

CALU

REVIEW

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MAGAZINE • FALL 2020



THE WAY WE WERE

President poised to retire after a semester unlike any other

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's time to turn the page. On January 29 I'll retire from California University, closing a career that spans 46 years.

It's hard to say good-bye when our University, and our world, are facing so many challenges. But I have always planned to depart on my own schedule. This is the right time for me to begin a new chapter in my life.

It has been an honor to lead this University as its seventh president. It has been a privilege to work with so many wise and caring faculty, staff and administrators. Above all, it has been a joy to watch generations of students become successful alumni, empowered to take on the world.

Over more than four decades, I have come to know our University's resilience, and I have seen firsthand the countless ways that Cal U changes lives, including my own. I feel blessed to have played a role in helping to move our University forward.

Every ending is also a new beginning, so I want to congratulate Robert "Bob" Thorn, who has been appointed to serve as interim president once I retire.



Bob joined Cal U in 1993 as director of financial aid. Since 2010 he has been vice president for Administration and Finance, our University's chief financial officer. He is a creative and competent administrator who shares my "students first" philosophy – and no one knows Cal U's campus and finances better.

I'm confident that our University will thrive under his leadership.

My last days on campus will be bittersweet. California has been my school, my workplace and my home. But I am leaving with wonderful memories – and the confidence that our University has the strength to rise, boldly and proudly, to meet whatever the future may bring.

I thank you, dear friends, for the faith you have shown in me, and for your countless contributions to our University. As I've said many times, Cal U is a very special place, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

With warmest wishes,



Geraldine M. Jones

Geraldine M. Jones
PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

CAL U REVIEW

CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S MAGAZINE

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Wendy Mackall Matt Kifer
Laurie Bartolotta Bruce Wald '85

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Zach Frailey Jeff Helsel
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ON THE COVER

A masked Vulcan sets the tone for campus as University President Geraldine Jones, first gentleman Jeff Jones and canine ambassador Ali stroll across the Quad.

STORY: PAGE 4

A LOOK INSIDE



06

LAB REPORT

Innovation is key to hands-on learning



08

SHE SAID 'YES'

Retiring president built a career by embracing opportunities



10

PORTRAITS IN LEADERSHIP

Presidents Hall sketches the University's story



16

YOU'RE WELCOME

Space redesigned with campus visit experience in mind



18

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Internships take new forms as students prepare for careers



23

HALL OF FAME

Cal U honors five standout athletes

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- 12 Campus Clips
- 20 Alumni News & Events
- 22 Alumni Awards
- 24 Alumni Spotlight
- 26 Sports Roundup
- 29 Milestones



Pandemic shaped an unprecedented fall semester

Cal U's campus was quiet. On a sunny fall morning, a handful of employees trickled in and out of Dixon Hall. A pair of students climbed the steps to Manderino Library. A family eased their car along Third Street, cellphone propped on the dashboard, and stopped for a look at the Herron fitness center.

University President Geraldine Jones said the decision provided "a bit of certainty in these very uncertain times."

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lives – but it cannot stop you from earning your degree," she told students. "By staying apart this fall semester, we are protecting ourselves and those we care about most, including our friends, classmates and mentors on campus."

Everyone – even the bronze Vulcan statue on the Quad and the bust of philanthropist Robert Eberly in front of the library – wore a mask.

Yet despite the stillness on campus, plenty was going on.



The coronavirus changed everything at Cal U, from classes to campus visits and University operations. To mitigate risk for students and employees, the University closed its residence halls, suspended athletics competition and shifted to remote operations in March, when COVID-19 emerged as a significant threat to public health.

BUILDING VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS

Throughout the spring and summer, staff in the Enrollment Management division had shifted their approach. With on-campus activities suspended, admissions counselors began meeting with prospective students and families on Zoom and Facebook Live.

With the safety of the campus community uppermost in their minds, University leaders spent countless hours planning a "responsible reopening" for the fall semester, only to see case numbers surge throughout Pennsylvania and across the country in early summer.

Faculty members talked with students during virtual Open House events. Staff answered questions via texts and chats, and used their cellphones to lead families on drive-through campus tours.



In late July they made the decision to continue remote operations throughout the fall semester.

Media reports predicted dramatic enrollment declines at colleges nationwide, but Cal U continued making connections, one student



By staying apart this fall semester, we are protecting ourselves and those we care about most, including our friends, classmates and mentors on campus."

GERALDINE JONES, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

at a time. When fall classes began, the University's overall enrollment had exceeded last fall's total.

"It was truly a team effort," says T. David Garcia, vice president for Enrollment Management.

"So many people, all across campus, contributed to bringing in a freshman class with the highest high school grade-point average in the history of Cal U and increasing its adult-learner enrollment through online graduate programs."

This fall Cal U delivered most classes through real-time remote learning, where students meet virtually with their professor and classmates on a regular schedule, just as they would on campus. Most learners logged in from home, but computer workstations made the library a go-to spot for those lacking internet access.

As the semester began, hundreds of faculty completed advanced instruction in online teaching techniques and the nuances of D2L/Brightspace, Zoom and other digital platforms.

Interim Provost Dr. Daniel Engstrom describes remote learning as "more direct and engaging" than the type of online instruction that can be completed on a student's own schedule.

"Asynchronous courses are ideal for adult learners who need to plan their coursework around a job or family schedule," he explains. "But for undergraduates, in particular, remote

learning provides more structure and a stronger connection with the professor.

"We surveyed students after the spring semester, when we had to make the sudden shift to virtual classes. This was the delivery method that students told us they preferred."

Hands-on learning continued, too. Simulation software helped some nursing, anatomy and engineering technology students build new skills. Lab kits let science majors practice research techniques. And creativity blossomed as students collaborated on virtual performances and presentations.

Outside of class, Student Affairs staff made sure there were plenty of opportunities for students to find support – and to have some fun. Beginning with Welcome Weekend, they orchestrated a 30-day series of events that ran the gamut from trivia contests and online gaming to *Adulting 101*, a series of workshops on topics such as time management, self-care and personal finances.

"A year ago, who would have envisioned online tutoring, or a virtual career fair, or curbside delivery for library books?" President Jones asked at the fall faculty-staff convocation – the first in the University's history to be held on Zoom.

"Within the parameters imposed by COVID-19, the essential aspects of college life continue. Our students are learning what it means to be resilient, and they are seeing how professionals in their chosen disciplines can adjust to changing circumstances."

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE

Fall classes ended in early December. Spring 2021 will be another "semester unlike any other."

The pandemic's trajectory is still evolving. Cal U continues to mitigate risk, even as leaders cautiously plan for the future. Concerns about health and safety still drive decision-making. Innovation and adaptability remain the order of the day.

