAL LITERACY

This spring Cal U partnered with the Pennsylvania Council on Financial Literacy to sponsor stock market competitions for middle school and high school students in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Open to public and private school students, the Stock Market Challenge is designed to teach students and teachers how to invest and trade in stocks, analyze markets and build a portfolio.

More than \$2,800 in prizes were at stake in the five-county region.

"It's never too soon to begin building financial literacy," says Dr. Paul Hettler, chair of Cal U's Department of Business and Economics.

The council's mission is to provide the state's K-12 students with economic, personal finance and entrepreneurship skills. More than 10,000 students in 45 Pennsylvania counties participate in financial games and programs sponsored by the organization.

FOOD DRIVES FILL THE CUPBOARD

The campus community continues to battle food insecurity by stocking shelves at the Cal U Cupboard, the on-campus food pantry for students.

During national Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, the Office of Parking and Transportation placed collection boxes in Vulcan Flyer shuttles and organized two "fill a parking space" food drives to stock the Cupboard's shelves.

To honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Black Student Union encouraged faculty, staff and students to Feed Your Soul by donating non-perishable food items to fill a Kia Soul that was parked on campus.

The Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning operates the food pantry, which is open to students throughout the academic year. Donations are welcome; contact the center at calucupboard@calu.edu.





is your

EDUCATION SUPERPOWER

Military officer addresses winter graduates

Olivia Ebersole '19 spent hours of her college life in the Convocation Center arena, practicing and performing as a feature twirler.

Walking across the stage to receive her degree was brief by comparison, but the joy of that achievement will last.

"My Cal U experience is one I will never forget," says Ebersole, who took her bachelor's degree in communication studies straight to Florida and the Disney College Program.

She joined more than 1,000 students for Cal U's winter Commencement ceremonies, which included the second class to graduate from the Doctor of Health Science and Exercise Leadership program.

Yukiko Suzuki '19 returned from Japan to accept the master's degree in clinical mental health counseling that she'd completed in August.

"I wanted to come back," she says. "I had a wonderful on-campus experience, and it's great to see all my classmates!"

Col. Lance D. Oskey '93, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Cadet Command, spoke at both the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies.

"What you have accomplished today is not your destination but the first step in your journey," said Oskey, who began his military career as an ROTC cadet and a Distinguished Military Graduate at Cal U.

"You should know by now that education is the superpower that allows you to think critically, understand complex problems and create solutions, so you can help your team, your profession and your community."

After greeting the soon-to-be graduates, University President Geraldine M. Jones accepted a check for more than \$15,000

contributed by graduating seniors and their families for scholarships for future students.

She led a round of applause for military veterans and acknowledged graduates Taylor Shiann Phillips and Alexander James Murphy for earning bachelor's degrees, and Trudi Anneke Brinkmann for earning her associate degree, all with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

"I am very proud of each of you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have made to reach this point," President Jones told the Class of 2019. "I know that you will continue to work hard as you enter this new chapter of your life."

"May you find happiness and satisfaction in the days and years ahead." ■

For details and more photos, visit calu.edu/review



Meet Col. Lance Oskey

Q You told our graduates that education is their “superpower.” How has it been yours?

A I’ve had the good fortune to pair my education with many and varied real-life experiences that allowed me to further my leadership journey. The formula ‘Education + Experience’ is the best way to (find out) if the various theories you’ve been taught actually hold up in the real world.

Q Your nearly 30-year military career has been a steady climb of increased leadership duties. How has it shaped you?

A Because I’ve been in uniform since the age of 17, the military has shaped almost every component of my life. The military has provided me a platform to grow and learn as a person, to develop leadership skills, and to play a small part in shaping world history through three combat deployments.

Q What’s your best piece of leadership advice?

A Always seek to build effective professional relationships – the currency on which trust is built. This trust will be critical when no-fail missions are assigned, or when lives depend on mission success. Relationships with subordinates are critical to building effective teams. ... Relationships with your superiors are important, as orders are often given in haste, and understanding the implied intent of your superior is just as important as understanding the assigned mission.

Q What’s your best advice to someone recently out of college who wants to grow in their career?

A Always be willing to learn – be “coachable” to others in your profession who know more than you. If young leaders are “coachable,” without giving up their formal authority, then members of their team will invest in their development and success. Nobody likes new college graduates who think they know everything and don’t need help from other members of the team.

Q What’s your favorite book? Favorite movie?

A I’m re-reading *All the Light We Cannot See* (by Anthony Doerr) – truly great writing and storytelling. The HBO mini-series *Band of Brothers* is the story of an infantry company in World War II, based on the Stephen E. Ambrose book. It’s a great story of leadership and resilience from the Greatest Generation.



HEY THERE,

ALUMNI

The season is changing – and sometimes, so does your address. We want to stay connected with you and your Cal U alumni friends, so update your info (and tell them to do it, too!) at calu.edu/alumni.

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

We're on the hunt for VIPs – volunteers for our new "Vulcan-teer" program. We need alumni with a passion for their alma mater who can connect with a new generation of Vulcans and help the Alumni Relations Office reach its goals for enrollment management, philanthropy, participation, mentorship and more.

If you love Cal U and want to be part of a new program that will continue to grow the University's legacy, contact me directly at barnhart_r@calu.edu. Watch your email inbox for more details about our volunteer program.

STAY TUNED

Be an informed Cal U alumnus! To stay in the loop on upcoming events, news, receptions, sporting events and more, update your information at calu.edu/alumni.

Then check out calu.edu/news to stay current with what's happening on campus, and explore the alumni website, calu.edu/alumni, to find opportunities for getting involved with your alma mater, services and benefits for Cal U alumni, past issues of the Vulcan Gazette newsletter and Vulcan Nation podcast, and more.

And don't forget to follow us on social media. If our posts at [@calualumni](https://twitter.com/calualumni) or [@caluofpa](https://twitter.com/caluofpa) bring back happy memories of your college days or spark pride in your alma mater, pass them on! Like our posts, retweet or comment using the hashtag [#calualumni](https://twitter.com/calualumni), and let us know when you're [#caluproud](https://twitter.com/caluproud).

Hope to see you soon!



Ryan Barnhart '08, '09, '19
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

ALUMNI CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS



Event information was accurate at press time, but our plans are subject to change.

JUNE
13

CAL U DAY AT KENNYWOOD

Kennywood's open ... for Cal U alumni and friends! Join us for our third annual Cal U Day at Kennywood Park, with discounted tickets plus an ice cream and soda-fountain reception at the Cal U Pavilion.

JUNE
26

BAKN 2: MEAT. EAT. REPEAT

Come along as we head back to Bagn, the hip dining spot in Carnegie, Pa. Chef Randy Tozzie '89 is preparing complimentary appetizers, and the cash bar will be open for this meet-up in Pittsburgh's South Hills.

SEPT
24

PARTY WITH THE PIRATES

Mark your calendar for the annual Cal U Night @ PNC Park. We'll be in the stands when the Pirates take on the Cincinnati Reds at 7:05 p.m. But first, meet us in the parking lot for the pregame tailgate featuring fare from Primanti Bros.