When it's time for students to return, Cal U's campus will be ready. Buildings have been sanitized. Cameras are poised to beam on-campus lessons to students who prefer to log in from afar. Desks sit 6 feet apart, and branded masks are waiting.

Near a hand sanitizer dispenser, a cartoon image of mascot Blaze peeks from behind a face covering, reminding everyone to protect themselves and those around them.

"These are turbulent times," says President Jones. "We have learned so much this fall, and we will put that experience to use. I have no doubt that in the end, we will emerge stronger, smarter and more resilient." ■

*By Christine Kindl
VP for Communications and Marketing*



WELCOME BACK

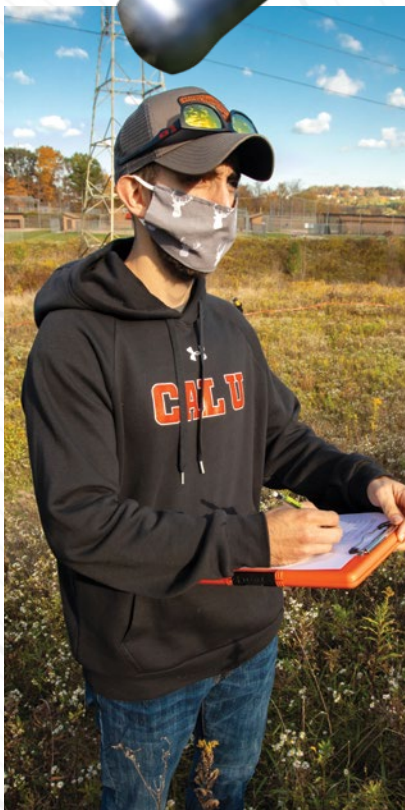
As an unprecedented fall semester began, faculty welcomed and encouraged students. See a playlist of their inspirational #CalUTogether Faculty Welcome messages at youtube.com/c/CaluEdu/playlists.





LAB REPORT

INNOVATION IS KEY TO **HANDS-ON** LEARNING



Lab experiments,” says Cal U chemistry professor Dr. Kimberly Woznack, “are some of the most fun parts of science courses.”

A proactive approach made sure they remained both fun and educational, even while Cal U’s labs and classrooms were closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’ve been very proactive in identifying the educational resources both faculty and students needed this fall,” says Dr. Brenda Fredette, dean of the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

That included professional development for faculty – already experts in their fields – that focused on instructional design

and best practices in online teaching.

At least one faculty member from each department that would include a science lab received advanced training in how to design hands-on experiments for an online environment. That group then served as teacher-mentors for their Cal U colleagues.

Professors learned “how to build the lab experience in a meaningful way, so that students are thinking about what they’re doing and engaging with the concepts,” Fredette says.

“Follow-up activities give students the opportunity to use what they’ve learned to demonstrate their knowledge.”

IN THE FIELD

Students in certain biology, microbiology, cell biology and chemistry courses were mailed kits with tools and materials, so they didn't have to worry about gathering supplies.

Outdoor or socially distanced "boot camp" experiences helped students in specialized majors meet program requirements. For example, veterinary technology students worked with large animals at a designated farm site.

Under the watchful eyes of program director and veterinarian Dr. Nancy Pugh and vet tech coordinator Kelly Gustine, students spent several days at the Washington County location. They practiced performing essential skills like physical examinations, blood draws and injections.

"I love to actually get to experience what it's like to work with an animal instead of reading a textbook," student Coco Pahanish says. "I'm thankful there was a way to make it work this semester. It's my favorite."

Other students completed their lab work at home.

For his Sedimentation and Stratigraphy course, Dr. Kyle Fredrick ordered sedimentary rock kits and microscopes for students, and he sent them samples of sand for analysis and reporting.

Students in Dr. Louise Nicholson's genetics course gained hands-on experience in DNA extraction, genetic crosses and artificial selection, DNA fingerprinting and more, all without leaving home.

In Human Anatomy, real-time interactions with professors Dr. Brian Paulson and Dr. Jesse Eiben guided students through the structure of human body systems. Simulation software allowed students to perform "dissections" in a virtual environment.



We've been very proactive in identifying the educational resources both faculty and students needed this fall."

DR. BRENDA FREDETTE

DEAN OF THE EBERLY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDUSTRY SOFTWARE

In the mechatronics engineering technology program, faculty converted hands-on sessions to simulations using industry-recognized software.

"Festo is an industrial equipment manufacturer and also a vendor for the lab equipment we have at Cal U," explains program coordinator Dr. Jennifer Wilburn. "The simulation packages are made to supplement that hardware and teach the same principles."

Mechatronics students also used software from Tooling U-SME, which produces certifications and content for the manufacturing industry.

In chemistry, Dr. Matthew Price created videos of experiments for his junior-level organic chemistry course. Students used an electronic "notebook" to organize experiment reports, and small groups met in Zoom breakout rooms to review concepts and make calculations.

Woznack's first-year chemistry students learned about the relationship between pressure and volume of a gas sample using a simulation that let them manipulate variables such as temperature and sample size.

Still other professors reached out to professional organizations to develop resources.

Dr. Carol Bocetti, a wildlife biologist in the Department of Biology, Geology and Environmental Sciences, began collaborating with The Wildlife Society's College and University Wildlife Education Working Group on best practices for remote learning.

She also worked with colleagues at the U.S. Forest Service, the Pennsylvania Game Commission and two wildlife refuges to create videos of hands-on techniques used to study pine martens, box turtles and black bears.

The positive side to remote learning, Bocetti says, is that students can see "a wider variety of organisms and habitats" as they watch a number of professional field biologists put field techniques into practice.

Wilburn agreed that technology can open doors to new learning opportunities.

"We have a finite amount of equipment in our lab," she says, "but if you're working on a simulation, everyone can work independently and spend more time learning some of the processes. We can use Zoom breakout rooms for the teamwork experience that industry looks for." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U



SHE SAID YES

RETIRING PRESIDENT BUILT A CAREER BY EMBRACING OPPORTUNITIES

University President Geraldine Jones retires from Cal U in January, ending a career that took her from the classroom to the President's Office.

As Miss California, she was invited to "any and all" events, and she immersed herself in college life. The campus quickly became her second home.

That was a not the future she envisioned while commuting from Brownsville to "Cal State" as a first-generation college student. It was not the goal she aspired to when she joined California's faculty.

She especially loved student teaching – except, perhaps, for an awkward moment when her supervising teacher, the formidable Merrell Holman '42, arrived without warning and found a nervous Jones tugging down a hemline that barely met the dress code.

But Jones was determined to say "yes" to every opportunity. And time after time, that decision made all the difference.

"I'll never forget that dress!" Jones says with a laugh.

"This University changes lives," she says. "It certainly changed mine."

Shortly before graduation, Jones stopped at the Albert Gallatin School District office to pick up a job application. The superintendent asked her to interview on the spot. She said yes, and landed her first full-time position.



“

My goal was always to leave the University a little better than I found it.”

TEACHING AND MENTORING

An early turning point came in her sophomore year, when California's dean of women, Maetroy Walker, invited Jones to appear in the Miss California State College pageant.

"I loved teaching school," she recalls. "I thought I'd retire from that job."

Although an African American student had never won the competition, Jones signed up.

But two years later, opportunity knocked again. She was offered a grant-funded position at Cal U.

She sang the Burt Bacharach hit "What the World Needs Now Is Love" in the talent portion of the show. She walked away with the campus title and won the talent competition at the state pageant in Harrisburg.

"I was about to get married. I had a full-time teaching job, and this was a temporary position in student support services. I talked to my father, and he said, 'You're young. Now is the time to go for the opportunity.' I thought about it, and I said yes."

"That was life-changing for me," Jones recalls.

On her first day of work on campus, a man followed her into the parking lot outside Old Main. Only faculty could use the space, he announced. He seemed surprised to learn that Jones was part of the teaching staff.

"I guess I looked young," she says. "There were only a handful of women on the faculty and an even smaller handful of minority faculty. ... For some people, it was new and different to see me in that role."

The student support program thrived, and Jones enjoyed counseling students who, like her, were the first in their families to attend college. Four years later she was asked to direct California's Upward Bound program, which prepares high school students for college success.

Again, she said yes. She held that position for 20 years and obtained \$3.9 million in federal grants. For 11 of those years she led the Academic Development Services Department.

As department chair, Jones worked closely with Dr. Stephen A. Pavlak '63, dean of the College of Education and Human Services. When Pavlak's work took him to the State System office in Harrisburg, she agreed to shift from faculty to administration.

After stints in interim roles, Jones was appointed dean of the College. Some difficult conversations ensued.

"Some of those faculty had been my professors when I was a student. Some had been my colleagues. And now here I was in this leadership role."

Jones hired 16 faculty members during her time as dean, and she made sure that women and minority candidates were considered. She mentored new instructors, including Frederick Douglass Scholars, and she watched with delight as more women became department chairs.

Today, "I love seeing two female deans leading our undergraduate Colleges," she says. "We still need improvement, but there is a richer diversity."



More than once Jones found aid for needy students on the verge of dropping out.

"I remember one young man who walked across the stage at graduation and gave me a big hug," she says. An extra \$200 had made it possible for him to finish his degree.

"I have been truly, truly blessed. And I've got to give it back."

LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

Eight years into her role as dean, Jones was called to the President's Office. The provost's seat was vacant, and she thought she'd be asked to serve on the search committee. Instead, Dr. Angelo Armenti Jr. tapped her to become Cal U's chief academic officer.

Once more she said yes – never dreaming that less than four years later, she would be positioned to step in as acting president.

The transition was unexpected.

"I remember Gerri being surprised – surprised but ready. For her, it was like putting on another pair of shoes," says Jeff Jones, who took on the role of "first gentleman."

"The University, and that sense of responsibility and service, had always been a part of our lives."

In her first public statement as acting president, Jones vowed to be more than a caretaker. She would move the University forward.

Four years later, at her formal inauguration, she pledged "not only a commitment to excellence, but also a willingness to make thoughtful and purposeful change."

And so she did, adding doctoral degrees and other academic programs, renovating Coover Hall and the president's residence, expanding shared governance, and streamlining the University's academic structure.

Through a host of challenges, including an unprecedented pandemic and plans for campus integrations, Jones never lost sight of her mission – to sustain her alma mater and help students build a brighter future at Cal U.

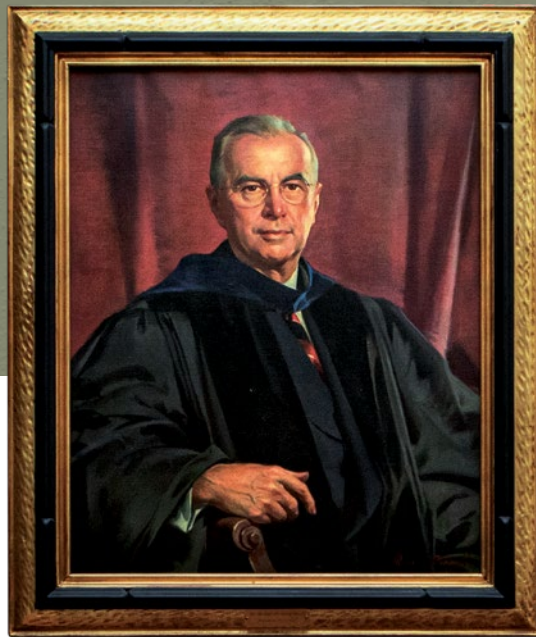
In retirement, Jones will have more time for family, including three beloved grandchildren. She and Jeff will leave their South Hall apartment for a new home in Washington County.

"My goal was always to leave the University a little better than I found it," she says.

"I wanted people to feel they'd made the right decision to work or go to school here. Students, faculty, staff, alumni – I want everyone to feel that this is their place, too." ■

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS





PORTRAITS IN LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENTS HALL SKETCHES UNIVERSITY STORY

Old Main’s Grand Hall has an updated look, a new name and a fresh purpose.

The spacious entrance to the University President’s office suite has been transformed into a portrait gallery dedicated to California’s former leaders.

Renamed “Presidents Hall,” it showcases paintings of the principals who led South-Western Normal College – the forerunner of Cal U – and the presidents of California State Teachers College, California State College and California University of Pennsylvania.

Most of the paintings previously were displayed in the Grand Hall and the adjoining Dome Room, a reception area outside the president’s conference room and private office.

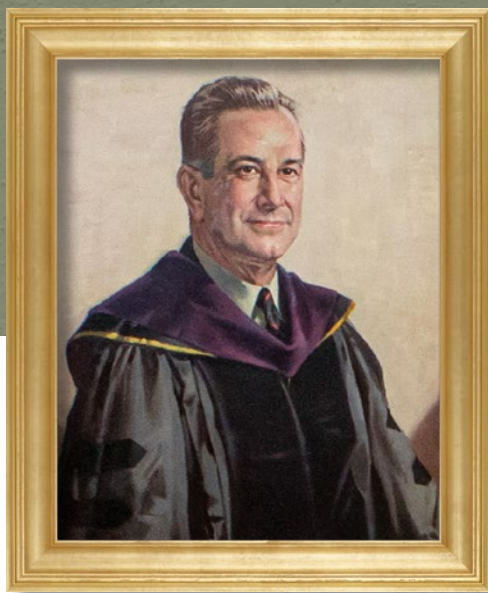
President Geraldine Jones passes the images of her predecessors on her way to work each day.