OCT
9-11

WELCOME HOME

Don't miss out on Cal U's biggest weekend of them all! Make plans to join us for Homecoming 2020, featuring our 2020 Alumni Awards reception, all-alumni reunion, the return of Cal U Brew, and more.

Stay connected to the Cal U Alumni Association's online community! Contact the Alumni Office at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418 (use option 4) to request your personal ID number. You can email or call us any time for details about these and other upcoming alumni events.

Keep in touch with
THE VULCAN NATION,
a podcast for Cal U
alumni and friends.

Listen at
<https://tinyurl.com/vulcanpodcast>

ALUMNI PHOTO ALBUM

#CALUTOGETHER



'DREAM' TEAM

As part of Cal U's Black History Month programming, panelists (from left) Justin James '12, '14, future alumna Cynthia Obiekezie, and faculty member Lisa Driscoll reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech. Moderator for the discussion was Cal U's first gentleman, Jeffrey Jones.

SEEN IN NYC

Thirty alumni and friends, including University President Geraldine Jones and first gentleman Jeffrey Jones, gathered for a special reception at The Long Room tavern in midtown Manhattan. Regional alumni gatherings give graduates a chance to mingle with friends old and new while learning the latest about Cal U.



PHILADELPHIA STORIES

More than 40 alumni from four different decades celebrated all things Cal U at an alumni event in Philadelphia. Sharing the moment are (from left) Nina Gray '87, John McCoy '80 and wife Cynthia, Barbara Ney '90 and Valerie Haley '82.

AFFINITY GROUP SPOTLIGHT: CAL GALS

The Cal Gals, a group of retired female educators, is celebrating 31 years as an alumni affinity group. The group has met for lunch on campus twice a year since 1989 – and in that time these amazing women have raised over \$30,000 in scholarships for Cal U students.

The Cal Gals are just one of many affinity groups supported by the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations. Greek organizations past and present, graduating classes and special area-of-interest alumni groups also receive our support.

If you know a group of Cal U alumni that would like to be recognized as an official affinity group, contact Staci Tedrow at tedrow@calu.edu for more information.



Finding Balance with software



If you'd like to improve sleep, reduce stress and improve mobility in a more holistic way, there is an app for that.

One of the latest – RVIVE – was developed by Amped Technologies, co-founded in 2018 by Cal U alumnus Wesley Rosner, a 1999 athletic training graduate.

"People's relationships with their phones are very powerful. The demand for using mobile software to impact an individual's mental and physical stress is thriving," he says.

RVIVE is "a healthcare software platform to empower individuals to lead a healthier life through the balance of mind and body."

Customers include entertainment, industrial and healthcare companies, as well as educational institutions and sports teams.

The platform also appeals to a growing number of consumers who are interested in individual wellness options.

Client administrators can build targeted programs for individuals and groups, alongside the support of online health programs and virtual wellness teams.

Rosner's experience includes more than a decade of consulting with the Walt Disney Co. on health and wellness strategies for its global entertainment division. He also directed a team of athletic trainers, physical therapists and performance coaches in a partnership with the Chinese Olympic Committee to prepare for the 2016 and 2018 Games.

He used that wealth of hands-on athletic training experience to build a mobile software platform that makes personalized wellness interactive and engaging.

These days, people have access to wearable fitness-tracking devices, self-care equipment and dedicated apps for mind or body programming, Rosner says.

"Equipment and modalities typically seen in a clinic or training room are now available on store shelves. Consumers ... are seeking a more comprehensive approach to bringing it all together."

As the company grows, Rosner keeps in mind the lessons he learned before co-founding RVIVE.

"Self-care and awareness are paramount," he says. "As entrepreneurs, we easily obsess over the business and intricate metrics to achieve growth, but well-being is essential in the critical foundation of any new or existing company." ■



DATA IMPROVES WEATHER WARNINGS

Science for the greater good. For Dr. Elizabeth Smith '14, it's the lofty benefit of a weather scientist's dream job at the NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory, in Norman, Okla.

Smith's workplace is one of seven research labs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As part of the lab's Forecast Research and Development Division, she collects and applies data to improve forecasting.

"I'm not a forecaster, but I am an observationalist," she explains. "I go out into the field to collect data from storms to advance the science of meteorology and improve forecasts and warnings."

As a Cal U student, Smith earned the 2012 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship, which provides up to \$9,500 per year for two years of full-time study and a 10-week, full-time paid summer internship at a NOAA facility.

She graduated with a meteorology concentration before pursuing her master's and Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma's renowned meteorology program.

At NOAA's Severe Storms Lab, Smith gathers and analyzes data from the part of the atmosphere closest to the ground. Better data ultimately means better forecasts and warnings from the National Weather Service, which is part of NOAA.

"We can get temperature, wind and moisture readings every minute," Smith says. "That lets us understand how the environment evolves, how the storms move, and other variables that affect a forecast."

"Our warnings are very good; we average about 12-15 minutes (in advance). But in places like the Ohio Valley, we still have much to study with tornadoes and linear systems."

Severe weather warnings can protect lives and property — but only if they're taken seriously.



"It's harmful if our warnings don't come true, because that degrades trust," Smith says. "The data can help to improve accuracy and decrease false alarms."

The science is cool. Improving severe weather forecasts is even cooler, Smith says.

"Weather impacts lives in major ways. It is very fulfilling to apply my scientific knowledge and training in ways that improve the quality of life for people and society." ■

CONFLICT RESOLUTION 'SET ME APART'

Four years, two promotions, a manager of more than 30 people. For Rebecca Caskey, the value of a Cal U degree is evident.

"It was made extremely clear after each job change that my conflict resolution degree is what set me apart and earned me the new position," she says.

Caskey works for the State College of Florida, a community college in Bradenton, where she manages the school's tutoring centers across three campuses. Her previous position was Title IX coordinator for New College of Florida, a public liberal arts honors college in Sarasota.

"I've never had tutoring experience, but the center wanted to hire someone they felt could create a welcoming environment for students and increase employee retention and satisfaction," Caskey says.

"My master's degree is what attracted them to me, and I really credit it with setting me apart in an industry where everyone else followed a pretty traditional 'master of higher ed' route."



It was made extremely clear after each job change that my conflict resolution degree is what ... earned me the new position."



REBECCA CASKEY '16

Caskey earned her conflict resolution degree online in 2016 and immediately began work as Title IX coordinator at New College.

"Many in our student body were transgender or non-binary, which precipitated a lot of dialogue around identity," Caskey says. "I also served as a voluntary mediator for those who didn't want to go the HR route."

Caskey says the flexibility of Cal U's 100% online courses was invaluable for someone working full time. The content also was spot-on.

"It was very applicable. There were research and theoretical parts, but it was very practice-based. It builds on itself. You can use what you're learning at your job."

She discovered, for example, that conflict isn't necessarily negative for an organization.

"You learn to recognize that the conclusion you wanted in your mind might not be best for the organization or team," Caskey says. "There may be things you can give up that won't hurt you and will benefit another person."

"It's an opportunity for all of us to come together."

Learn more about Cal U's M.A. in Conflict Resolution, and other master's degree programs, at calu.edu/academics. ■

By Wendy Mackall
Communications director at Cal U

SPRINTER SHINES

AT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



It's hard to keep up with Divonne Franklin. The speedy sprinter was named the Outstanding Track Athlete at the PSAC Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships, a 15-team contest held this spring at Edinboro University.