“Before we moved to remote operations, visitors and students sometimes would stop by to see the portraits,” she says. “They tell a story about our school’s history and heritage. With an updated setting, I thought we could tell that story even better.”

So during the spring and summer months, painters from the Facilities Management Department removed outdated wallpaper and repainted the room’s walls and stately columns. Carpenters took down the painted moldings that surrounded the hall’s unique stained-glass windows and replaced them with custom-crafted wood trim.

The four tall windows, created by former Cal U art professor Leslie Parkinson, depict Pennsylvania wildflowers. Like the portraits, they shine more brightly in the refreshed setting.

“I am very proud of the work our shops are capable of performing,” says Mike Kanalis, director of Facilities Management.



"A project that brings life back to a portion of a historical room is amazing to witness. We were able to maintain the historical look and aesthetics while still transforming the room. This finished project is a testament to the type of work that members of the Facilities Management Department do on a daily basis."

LATEST ADDITIONS

A recent addition to the art collection is a portrait of Dr. Angelo Armenti Jr., who was University president from 1992-2012.

First gentleman Jeff Jones, an accomplished photographer and artist, created the digital artwork based on a 2004 photograph by Greg Sofranko, Cal U's creative services director.

The hall's older paintings, in the moody "Rembrandt style," provide little context, Jeff Jones explains. But more recent portraits, including Armenti's, place the subjects in an environment that helps to tell their story.

He will use that contemporary style to create a digital portrait of his spouse before she retires.

"At first we considered hanging only the presidents' portraits in this space," says President Jones, the seventh person in California's history to hold that title.



It's not about me. It's about the history of this wonderful University. I'm proud to be a part of that history."

GERALDINE JONES, UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

"But those normal school administrators made important decisions that shaped the history of this institution. They set California on a path that brings us to where we are today. They belong here too.

"And with the addition of President Armenti's portrait, as well as my own, we've brought the collection up to date."

Presidents Hall is one of the oldest rooms on campus, in use since Old Main was completed in 1871. The high-ceilinged hall has served as the school's library, a lecture hall and, most recently, a place for meetings, banquets and receptions.

President Jones remembers taking an audio-visual course in the room during her undergraduate years, when the space was utilized for classrooms and offices. More recently, she's hosted holiday receptions for Cal U employees and quarterly breakfasts

for community leaders in the hall.

She is pleased to know that her portrait has been added to the collection. As the first woman and the first person of color to hold Cal U's top leadership post, her image speaks volumes about how the institution has changed over the decades.

"It's not about me," President Jones insists. "It's about the history of this wonderful University. I'm proud to be a part of that history." ■

By Christine Kindl
VP for Communications and Marketing

VISIT THE GALLERY

See a video highlighting the portraits in Presidents Hall at calu.edu/review



UNIVERSITIES PLAN FOR INTEGRATION

Cal U is in the midst of a comprehensive planning process that considers integration with Clarion and Edinboro universities.

Under the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's plan for System Redesign, the three western Pennsylvania schools will join forces to expand educational opportunities and rein in costs for students.

As envisioned now, integration will create a single accredited university – a powerhouse with more than 15,000 students across its three campuses. Each campus will retain its own identity, culture and traditions, System officials say.

A shared menu of in-person undergraduate and graduate programs will expand opportunities for students who want to live on campus or commute to college.

In addition, the integrated university will develop a robust array of online programs to be offered throughout the State System and beyond.

All three universities are continuing to enroll students as details are being worked out on the campuses and in Harrisburg. A public comment period is scheduled for spring. The earliest students would enter the integrated university is Fall 2022.

"Our mission to serve students, and all the residents of Pennsylvania, is arguably more important now than ever before," says Dr. Daniel Greenstein, the State System's chancellor.

"We are building something new. It won't be easy, and it will take time. But we have the intelligence, opportunity, grit and determination to pull this off."

NATIONAL HONOR FOR EXERCISE SCIENCE PROFESSOR



Dr. Ben Reuter, an associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, has been selected as the National Strength and Conditioning

Association's Sports Medicine/Rehabilitation Specialist of the Year for 2020.

The award recipient is chosen based on contributions to the field of sports medicine and to the NSCA, a nonprofit association dedicated to advancing strength and conditioning and related sport science professions around the world.

Reuter, who has been a member of the NSCA since 1988 and a certified strength and conditioning specialist since 1990, is the 19th recipient of the award, which began in 2001.

He also holds athletic training certification from the National Athletic Trainers Association.

ALUMNI SERVE ON COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES



Four alumni and a Cal U student are among the newest members of the University's Council of Trustees.

Barry Nicolai '93, executive director of Centerville Clinics, and

James W. Harris '80, a retired administrative law judge, joined the council in spring.

Justin R. Nwokeji '05, a major gifts officer at the University of Pittsburgh, and Sandra K. Guthrie '01, a partner at Guthrie, Belczyk and Associates P.C. Certified Public Accountants, began their service this summer.

Maria Dovshek, a Cal U junior from Scenery Hill, Pa., is serving as student trustee.

Each university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has an 11-member Council of Trustees. These governing bodies are charged with a variety of duties, including review and approval of new academic programs, students fees, and University contracts and purchases.

HEALTH, WELLNESS PARTNERS JOIN EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE

Two organizations focused on health and wellness – healthcare provider Washington Health System and fitness equipment manufacturer Technogym – are the first partners to join Cal U's new Educational Alliance.

Verified employees of Educational Alliance partners receive a 20% tuition discount (based on in-state rates) when they attend Cal U. The program also offers personalized service to support students from application through graduation.

"Cal U is committed to making top-quality higher education more affordable for

workers throughout the region and across Pennsylvania,” says Ben Brudnock, director of graduate admissions at Cal U.

Educational Alliance partnerships are available for businesses, nonprofit groups and membership organizations. Employees in partner organizations may enroll in Cal U’s undergraduate, master’s degree, certificate or licensure programs. For details, visit calu.edu/alliance.

TWO RECOGNIZED AS TOP PERFORMERS

Two staff members were recognized this fall for exceptional service to the University and its students.



Rebecca “Becky” Barnhart ’09, ’12, ’17, a residence hall director in the Office of Housing and Residence Life, received the Vulcan President’s Circle Award for outstanding job performance.

Nominators said she is “one of those people who makes you want to do well at your job. She is always just a phone call away – even in the middle of the night.”



C.J. DeJuliis, associate director of the Teaching and Learning Center, accepted the Vulcan Exceptional Service Award.

Colleagues described him as helpful, positive and motivating, noting that his technology skills have eased the shift to remote instruction during the coronavirus pandemic.

The awards were presented virtually during the President’s fall “State of the University” address.

SORORITY HONORS CAL U PROFESSIONAL



Joy Helsel ’83, ’86, Cal U’s director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, received the 2019-2020 Alpha Sigma Alpha Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority Advisor Award.