Franklin won the 60- and 200-meter dash events, setting school and conference records with times of 7.55 and 24.66 seconds, respectively.

She also ran the leadoff leg with Cal U's first-place 4x400-meter relay team, which included Ashley McIntosh, Alicia Collier and Tatyana Young.

Other top finishers: Aaliyah Lewis, who earned third place in the triple jump; and Young and Jaleesa Mackey, who finished third and fourth, respectively, in the 60-meter event.

At the PSAC men's indoor championship, Jalen Cloud set a school record in the triple jump with a mark of 14.47 meters, finishing in third place.

Kristopher Lytle placed second in the 200-meter run, with a time of 21.98 seconds. He added a third-place finish, with a time of 6.904 seconds, in the 60-meter race. The men's 4x400-meter relay team of Avery Boea-Gisler, Cloud, Kyle Tumpak and Lytle placed fourth. ■



BIG POST-SEASON FOR HOCKEY, RUGBY

The men's hockey club collected its sixth consecutive College Hockey East Championship this season, bringing the club's overall championship total to 13.

In the CHE playoffs, the Vulcans defeated IUP, 3-0, in the semifinals and Pitt-Johnstown, 5-4, in a final contest that went into overtime.

In the championship game, Perry Shiring scored a hat trick for the Vulcans after an opening goal by Branson King. With nine minutes elapsed in overtime, Chris Siak scored the game-winner for the Vulcans.

For the first time in program history, the men's rugby club competed in

the National Small College Rugby Organization's (NSCRO-15) Central Region Challenge Cup Championships, held in Columbia, Mo.

Coached by alumnus Bill Marnell '09, the Vulcans clinched a spot in the regional semifinals and represented the NSCRO Three Rivers Conference following their 23-7 victory over Grove City College.

In the semifinals, Cal U fell to defending region champ and eventual region titlist Wisconsin Stevens Point.

Marnell praised the efforts of players Isaiah Harris, Brandon Fritzius and Nate Godfrey.

DEFENSIVE BACK AGAIN NAMED ALL-AMERICAN

After capping his career with an exceptional 2019 season, senior defensive back Lamont McPhatter II earned First-Team All-America status from the Associated Press for the second consecutive year.

In all, five organizations recognized McPhatter as an All-American: the AP, the American Football Coaches Association, D2CCA, D2Football.com and the Don Hansen Football Gazette.

McPhatter also was a three-time, first-team all-conference selection.

In his final season with the Vulcans, McPhatter posted 58 tackles (32 solo) and scored a pair of defensive touchdowns while registering two interceptions and one fumble recovery. He anchored a defensive unit that led the NCAA Division II in rushing defense at 56.5 yards per game—fourth best among the 670 teams in all NCAA divisions.



TURNAROUND TIME FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men's head basketball coach Danny Sancomb, who's completed his second year, guided the Vulcans to the program's best season since 2008, when Cal U reached the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament.

The men finished their regular season with 18 victories and made the league playoffs for the first time since 2014, falling to IUP in the quarterfinals. The Vulcans had opened the post-season with a 74-58 victory over Gannon, enjoying the team's first PSAC Tournament win in the Convocation Center.

Guard Brent Pegram averaged more than 20 points per game in the regular season. Other double-figure scorers were Zyan Collins, Jermaine Hall and Luke House.

STUDENT-ATHLETES WIN IN THE CLASSROOM

Cal U student-athletes are making the grades. The athletics program headed into 2020 having achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.10 or higher for 19 of the past 20 semesters.

In Fall 2019, the Vulcans' 16 NCAA intercollegiate athletics programs

collectively tallied a 3.21 GPA, with 28 student-athletes earning a perfect 4.0.

The volleyball team earned the highest team GPA, at 3.79. Among men's teams, the basketball program posted the highest GPA, at 3.25.

In all, 214 Vulcans – each with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher – were named to the Fall 2019 Athletic Director Honor Roll.



TOP 10 SCORES FOR SENIOR SWIMMER

Senior Karley Owens earned three top-10 finishes at the PSAC Swimming Championships.

Owens placed fifth overall in the championship finals of the 200 breaststroke, touching the wall in 2 minutes, 20.88 seconds – the second fastest time in school history.

She tied for fifth place in the 400-yard individual medley (4:33.62), third best in program history. She also placed ninth in the 100 breaststroke (1:05.76).

BASKETBALL COACH NETS MILESTONE VICTORIES

A successful season for the women's basketball team included two milestone victories for ninth-year head coach Jess Strom.



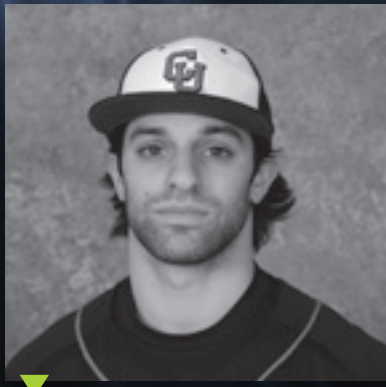
In late December, Cal U's 67-60 victory at West Chester gave Strom 200 career wins. Only eight PSAC women's basketball coaches – four of them active – have reached the 200-win mark.

In March, a 67-53 PSAC playoff win over Pitt-Johnstown gave Strom her 212th career victory, which tied her with former head coach Darcie Vincent for the most wins in program history.

The Vulcans finished the regular season with a 20-8 overall record. It was the teams' 22nd consecutive winning season.

A QUINTESSENTIAL QUINTET

FIVE HONOREES JOIN CAL U'S ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Sam DiMatteo '10

Four-year starter and three-time all-conference outfielder for the baseball team from 2007-2010.

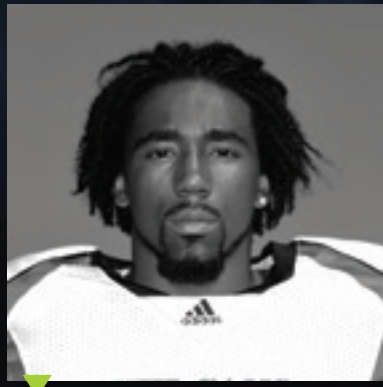
DiMatteo's 115 career stolen bases remain a school and PSAC record. He's listed second in program history for his 223 career hits, 31 homers, 50 doubles and 175 runs. His single-season batting averages were .315, .347, .405 and .400.

DiMatteo is one of only three Vulcans players ever to hit .400 in consecutive seasons.

He received multiple All-American honors over his final two seasons and was named MVP of the 2010 PSAC Tournament, where he batted .588 and led the Vulcans to the conference title.

After graduating, DiMatteo played six years of professional baseball in a variety of leagues. Today he's the head baseball coach for College of the Desert, a community college in southern California.

DiMatteo, who resides in Rancho Mirage, Calif., is also the founder of The SD Project, a nonprofit organization created to support athletes of all ages who face physical, mental or financial challenges.



Terrence Johnson '10

Starting cornerback for the Vulcans football team, from 2006-2009, before playing three seasons in the National Football League.

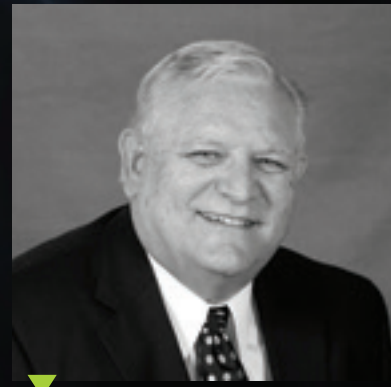
A three-time all-conference selection, Johnson earned multiple All-American honors during his final two years at Cal U.

Johnson finished his career with 178 tackles, 16 interceptions and 32 pass break-ups – including three interceptions in the 2009 postseason – and he led the Vulcans in interceptions in each of his four years with the program.

Johnson helped the Vulcans compile a 44-10 cumulative record and 25-1 PSAC-West mark during his time on the field, with four straight PSAC-West titles and three straight appearances in the NCAA Division II national semifinals.

In the NFL he played for New England, Atlanta and Indianapolis, where in 2011 he made 37 tackles for the Colts. He also played one season of Arena Football.

Johnson, who owns a construction, home remodeling and landscape business, lives in Pittsburgh with his fiancé, Wanisha Green '19, and their 2-year-old son.



John Luckhardt

Coached the Vulcans football team from 2002-2011, finishing his Cal U career with a program-best 88-33 cumulative record and .727 winning percentage.

Vulcans football closed the second half of the Luckhardt decade by winning 56 of 68 games, with a 32-2 cumulative PSAC-West mark. Those teams enjoyed five consecutive seasons of double-digit victories and the football program's first five NCAA Division II playoff appearances, including three straight trips to the national semifinals.

Scholar-athletes also thrived under Luckhardt, whose roster included 68 PSAC Scholar-Athletes, seven Academic All-District selections and two Academic All-Americans.

Before coming to Cal U, Luckhardt spent 17 seasons as head coach and 12 years as athletic director for Washington & Jefferson College. He received the American Football Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998, and was inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Luckhardt and his wife, Barbara, live in Peters Township, Pa. They have two children, Allison Eckenrode and the late Matt Luckhardt, and three granddaughters.



Renata Silva Gray '10, '11

Four-time all-conference setter for the women's volleyball team, from 2006-2009.

A native of Sao Paulo, Brazil, Silva Gray received multiple All-American honors in each of her final three seasons and became the volleyball program's first Academic All-American in 2009.

Silva Gray's 5,507 assists remain a school record; only four PSAC volleyball players have more. Her career total of 497 sets ranks third in school history, and her 126 service aces rank 10th.

Her career totals also include 1,065 digs and 311 blocks.

The 2008 and 2009 PSAC tournaments' MVP, she helped Cal U compile a 111-12 cumulative record and 41-0 conference mark over her final three seasons, with three PSAC and NCAA Atlantic Regional titles.

With two bachelor's degrees and a master's from Cal U, Silva Gray is Anova Healthcare System's director of administrative services and human resources. Since 2012 she also has coached the Pittsburgh 17 Elite national team.

She and her husband, Donald Gray III, live in Pittsburgh.



Jim Snyder '85

Starting defensive back on the Vulcans football team from 1981-1984.

A natural free-safety, Snyder joined the team as a walk-on and found himself playing all four secondary positions during his four years on the field. He was a two-time first-team all-conference safety and, as a senior, earned Associated Press All-American honors.

Snyder appeared in 40 of 41 games, posting 260 career tackles (130 solo), with 16 interceptions, 30 pass break-ups and six fumble recoveries.

In 1983, Cal U's defense held five opponents to nine points or less. Snyder's reliable play contributed to the Vulcans' 7-3 overall finish and the team's first winning season in 13 years.

During his senior season, the Vulcans won eight games – the most single-season victories since 1958 – and brought home their first PSAC championship in 16 years.

Snyder has been a commercial banker for more than three decades, mostly with Citigroup Inc. He and his wife, Kim Krause Snyder '84, live in Agoura Hills, Calif. They have two grown children.



CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

The 2020 Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized in 2021 at California University's signature fundraiser, the Bow Ties & Pearls Ball. Cal U postponed the 2020 gala because of this spring's public health emergency.

Who's calling? It's
Alumni Ambassador
Hadley Barker!

Support what you love

The choice is yours when you give to the Annual Fund

When it comes to giving, it's OK to play favorites: Whether you have ties to a specific affinity group, athletics program or academic department, your Annual Fund donation is 100% tax deductible.

Any gift, no matter the amount, can make an enormous difference for Cal U students. But donors often find that a gift is more meaningful when it benefits students who share their interests.

That's why rising junior Hadley Barker enjoys working as a student Alumni Ambassador in the call center at Kara Alumni House. She regularly phones graduates to share University updates and learn more about their time at Cal U.

Before the conversation ends, Barker suggests giving to a scholarship fund based on their Cal U experience.

"The best part of my job is connecting with alumni," says Barker, a communication studies major with a marketing minor. "I get to see how their time at Cal U has brought them into the future."

There are many opportunities to support your alma mater and a new generation of Cal U students. ■



Answer the call

When on-campus classes are in session, Alumni Ambassadors from the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations – students like Barker – telephone Cal U graduates. They share University news and ask if you'd like to support the Annual Fund or a specific affinity scholarship that resonates with you.



Give online

Our secure website makes donating easy and safe. Visit calu.edu/giving – then direct your gift to a specific fund or "view all giving opportunities" and choose from a list of options. Once your gift has been submitted online, you'll receive an immediate email confirming the donation.



You've got mail

Additional giving opportunities are announced in mailings and emails from the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations. Donors can make a one-time gift or subscribe to a recurring monthly giving plan. Appeals are sent throughout the year, so check your mailbox for the latest information.



To learn more about becoming an Annual Fund donor or starting a recurring monthly giving plan, contact Randi Minerva, manager of annual giving programs, at minerva@calu.edu or 724-938-4248.

ALUMNA EXEMPLIFIES CORE VALUES

UNIONTOWN NATIVE ACCEPTS LILLIAN M. BASSI AWARD

Kerri Rowan '77 has built an exceptional career and a purposeful life in a city she loves. An avid traveler, she gives back to her community – and to students who are following an education pathway reminiscent of her own.



The University recognized Rowan's commitment to integrity, civility and responsibility by awarding her one of its most prestigious honors, the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award. She will accept the award at the 2021 Bow Ties & Pearls Ball.

Rowan – a self-described “Uniontown girl” – graduated *magna cum laude* from

California State College as an education major with a focus on Spanish.

While completing her master's thesis in communication arts at William Paterson College in New Jersey, she relocated to the Washington, D.C., area.

Nearby Arlington, Va., is still her home.

“(Washington) is such a beautiful, cosmopolitan city,” Rowan says. “I first visited as a teenager, during cherry blossom season, and I promised myself that someday I would live here. I consider myself so lucky to do so.”

After graduate school, Rowan secured a Capitol Hill internship with the syndicated Washington News Service, held a communications role with Robert Dole's presidential campaign, and then began a career as a management consultant.