The award recognizes a campus professional for exceptional service to Alpha Sigma Alpha, which has 175 chapters and



Room to run

Tots exercise their bodies – and their imaginations – outdoors at the Rutledge Institute for Early Childhood Education, where new playground equipment has been installed. The on-campus preschool program serves eligible children ages 3-5 and provides firsthand experience for Rutledge Scholars – students who attend Cal U tuition-free as they prepare for careers in early childhood education. Details: calu.edu/Rutledge

120,000 members nationwide, and to the campus community.

“Our Greek community at Cal U is very dedicated to being good students and citizens,” says Helsel, a Sigma Kappa sister. “To be recognized for doing something I love to do is hard to put into words.”

Helsel was the inaugural recipient of Sigma Tau Gamma’s Distinguished Interfraternal Leadership Award. She also has received the Theta Xi Educational Foundation of Pittsburgh Distinguished Service Award, the Northeast Panhellenic Conference Award of Excellence and Outstanding Advisor Award, and Delta Chi’s Outstanding Greek Professional Award.

ELECTION EVENTS EDUCATE, ENGAGE

Livestreaming gave Cal U’s premier election-season event – a timely analysis of election results by a panel of nationally recognized speakers – a coast-to-coast reach this year.

Political analyst Jon Delano, the Money & Politics Editor at KDKA-TV

in Pittsburgh, reprised his role as moderator for the Dr. Melanie Blumberg Post-Election Analysis Forum.

The popular event is sponsored during election years by Cal U’s chapter of the American Democracy Project (ADP), a nonpartisan initiative focused on preparing the next generation of informed and engaged citizens.

ADP chapters, political science classes and election-watchers across the United States were invited to tune in to the virtual event and submit questions for the panel.

“Although we enjoy hosting the panelists on campus, the livestream allowed us to reach a wider audience this year,” says Dr. Laura Tuennenman, ADP director at Cal U.

The campus chapter took a similar approach to other events, including virtual DebateWatch sessions and a Constitution Day panel on racism and inequality that drew more than 200 students on Zoom.

This year’s ADP activities are dedicated to the memory of political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg, who passed away last summer.

CARTOON BLAZE GETS A MAKEOVER



With a wider smile, lively eyes, a new hairstyle and taller physique, Blaze is ready for action.

The refreshed visual representation of Cal U's mascot is appearing on T-shirts, fliers, stickers and other promotional items, as well as student recruitment materials.

The cartoon Blaze is based on the costumed mascot, whose look will not change.

To update the character, Cal U held virtual focus groups with student leaders, Vulcans athletes, admissions student ambassadors and individuals who have appeared in costume as mascot Blaze.

Cal U's Creative Services team took it from there .

"Based on student feedback, we were able to adjust his body structure to make him appear taller," says artist-illustrator Philip Haragos. "His hair was scaled back to provide less of a 'shaggy' look, and other minor adjustments added to the overall outcome."

At long last, Blaze even has ears.

The new cartoon mascot more closely resembles the logo for Vulcans Athletics introduced in 2019.

GRANT WILL IMPROVE WETLANDS, STREAM



Nearly \$360,000 has been awarded to Dr. Robert Whyte, professor in Cal U's Department of Biology, Geology and Environmental Sciences, for a

stream and wetland mitigation project near state Route 981 in Westmoreland County, Pa.

The work includes widening and realigning sections of the Boyer Run waterway for about 4.5 miles, from a location just north of Mount Pleasant to the village of Norvelt in Mount Pleasant Township.



Celebration in a box

Because the University was unable to host spring and winter Commencement ceremonies on campus, all grads were mailed a package of special gifts – a yard sign, mortarboard, alumni pin and more – so they could celebrate at home. A second mailing held each graduate's personalized diploma and commemorative Commencement booklet. The Class of 2020 will be invited to attend when in-person graduation ceremonies resume.

The project is a cooperative effort between Cal U, the Foundation for California University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other state and federal agencies.

Services are provided by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife's Farmland Habitat Program, a conservation collaborative based at Cal U.

The project will create about 2.9 acres of wetlands and 1,400 feet of stream mitigation along Boyer Run.

Data collected by students will be added to the data from other mitigation sites to better evaluate the benefits and impacts of these wetlands to the region.

"Boyer Run, in addition to our other projects, provides a significant opportunity for our students to be involved in professional activities that will move their careers forward upon graduation," Whyte says.



CAL U RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Cal U has been selected as a 2020-2021 College of Distinction for the school's commitment to undergraduate education.

The University was recognized for excellence in the areas of student engagement, faculty, student life and student outcomes.

In addition to the overall College of Distinction award, Cal U received special recognition for the first time in programming for Military Support and for Equity and Inclusion.

The University again was honored for programming in Business, Education, Engineering, and Career Development. Criteria include program accreditation, breadth of programs and track record for success.

“Cal U provides an amazing opportunity for students from all backgrounds to learn, grow, and become a valuable member of society,” says Dr. Daniel E. Engstrom, interim provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“Our faculty and staff genuinely care about the success of each student. They want to see each student be successful in and out of the classroom.”

REUP NETWORK SUPPORTS DEGREE COMPLETION

Cal U is among the first universities to join the ReUp Network, a national initiative that provides a path to graduation for students who have some college experience but no degree.

More than 36 million Americans have attended college but have not finished their degree, ReUp reports, citing data from the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center.

ReUp enables students to complete their degree at any of the transfer network’s partner institutions. The ReUp Network includes two members of Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education – Clarion University and Cal U – and a dozen additional schools.

“Since workers without degrees are often the most likely to lose their jobs during economic downturns, and the last to be hired in an upswing, college completion can have an outsized employment impact during periods of economic uncertainty,” says Sarah Horn, co-founder and CEO of ReUp Education.

Free to students, ReUp uses data science, data-informed communication and hands-on coaching to help students return to their previous institution or identify another school that meets their current needs. Personalized coaching supports them through graduation.

Nationwide, ReUp provides access to more than 300 undergraduate and graduate programs in high-demand fields such as healthcare, business, information technology and more.

NEW ORG CHART FOR ACADEMICS

Cal U began the fall semester with a streamlined academic structure designed to provide greater consistency to the student experience, expand teaching opportunities for permanent faculty, and make a significant contribution to the University’s long-term financial sustainability.

Three undergraduate colleges have been consolidated to form the College of Education and Liberal Arts, and the Eberly College of Science and Technology, each led by a dean and an assistant dean.



The number of academic departments has been reduced from 22 to 11. Combining certain departments allows Cal U to strategically align accreditations – recognition that academic programs meet standards of excellence – and to pair academic programs and faculty that can collaborate and share qualifications.

Some academic programs now are housed within a different college or academic department, but course content and quality, program accreditation and graduation requirements have not been affected.

The reorganization is expected to achieve ongoing savings of more than \$700,000 per year in personnel costs and related expenses, without affecting students’ progress toward graduation.

Student input shapes messaging

Young-adult focus groups helped to select Cal U’s new marketing campaign, which encourages future students to ‘unlock’ the promising future they envision. Based on the campus-wide research behind our Cal U logos, the ‘Unlock Your Story’ message has been rolled out in digital and print advertising, outdoor boards and a new television commercial that debuted this fall. See the new TV spot on YouTube at youtube.com/c/CaluEdu



Cal U tour guide Brett Bieber (right) points out Cal U landmarks to Isaac Bittinger and his parents, Chad and Shannon, who came from Accident, Md., for a campus visit experience.





Comfortable seating welcomes future students and their families as they wait for a campus tour.



The bookstore entrance is right around the corner in the Natali Student Center.



Smile! Mascot Blaze is ready to pose for selfies with future Vulcans.

YOU'RE WELCOME

SPACE REDESIGNED WITH VISITORS IN MIND

With a new location and a bold new look, Cal U's remodeled Welcome Center is making first impressions count.

Instead of starting the campus visit experience in Eberly Hall, future students and their families now meet with Admissions staff inside the Natali Student Center, where a portion of the bookstore has been remodeled to welcome future Vulcans.

University logos and the "Unlock Your Story" message set the scene for visitors. Large wall panels in Vulcan red feature a campus map,

high-impact images and fun facts about Cal U.

A life-size cutout of mascot Blaze is the perfect companion for Instagram-worthy selfies.

"It's important to make a strong first impression, and the new Welcome Center does exactly that," says T. David Garcia, vice president for Enrollment Management.

"It's a welcoming space that never lets you forget where you are or why you've come to California. It's the ideal start to a new student's Cal U journey." ■



FIELDS & FORESTS

BIOLOGY MAJOR MONITORS MICHIGAN WILDLIFE

Keeping tabs on sensitive species was the highlight of Maile O'Toole's internship. A senior who's studying fisheries and wildlife biology, O'Toole interned with the Wildlife Department of the U.S. Forest Service, in Michigan's Manistee National Forest.

There she worked alongside wildlife technicians to survey and monitor a number of federally classified sensitive species, including birds such as the goshawk, red-shouldered hawk, Louisiana waterthrush, cerulean warbler and piping plover.

She also monitored box turtles, wood turtles, spotted turtles and massasauga rattlesnakes.

"I got the chance to use a variety of equipment, such as a radio telemetry device to locate animals and track their movements," she says. "We were out in the field every day working on something new."

O'Toole spent time at savannah restoration sites, where sections of land were reseeded with native grasses. Her group dug holes and installed nearly 50 barrier posts between three sites to stop any motorized vehicles from entering. They also planted milkweed to encourage monarch butterflies to lay eggs in the area.

O'Toole received academic credits, housing and a weekly stipend for her work.

"My experiences with the Forest Service will really advance my resume," she says. "The skills I acquired are priceless."

O'Toole's summer internship continues a relationship with Cal U started almost 15 years ago by Dr. Carol Bocetti, a professor in Cal U's Department of Biology, Geology and Environmental Sciences.

"They (Forest Service officials) report that our students are well prepared for field work and are highly motivated to build additional professional skills," Bocetti says. "It has been a very good relationship for both forests and for Cal U."

A native of Venetia, Pa., and vice president of the Cal U equestrian team, O'Toole transferred to California after earning an associate degree from Potomac State College.

"I love the classes here, although they are rigorous," she says. "I am so grateful to Dr. Bocetti for helping me with my transition to Cal U, and setting this internship up for me.

"I feel much more prepared for starting my career thanks to her and this internship." ■

SUPPLY CHAIN PARTNER

Business major ‘drills down on data’

Better business through better collaborations. Marc Gibson, a business administration major with a concentration in economics and minor in computer science, interned remotely to help SAB Ariba achieve just that.

SAP Ariba is a procurement and supply chain collaboration solution that connects suppliers and other trading partners around the world. Gibson gained experience in the company’s critical incident engagement area.

“It’s basically high-level customer support, where my team triages our clients’ very time-sensitive problems and gets them sent to the appropriate people to be solved,” he explains.

“This requires considerable knowledge, which is why I did a lot of shadowing with co-workers on Skype, sharing the screen so I could watch them triage service requests and ask any questions that I might have.”

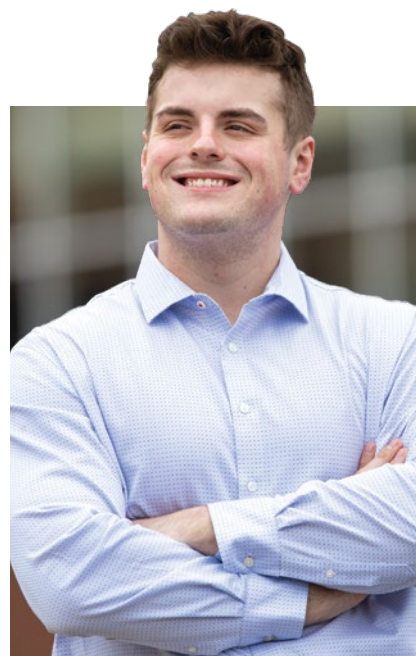
Gibson also gained experience with Microsoft Power BI software, which can be used to generate reports to ensure teams meet performance goals.

“Once in there I analyzed it and created visuals such as bar graphs, pie charts and matrix tables that drill down on the data,” he says.

“I made my presentation to my boss’s boss and other project leads, which is kind of a big deal because it put me in front of some very high-level people at Ariba.”

Gibson found a Cal U network at the company, including supervisor Josh Dvorchak ’05, Alan Natali ’74, ’79 and Bob Buttermore ’89.

“There are several Cal U alumni at SAP Ariba who are very successful, which reflects on how the school prepares its students for successful careers,” Gibson says.



“I think that Cal U is a great school. Many of my professors have always gone out of their way to be helpful. This internship will definitely positively impact me.” ■

COMMUNITY NEWS

English major sees her words in print

Hannah Wyman has quite a resume. The University Honors Program student is an English major with a minor in women’s studies, news editor for the *Cal Times*, a peer mentor, and a member of the Student Activities Board and Alpha Lambda Delta.

She has also completed an internship with the *Erie Reader*, a weekly alternative newspaper focused on art, culture and news.

Writing mostly from home, like many professional journalists, Wyman had dozens of stories published this summer, many about the COVID-19 pandemic. She also covered protests in Erie following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Her interview subjects included a man who started a petition seeking to remove an Erie police officer after a video of an alleged assault during a peaceful protest went viral, and a person who started a GoFundMe page for a protester who was arrested.



This internship gave me the chance to talk to so many people I never would have talked to.”