For more than three decades, she worked for prominent D.C.-area consulting firms, primarily in support of federal initiatives. Her clients included the FBI, Defense Department, Office of Personnel Management, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health and Human Services and the Internal Revenue Service.

Most of her assignments were local, but others required long-term travel, sparking a lifelong passion for exploring new locales. To date, she has visited all 50 U.S. states, all seven continents and 108 countries – with new adventures ahead.

Rowan joined the federal government in 2007 as a senior program analyst for the IRS, where she remains employed today. An expert in information technology governance, she oversees key IT modernization programs, monitoring costs, schedules and scope-of-work targets to directly support the IRS's chief information officer.

“My Cal U education provided a solid foundation on which I could incrementally build my career,” she says.

Her exemplary work at the IRS has been recognized with 12 awards for outstanding performance, a Commissioner Outstanding Achievement Award and, most recently, a Strategy and Planning Leadership Excellence Award.

Philanthropy also gives her life purpose. Through her condominium community, she has led efforts to collect back-to-school supplies for needy children, organize food drives for local pantries and gather pet supplies for animal shelters.

Rowan acknowledges the crucial role that scholarships played in making her own Cal U education a reality. So last year she established a scholarship that funds a full year's tuition for a deserving student.

“To be able to assist someone else in a similar situation is very gratifying,” Rowan says. “It's simply my way of paying back.” ■

*By Christine Kindl
VP for Communications and Marketing*



Because of this spring's public health emergency, Cal U postponed the annual Bow Ties & Pearls Ball. Our 2020 honorees will be recognized when the fundraiser returns in spring 2021.

SO MANY LIFE LESSONS



Jon Helegda '81 has been with Liberty Mutual for 35 years, rising through the insurance company's ranks to his current role as senior client service manager. The journey took perseverance and strength.

His father died when he was just 14, and his mother suffered from addiction. This "shy boy from Youngstown, Ohio" wasn't sure where life would take him.

But caring family members set him on the path to success – and that road ran through Cal U.



Every graduate has a Cal U story. To share yours, email alumni@calu.edu.

HELEGDA WRITES ...

"My mother had a brother and his family in Roscoe, Pa., not too far from the Cal U campus. After the passing of my father ... these family members guided me, supported me and kept me on the right path.

They knew I wanted to consider teaching as a profession. Being educators and graduates of California University, they thought this would be a great fit for me. I was the only member of my immediate family to go to college – an accomplishment to be proud of.

The next four years of my life were wonderful. I found roots in Roscoe and so many new friends. Even more wonderful, I met many dedicated professors who wanted to see us students succeed. We were taught so many life lessons during this time.

After four years of working and studying hard, I graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education ... but 1981 was not a great time to find teaching positions. After substitute teaching, I landed a job with Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh, working with mentally and physically challenged adults. I followed that up with a position as an occupational therapist assistant with the Intermediate Unit. You can see the elementary education connection in both these assignments!

In 1984 I decided to get married and start a family. Soon I began a career as a claims adjuster with Liberty Mutual Insurance, and a few years later I was promoted to claims supervisor. Then I became the director of hiring and training – a position that allowed me to utilize all the education and teaching skills I'd learned at Cal U.

I've spent the past 20 years of my career in Liberty Mutual's national sales and service organization. Once again, these positions let me use the teaching skills I learned at my alma mater.

I've done OK for myself and my family. It would not have been possible without the support from my wife and the great education and life lessons I received from California University. For that I am very thankful." ■

50s

George Rummell '56, who studied industrial arts education at Cal U, and Dorothy Rummell live in Dover, Del.

Filomena DeBlassio Andreani '56 lives in Coal Center, Pa. She majored in elementary education and was in College Players, women's basketball and chorus.

60s

Timothy Gorske '62 is president of Metal Building Consultants, in Hudson, Fla., where he and **Marianne Sankovich Gorske** '63 reside. Timothy majored in education at Cal U, where he was student body president, co-chair of social activities and a member of Sigma Tau Gamma.

Martin Cwynar '64 and **Nancy Cwynar** '64 live in Imperial, Pa.

Paintings by **Lynn Angelelli** '65 were on exhibit at the Schoolhouse Arts and History Center in Bethel Park, Pa.

Cal Cohn '65 is a retired U.S. Navy commander. He and Susan Cohn live in Surprise, Ariz. Cal majored in geography and Earth science at Cal U, where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi.

John F. Martin Jr. '68 and Patricia Martin live in Alexandria, Ohio. He studied philosophy and participated in theater at Cal U.

70s

Don Scholter '70, of Hillsboro, Ore., is a system support administrator for the College of Marin, in the state of California. He majored in psychology and played football at Cal U.

Dominic Palmieri '70 is a board member for the Westmoreland County Veterans of the War on Terror. He and **Carol Palmieri** '70 live in Greensburg, Pa. Dominic studied secondary education and was a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, Alpha Mu Gamma and the Spanish Club.

Harris Goldenberg '72 is chair of the electronics, telecommunications and biomedical instrumentation program at Texas State Technical College, Abilene/Sweetwater. He and Carolyn Goldenberg live in Bastrop, Texas. Harris studied industrial arts education at Cal U and was a founding member of WMCL radio.

BRITISH CONNECTION

Allen Hixon '71 found family ties during a trip to the United Kingdom – specifically, the village of Hixon in Staffordshire County. The former history/social studies and economics major says he ‘felt ready to connect with all things British I had studied back at Cal U, or California State Teachers College, as it was known then. Seeing the Magna Carta, Stonehenge, Hadrian’s Wall (and) Westminster Abbey, along with places like Canterbury, Salisbury, York, the white cliffs of Dover and, of course, London, was nearly overwhelming. ... It was a trip beyond anything I could have imagined.’



Barbara Williams '73 was honored by the city of McKeesport, Pa., with an award for “Living the McKeesport Message” of respect, dignity, hope and love. Her experience includes helping to educate those in the criminal justice system and other special populations.

Val Wilson Paulisick '73, who has a Master of Social Work degree, is the CEO and founder of Rewind-Reuse Center and Workshop in Export, Pa. Val and **William Paulisick** '74 live in Export.

Charles White '75 and Peggy White live in Claysville, Pa. Charles majored in psychology. He was a member of the Glee Club and the Veterans Club, and he practiced judo.

Rodger Young '76 lives in Lady Lake, Fla. He studied secondary education and played basketball at Cal U.

John Rapano '76, '79 lives in Olympia, Wash. He studied elementary education and philosophy at Cal U.

William Glover '77 and Nancy Glover live in Galax, Va. William majored in geology at Cal U and was in ROTC and Delta Chi.

80s

John Ackermann '80 and Betsy Ackermann live in Pittsburgh, Pa. John studied industrial arts and elementary education at Cal U.

Charles “Chuck” Valentino '82 is a manager for Thermo Fisher Scientific in Greenville, S.C. He majored in chemistry at Cal U.

Gerald Crow '83 is NorthCentral Forest Tax Team leader for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He and Sandra Crow live in Tomahawk, Wis. Gerald studied environmental conservation at Cal U and was a member of Beta Beta Beta.

Greg Tylka '83, '85 is interim associate chair of the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at Iowa State University.

90s

Jim Chaffee '90 is chief operations officer for the Tippie College of Business at the University of Iowa.