“I enjoyed ... covering the local impacts and how people come together for these efforts,” Wyman says. “It’s been moving seeing people step up and help each other out.

“This internship gave me the chance to talk to so many people I never would have talked to.”

Wyman brought her community-oriented experience back to the *Cal Times* student newspaper, which publishes online at *caltimes.org*. She hopes to continue community coverage once face-to-face instruction resumes on campus.

Journalism professor Dr. Debbie Goh is not surprised by Wyman’s success.

“Even with the most basic assignment ... she will look for ways to present her stories so that they will be meaningful and engaging to her readers.

“In the current climate, where the news industry is facing so many threats, it is heartening to have a student like Hannah, who is passionate and dedicated to pursuing impactful journalism.” ■

By Bruce Wald ’85 (retired),
information writer at Cal U

HAPPY NEWYEAR, Alumni!

While 2020 was not the year that any of us expected, I'm thankful for the great traditions that define our alumni experience and keep us engaged with one another and our University.

In 2020 we were challenged to honor and uphold many of those traditions while re-creating the alumni experience to suit new circumstances. Along the way, we created some "new traditions," including those of the digital variety.

Whether through a virtual happy hour, a digital Homecoming@Home celebration, online trivia night or social media session with long-lost California friends, we hope you've been able to find a way to stay connected with our alma mater.

We love to hear from you, too! Keep sending us word of those milestones in your life, and keep your information up to date with the Alumni Relations Office. (You can update at tinyurl.com/calupdate.)

As we prepare for whatever the new year may bring, we wish you health, wealth, success and happiness. We hope to see you soon!



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

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 upcoming alumni events.

GIVE 'EM THE BUSINESS

Help us support alumni business owners with the Cal U Business Exchange! Search for alumni-owned businesses or submit your own enterprise to be listed and reach nearly 60,000 potential customers. Visit tinyurl.com/calubizexchange to find a Cal U-owned business or to list yours today.

SCHOOL COLORS

Future Vulcan Reagan, daughter of **Philip Locante '10, '11** and **Briana Akins Locante '15**, celebrates Homecoming@Home with her parents by coloring everyone's favorite Vulcan, Blaze!



LET'S GET SOCIAL

Connect with fellow alumni, get important University news in real time and stay in touch with alumni activities at Cal U. Look for **@calualumni** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



HOME(COMING) DELIVERY

Alumni **Julia Shumar '19**, **Davis Slagle '10** and **Stefen Smith '17**, employees at BeeGraphix, stuff boxes with everything needed to celebrate Homecoming@Home. Grads purchased 242 boxes, each filled with a T-shirt and other branded items. Proceeds supported the Cal U Cupboard food pantry.

NETWORK ON LINKEDIN

Expand your professional network with Cal U's LinkedIn resources. With nearly 30,000 potential connections, following the University's LinkedIn page or joining the California University of Pennsylvania Alumni group is a great way to connect with your fellow alumni.



READY TO RUN

Kate Vaughan '00 is all decked out for the Vulcan virtual 5K. Ninety intrepid runners took part in the event, running 3.1 miles (5 kilometers) in locations of their choosing. The virtual race raised funds for the Class of 2020 Scholarship.

VULCAN NATION SEASON 3

The Vulcan Nation, our official alumni podcast, is back with its third season, now featuring video episodes also available on YouTube. Listen with your favorite podcast app or on Spotify at tinyurl.com/vulcan-nation, and watch on YouTube at tinyurl.com/calualumni-youtube.

We are always looking for interesting alumni guests. If you'd like to be featured on a future episode of The Vulcan Nation, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@calu.edu.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2020



John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service

Carolyn Tardd '78 retired after 40 years of service to the Athletics Department. An unofficial mentor and “mom” to thousands of student-athletes and student workers over the years, she still volunteers as a game-day administrator for Vulcan Athletics.

C.B. Wilson Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Kelton Edmonds' teaching and scholarship focus on African American studies. A Cal U professor, he has re-established Black History Month as a major event on campus and served as director of the University's Frederick Douglass Institute program.

W.S. Jackman Award of Distinction

Dr. Saroyi Morris '92 works for the Georgia Department of Public Health as program manager for the state's Coastal Health District. She serves on the Georgia Public Health Association's board of directors and teaches at the College of Coastal Georgia.

Michael Duda Award for Athletic Achievement

Brooque Williams '10 plays basketball professionally overseas. A four-year starter for the Vulcans (2006-2010), she was a two-time WBCA All-American and the 2009 NCAA D-II Atlantic Regional Tournament's Most Valuable Player. She is a member of the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

Pavlak/Shutsy Special Service Award

Eric Zwigart '98 is CEO of RPP Products, which manufactures and distributes auto products. He received two Spirit of Entrepreneurship awards in 2018. His experience as a fraternity brother inspired him to create a scholarship for Acacia fraternity members at Cal U.

Professional Excellence Award

Shujuane Martin '01, '03 is president and CEO of the Private Industry Council of Westmoreland/Fayette Inc. A past recipient of the Jennie Carter Award at Cal U, she oversees the \$23 million budget that supports PIC's 24 programs and 300 employees.

Young Alumni Award

Adisa Hargett-Robinson '16 is an on-air producer for the Department of Veterans Affairs, where she creates digital and social media content for various channels. A former news reporter, she is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists.

Meritorious Award

Fred Smith Jr. '83 is president and CEO of the consulting firm KFS Strategic Management Services. He's also a co-founder and chief innovation officer for the Innovative Leadership Program, a nonprofit group that brings STEM education to underserved youths.

Rear Admiral William R. Furlong Award for Military Service

Donna Barbisch '84 is a retired U.S. Army major general and CEO of Wicked Solutions, a consultancy for leadership and decision-making in disasters and complex conflicts. She is among the nation's most distinguished experts in terrorism, threat reduction and disaster preparedness.

Alumni Choice: Illustrious Californian

William Viola II '69 is an entrepreneur, martial arts instructor and mixed martial arts pioneer. Credited by some as co-creator of the sport of MMA, he is the co-founder of CV Productions Inc., the first mixed martial arts company in the United States.

26TH

CLASS ENTERS

ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

Although athletics competition was suspended this fall, Cal U continues its tradition of inducting former Vulcans standouts into the Athletics Hall of Fame. This year's class is the 26th cohort of these distinguished honorees.

Amanda Heister-DelGreco '09 was a prolific forward on the Cal U women's soccer team from 2006-2009.

Named PSAC Athlete of the Year as a senior, she helped the Vulcans make their first appearances in the PSAC and NCAA tournaments in 2009. She led the PSAC with 19 goals and 42 points as a senior and was an NSCAA and Daktronics first-team all-region selection.

Heister-DelGreco holds all-time school records of 44 goals and 107 points. Only one other player has eclipsed the century mark in points.