George Zboyovsky '90, the manager of Brentwood, Pa., is credentialed through the Washington, D.C.-based International City/County Management Association. He studied physics at Cal U.



Michael J. Beam '92 and his business partner, Duke Adams, announced that their company, Vagabond Bowties LLC, was a finalist for the 2019 fall season of ABC's

Shark Tank. Their company was one of the 150 finalists selected from 40,000 entries.

Erik Sprowls '89, '93 is the creator of *Dead and Buried Treasures*. Erik stars as “creature feature” host Capt. Calico Drake, who introduces the movies. The show airs on public-access channels in southwestern Pennsylvania.

MILESTONES

Nino Sapone '92 is airport director at Bishop International Airport in Flint, Mich.

Brent Kincaid '97 was honored by Williamstown (W.Va.) High School for a basketball record – 3-point shooting percentage – he set in 1989-1990.



Brandi Hershey '96 is the first female to serve as a Court of Common Pleas judge in Bedford County, Pa. Before being elected judge, Brandi practiced law

for 20 years, serving as an assistant district attorney in both Blair and Bedford counties and, more recently, as founding attorney of the Law Office of Brandi Hershey, representing individuals and businesses. She has received numerous awards and was named one of the 2018 Most Influential Persons of Bedford County by the *Bedford Gazette*. Also in 2018, *Pennsylvania Business Central* listed Brandi among the “Top 100 People in Pennsylvania.”

Kelly Parsley '95 is head track and field and cross country coach at Bethel College, Kansas. He studied communications at Cal U.

Derek Anderson '96 lives in Columbia, Mo. He majored in business administration at Cal U.

The Rev. John B. Gizler III '96, a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was installed as pastor of St. Philip Parish in Crafton, Pa., in November 2019. He was elected to serve a five-year term on the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and appointed by Bishop David Zubik to the Diocesan College of Consultors.

Randal Finrock '98 is a member of Greensburg (Pa.) City Council.

Vicky Krug '98 won the Excellence in Teaching Award from Westmoreland County Community College, where she teaches developmental education, college literacy, abnormal psychology, general psychology and interpersonal communications. She earned her master's degree in education at Cal U.

Gina Filippone '99 is a project controls analyst for AECOM, based in Germantown, Md. She studied wildlife biology at Cal U and now lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.

00s

Patricia Mays '00 lives in Clearfield, Pa. She majored in English at Cal U.

Tawnia St. Amant '01 earned her doctorate in education from the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her bachelor's degree in education at Cal U.

Travis Everhart '01 is the head football coach at Alderson Broaddus University, in West Virginia. He studied geography and regional planning at Cal U.

Laura Fano '01 is a supply chain manager for Pepsi in Twinsburg, Ohio. She majored in political science at Cal U and was in the Pre-law Society.

Chad Merrill '02 is the weather prognosticator for the *Hagerstown Town and Country Almanack*. His experience includes work as a meteorologist for WTOP Radio in Washington, D.C., the Nowcast Weather Network, Earth Networks, WJAC-TV in Johnston, Pa., and the former WHAG-TV, now WDVM, in Hagerstown, Md.

Chad Ewing '02 is national sales and marketing director for HPC Fire Inspired, a gas fire-pit manufacturer. At Cal U he studied computer science, with a minor in information systems.

Mike Steeber '04, of Belle Vernon, Pa., is a science teacher at Frazier High School, where he provides instruction in engineering, physics and robotics and was the football team's head coach from 2010-2018.

Adam Bryan '05 is the director/manager of the Alban Arts and Conference Center in St. Albans, W.Va.

Michelle Saylor '05 is scheduled to retire in July 2020 as superintendent of the Bellefonte (Pa.) Area School District. She earned her master's degree in education and her principal's certification at Cal U.

Meghan Florkowski '06 is director of the WISE Women's Business Center at Syracuse University. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion.

Justin Welker '06 is water operations manager for Range Resources.

Jere Jones '06, a business administration major from Norristown, Pa., is a senior mortgage processor/underwriter for Magnum Opus Federal Corp., in Philadelphia, Pa.

Mark Anthony '06 is vice president of sales for CemSites, in Perryopolis, Pa. He and Sarah Anthony live in Uniontown, Pa. Mark studied political science at Cal U.



FOUNDATION AWARDS

The Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania presented its annual awards. From left, University President Geraldine Jones and Foundation board president **Dr. Harry Serene** '65 recognized **William R. Flinn II** '68, Dixonians Award, named for John N. Dixon, one of Cal U's founders; **Armand Balsano** '74, Job Johnson Award for excellence, innovation and community service; and Cal U couple **Thomas Bakaitus** '83 and **Beth Bershok** '84, Society of 1852 Award for distinguished contributions to the enhancement and excellence of Cal U. The foundation is an affiliated yet independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports the University's students and mission.

Katey Doman '07 is president and owner of TyE Bar LLC, in Glassport, Pa. She majored in communication studies at Cal U and lives in Allentown, Pa.

Jessica Buterbaugh '07 is a lecturer in communications at Penn State University. She and Cory Buterbaugh live in Huntingdon, Pa. Jessica majored in communication studies at Cal U and was active with CUTV.

Philip Pavilionis '07 is a lecturer at the University of Nevada, Reno. Philip majored in exercise science at Cal U. He and Kelly Pavilionis live in Reno.

George Cattell '06, '07 is on the board of directors for the Lancaster Division of the American Heart Association. George has been the exercise physiologist for the Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health Employee Wellness Program for the past eight years. He earned his master's degree in athletic training and a master's degree in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

Joshua Adams '09 was a write-in candidate for Ford City (Pa.) Council. He is an equipment operator for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Sarah Stenson '09 is a quality analyst for Bausch Health, in Tampa, Fla. At Cal U she majored in legal studies with a homeland security concentration. She and John Stenson live in Tarpon Springs, Fla.

Jerry Morris '09 is director of the Legislative Policy and Research Office for Pennsylvania's House Democratic Caucus. He has served in the office as a legislative intern, research analyst, research manager and assistant director. As a student, Jerry participated in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program.

Dr. Jessica Seiler Poole '09 is government relations director for the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She studied nursing at Cal U.

10s

Tobi Baldwin '10 teaches in the College of Rehabilitative Sciences at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences, in Florida. Tobi earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Mercedes Himmons '10, of Canonsburg, Pa., is an assistant athletic trainer at Cal U.

Ben Iannacchione '10 is director of sports performance for the University of Kansas football program. He studied sports counseling at Cal U.

IN PRINT

Robert Yarus '61 has published his 10th essay, "The Light on the Ceiling in Hemingway's 'Across the River and into the Trees,'" in *The Explicator* journal. Robert taught English for eight years at Gateway Senior High School, in Monroeville, Pa., and for 28 years at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He retired in 1997.

Dan Clendaniel '78, a retired public school teacher from Prince William County, Va., is the author of *Such Hard and Severe Service: The 85th Pennsylvania in the Civil War*. During his last year as a teacher, Dan was the teacher-in-residence at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. He continues to conduct programs through the museum on World War I, World War II and the Cold War. His interest in the 85th Pennsylvania regiment began in 2009 with a review of letters written during the war by John and Stephen Clendaniel.

Dr. Melissa Sovak, a professor in the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, has released two novels, *The Secret of Dunhaven Castle* and *Shadows of the Past*. Extensively published on topics such as statistical reasoning and color models for image decomposition, Sovak uses the pen name Nellie H. Steele for her fiction.



Robert Prah '06, '10, director of Military and Veterans Affairs at Cal U, was a candidate for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the 58th legislative district.

Dr. Maryloyd Claytor '07, '10 is an adjunct professor of dance at Chatham University, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Crystal Parish '11 is program director for Silvermist, a residential program in Butler, Pa., that treats young adults with substance use disorders. Previously, she was a therapist and then a clinical manager for multiple Gateway Rehabilitation Center outpatient locations. She studied community and agency counseling at Cal U.

Jacob Crawford '11, of Middletown, Pa., is a senior web developer for Pennsylvania Interactive. Jacob majored in graphic design at Cal U, where he was a member of Studio 224 and played ice hockey.

Ian Lonich '12 is a certified neurological physical therapist with Allegheny Health Network.

Craig Bosse '12 and Cynthia Bosse live in Slidell, La. Craig studied sport management at Cal U.

Michael Poploskie '12 was inducted into *Marquis Who's Who*, which considers accomplishments, visibility and prominence in a field during the selection process. Michael has 15 years of experience as a physical education teacher at Mastery Charter Schools' Pickett Campus, in Philadelphia, Pa., where he has been the school's athletic director for more than 10 years. He earned his master's degree in sport management at Cal U, with a concentration in intercollegiate athletic administration.

Casey Creehan '11 is the football coach at Peru State College, Nebraska. He earned his post-baccalaureate certificate in intercollegiate administration from Cal U.

Tara Friel '12 is general manager of the Roxian Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa. She majored in communication studies at Cal U and was Snow Club president.

Robert Kagel '12, the county administrator in Chester County, Pa., was named a VISTA Millennial Superstar. The award is hosted by Wilmington University, Brumbaugh Wealth Management and the Chester County Economic Development Council to recognize professionals under 40 years old.

MILESTONES

April Ryan '13 was a featured artist for the Steubenville (Ohio) Art Association's painting workshop and demonstration. April owns Thistledown Home and Art in Washington, Pa.

Joseph Lane '13, who studied criminal justice at Cal U, is a public safety officer at St. Vincent College, near Latrobe Pa.

Kim Shaffer '13 owns Kim's Gym in Salida, Colo. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion. She is certified with the National Academy of Sports Medicine, the American Council on Exercise and the American Association of Health and Fitness Professionals.

Don Trapp '14 is the strength and conditioning coach for the State College Spikes, a minor league baseball team in State College, Pa.

KirkRyan McFarland '13, '14 was the casting director for the horror feature film *Shimmer*, directed by Rob Ciano. Ciano will film the trailer for *United*, a faith-based project from Invictus Films written by KirkRyan and Stephen Edwards.

Nathan Hines '15, of Reidsville, N.C., is director of bands at Morehead High School, in Eden, N.C. He earned his master's degree in education at Cal U and was a graduate assistant in the Music Department.

Steven Krenn '15, who studied commercial music technology, presented a paper at the Facebook Reality Labs in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Justin Locante '16 owns Conscious Mind Wellness in Pittsburgh, Pa. He majored in sport management and played hockey at Cal U.

Zachary Filtz '16 is an op-ed writer for Weiner Public News in Washington, D.C. Zachary majored in English at Cal U and was a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. He and Shannon Stepp live in King George, Va.

Jed Hamberger '16 is superintendent of the Oswayo Valley (Pa.) School District. He earned his superintendent letter of eligibility from Cal U.

Tyla Paige Epps '17 works in the intensive care unit at UMPC Mercy Hospital, in Pittsburgh, Pa. She studied gerontology at Cal U.

Jake Schiffer '17 is sports and wellness director at the YMCA of Centre County, Pa.



STELLAR STUDENTS

Madison Dulion '17, '19 and **Sierra Snyder '19** were named Students of the Year for the fall semester by the President's Commission for the Status of Women. The awards recognize students who are dedicated to Cal U, successful personally and professionally, and supportive of women on and off campus. Madison earned her associate degree in liberal studies, her bachelor's degree in psychology with minors in sociology and women's studies, and her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. Sierra earned her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in art.

Mikal Payne '10, '16, who earned degrees in sport management, is a co-facilitator for a brain injury support group in Concord, N.H.

Jamie Bogol '09, '16, of Brownsville, Pa., is secretary to the directors of operations and mental and behavioral health at Intermediate Unit 1, based in California, Pa. She studied history and education at Cal U.



Becky McMillen '17, executive director of University Conference Services at Cal U, received a Kinetic Legend award from Kinetics Software for the strategic use

of its product Kx, an enterprise software platform. Becky earned her MBA at Cal U. She and her team use the software to track the number of high school students and other visitors to the Convocation Center.

Garrett Del Re '17 is head girls basketball coach at South Park (Pa.) High School.

Cmdr. Jason Lando '17 was a candidate for police chief in Boulder, Colo. He is the commander in vice/narcotics for the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Bureau of Police. Jason earned his master's degree in legal studies from Cal U.

Jacob Garcia '17, of Washington, D.C., is a management and program analyst for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A former business administration major, he is part of an honors program at NOAA that provides travel opportunities, mentorship and hands-on learning opportunities with senior executives.

Aryn Hess '18 is a microbiology medical laboratory technician/medical technologist for UPMC in Pittsburgh, Pa. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology, a bachelor's and associate in liberal studies, and an associate in technical studies.

Eric Porter '18 is a magisterial district judge in Charleroi, Pa. He studied criminal justice at Cal U and is an instructor at Cal U's full-time IUP Police Academy.

Colby Brandt '19 is assistant police chief in Glendale, Ariz. He earned his master's degree in legal studies from Cal U.

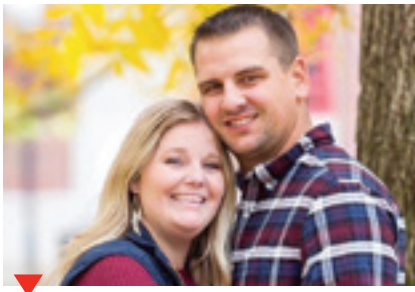
Artist and author **Dave Howard '19** owns Uncle Dave's Books, in Leechburg, Pa. He studied fine arts at Cal U.

Patrick Smith '12, '19 is a quality clinician for Community Care Behavioral Health, in Lock Haven, Pa. He earned his doctorate in health science and his master's in exercise science and health promotion, both at Cal U.

ENGAGEMENTS



Briana Hendriksen '17 and **Jose Negron '16** are engaged. Briana is a marketing specialist for AVI Foodsystems at Cal U, and Jose is assistant sports editor for the *Mon Valley Independent* newspaper. At Cal U, Briana was a member of Sigma Kappa, the Public Relations Student Society of America, Travel Club, Student Activities Board and the *Cal Times* student newspaper. Jose was editor of the *Cal Times* and a member of the Underground Café and Student Activities Board.



Suzy Hart '15, '17 and **Brendan Garay '15, '16** are engaged. Suzy works in the mental health field as a facilitator and supervisor. Brendan is a senior tax accountant. At Cal U, Suzy was involved with the Student Activities Board. She also was president of the National Society of Leadership and Success and served in Chi Sigma Iota, the international counselors society. Brendan was Student Government president and is a current member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

WEDDINGS

Deryk Hartin '10 and Caitlin Knowles were married in March 2020 in Sarasota, Fla. Deryk is a chiropractor with Chambers Medical Group of Bradenton, Fla.

Michael Motsko '16 and Malena Kinsman were married in July 2019. Michael, who earned his Cal U master's degree in educational leadership, is a special education teacher at North Pocono High School, in Lackawanna County, Pa.

Joshua Deppe '16 and Courtney Ollerman were married in October 2019. Joshua, who studied sport management at Cal U, is the CrossFit manager at the Prairie Athletic Club. They couple lives in Sun Prairie, Wis.

Nicole Presto '14 and **Brandon Dunmire '16** were married in September 2019. Together, they operate a video production company, AmbiDream Productions LLC. Bridal party members were **Tavahn Parker '15**, Dane Vaughan, **Jordan Westfall '15**, Trisha Bandish, Madison Presto and **Amanda Testa '14**.



Theresa Kulasa '17, and **Robert "Bobby" Lea '19** were married in September 2019 in Zelienople, Pa., where they met. Theresa majored in biology with a concentration in pre-medicine and secondary education. Bobby earned his master's degree in exercise science. They live and work in White Oak, Pa.

Re'maro Rush '10 and Danielle Danhires celebrated their wedding in Riviera Maya, Mexico, in December 2019. The groom's party included best man **Darren Burns '09**; **Eric Spurlin '11**; **Sam Adeshina '10, '11**; **Tamba Marenah '11**; and **Ryan Barnhart '08, '09, '19**. Guests of the bride and groom included **Chelsea Ratica '14**; **Trisha Runtich-Spurlin '11, '13**; **Paige Marenah '14**; and **Jessica Krieger-Barnhart '12, '18**. The bride and groom live in Baldwin, Pa.

ANNIVERSARIES

Christopher Jansante '70, '74 and **Linda Ometz Jansante '70** celebrated their 40th anniversary in August 2019. Chris is a retired optical business consultant with Essilor U.S.A., and Linda retired as a secondary English teacher in the Yough School District, in Herminie, Pa. They live in Hempfield Township, Pa.

B.J. Forsyth '98 and **Jennifer McElroy Forsyth '99**, of Cranberry Township, Pa., celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in November 2019. They have three children

and still connect with many friends who also were Vulcans. B.J. is an Acacia Fraternity alumnus, and Jen was a member of Phi Sigma Sigma.



Harvey L. Rawlins '68 and Linda Tunney Rawlins celebrated their 50th anniversary in June 2019. They have three daughters, four grandsons and two granddaughters. Both graduated from California (Pa.) High School.

BIRTHS



Alisha Guckes-Metz '09 and Chad Metz, of West Mifflin, Pa., welcomed son Logan Glenn Metz in April 2019. Alisha is a funeral director, embalmer and aftercare director at Savolskis-Wasik-Glenn Funeral Home Inc., in Munhall, Pa. She majored in biology at Cal U and was a member of the dance team.



Miranda Reich '16 and **Nicholas Reich '14** welcomed their second child, Nolan David Reich, pictured with sister Charlotte. Miranda is a product owner for Creehan & Co., in Canonsburg, Pa.

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REMEMBRANCES

Charles Angelo "Buck" Gismondi '64 died Nov. 16, 2019. He was an emeritus professor who returned to his alma mater to teach in the Speech Pathology Department, now known as the Department of Communication Disorders. He retired in January 2002 after a 33-year career at Cal U. Charles became Cal U's head baseball coach in 1980 and guided the team for 17 seasons. He was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003, and he established an endowed scholarship for the Vulcans baseball program.



Dr. Jay D. Helsel '59 died Jan. 8, 2020. During his 35-year career at Cal U, he was a member of the industrial arts teaching faculty, director of campus planning, vice president for Administrative Affairs and department chair; he retired in 1996. Jay was the recipient of many awards, including the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award; the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Alumni Association; the Dixonians Award from the Foundation for California University; and the University's Outstanding Technology Education Alumnus Lifetime Achievement Award. Helsel Hall was named after him in 2005.



Carole Ruch Watkins '77 died Feb. 14, 2020. She was married to Emeritus President Dr. John P. Watkins for 62 years, and she served as California's first lady during his 16-year tenure. A generous benefactor who endowed many scholarships with her husband, Carole earned a Master of Education degree from California State College in 1977. Both of her children, John G. '88 and Jennifer '85, are Cal U alumni.



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Wilma A. Bailey '44

Mary Jane Crayton Barber '58

William Keith "Butch" Barber Jr. '66

Linda T. Belis*

Dorothy Beppler '54

Betty A. Bindas '49

Candace Lafferty Byers '76

Joseph Checchi '63

Joseph S. Ciferno '65

John R. Clarchick '70

Richard Closser '84

Randall C. "Randy" Coccari '89, '91

Barbara L. Cole '75

Marjorie Robertson Cowden '54

Valentine Cullen III '66

Johnna Cumpston '84

Elizabeth "Bettie" Viola
Dinsmore Dallmeyer '63

Robert E. "Bob" DeLorenzo Jr.*

Walter Dinsick Jr. '69

Joyce Ewing '89

Dorothy Bierman Flynn '63

Joshua J. Fritch '13

Robert Goin,* former athletic
director at Cal U

Joshua "Josh" Lorne Gumbert '12

Robert L. "Bob" Harned '70

Willard W. "Lock" Hartley II '64

Marilyn Lillian Burton Hillen '82

Rose Ann Petitto Houdyschell '78

Donna Jean Hradil '05

Matthew John Luckhardt '03

Richard E. "Yakey" McCallum,*
Cal U maintenance department

Sandra L. McGurk '93

Jeannine Metal '80, Cal U Career
Services and adjunct professor

Shirley M. Mislo '72

David Allison Morris Jr. '74

Herman Osso '69

Katie Burdick Peterson '06

Esther Ross Howard Pevarnik '64

Ty Pompei*

James Pudlo '59

June Lorraine Puskarich '70

Judith Ann Pavlick Rasel '61

Carroll B. "Pete" Rugh '59

Duane Anton Ryan '77

Ruth Stern Schrag*

William Steven Sento '64

Paula Dale Kozik Sibert '69

Billie Jo Ferrari Smiley '69

Barbara Jean Horak Smith '67, '69

Charles Donald Smith '55

Janice Mize Smaroff '62

Richard T. "Rich" Sonson '72

Elizabeth Reisinger Spragg '85

Brenda Joyce Hawkins Thornburg '82

Brianna Ruby Waller*

James Walter Williams,*

Cal U maintenance department

*No class year available or on file



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AMAZING GRACE

Theatre major Alexandra Wilson stretches in the warm spring sunlight that streams into Old Main Chapel. Wilson focuses heavily on dance as part of her musical theatre concentration.