Bernard "Bernie" Kalocay '65 was a standout pitcher for Vulcans baseball and a two-year team captain in the 1960s.

He helped the program advance to the NAIA National Tournament in Saint Joseph, Mo., in both 1962 and 1963. Kalocay posted a 4-0 record with a 1.29 ERA as a sophomore and finished his career with 18 victories, winning at least four games each season.

Kalocay passed away on July 29, 2020.

Dennis Laskey '84, '06 was head coach for men's soccer from 1984-1988 and 1991-2012, and for women's soccer from 1990-2001.

In both sports he is the all-time winningest coach in school history, with a total 258-223-41 mark with the men's program and an 89-123-13 record with the women's.

Laskey's victories rank second in PSAC men's soccer history. He led the program to PSAC Championship appearances five times; earned the program's first league title, in 2008; and guided the Vulcans to the NCAA Tournament three times in eight years, from 2004-2011.

Three-time All-American Kayla Smith '10, '11 was a dominant forward for Vulcans basketball from 2006-2011.

She helped Cal U capture NCAA Atlantic Regional championships in 2007 and 2008 and was the 2011 PSAC West Athlete of the Year. In her last two seasons she ranked among the top five in the country in rebounds per game.

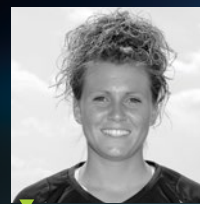
Smith holds the all-time school record with 1,309 rebounds and ranks third with 2,096 points. She is one of eight players in PSAC history – three from Cal U – to finish with more than 2,000 career points and 1,000 rebounds.

Randy Sturgill '11 was a standout pitcher for Vulcans baseball from 2008-2011 and received multiple All-America honors in his final two seasons.

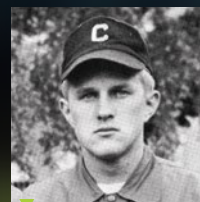
The Vulcans' ace throughout his career, Sturgill helped his team capture the 2010 PSAC Championship. He led the league in strikeouts and was the PSAC West Pitcher of the Year in both 2010 and 2011.

Despite playing just three seasons, Sturgill holds the all-time school record with 23 victories and ranks second with 241 strikeouts. He also ranks among the top five in school history with a 2.88 ERA and 16 complete games in his career. ■

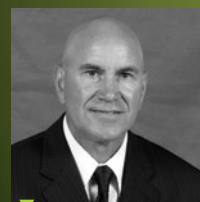
By Matt Kifer, sports information director at Cal U



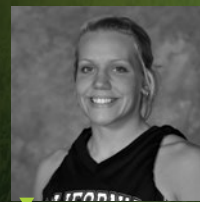
Amanda Heister-DelGreco



Bernard "Bernie" Kalocay



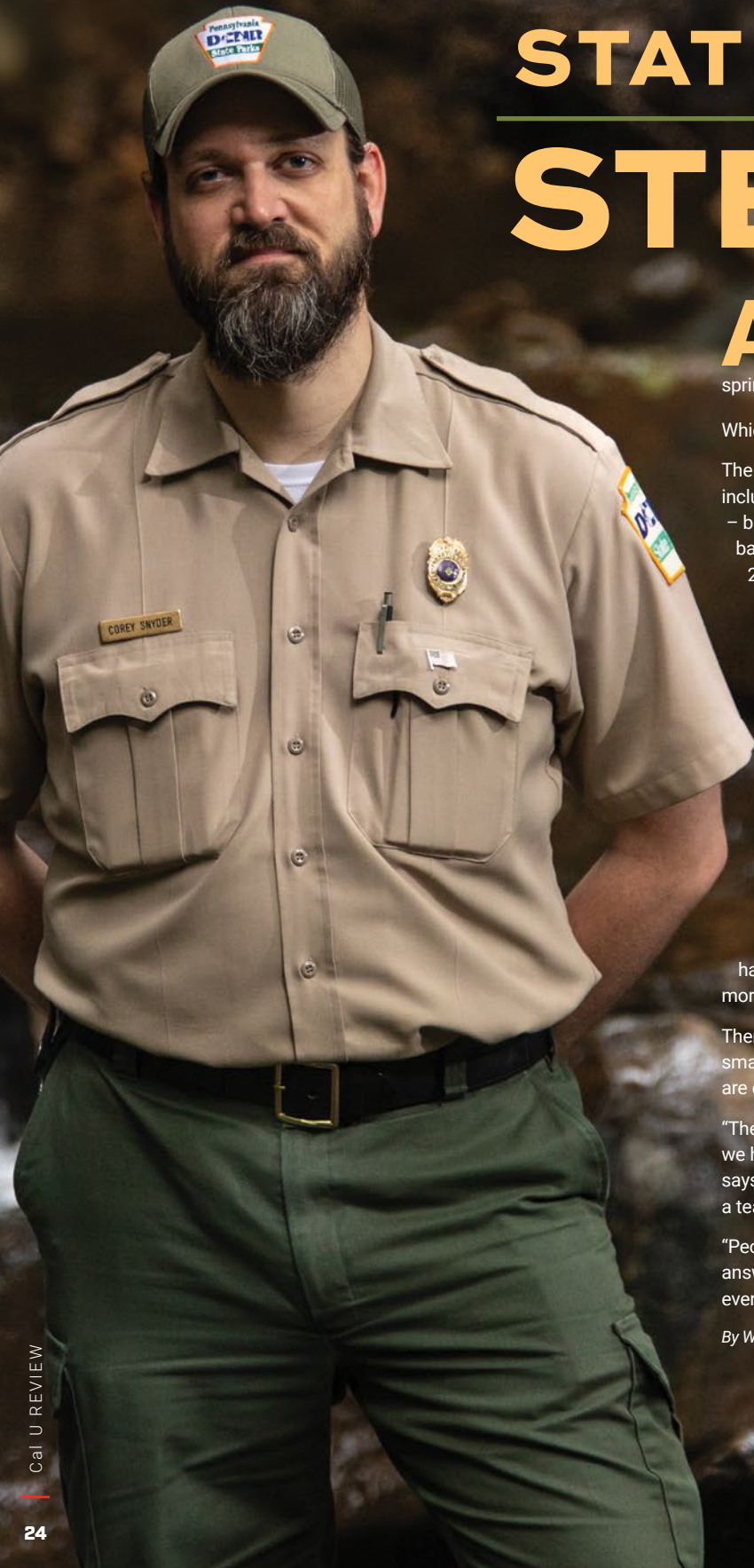
Dennis Laskey



Kayla Smith



Randy Sturgill



STATE PARKS STEWARD

As more people enjoyed outdoor activities amid the coronavirus pandemic, locations like Linn Run State Park in Westmoreland County, Pa., were busier than ever during spring, summer and fall 2020.

Which means Corey Snyder has rarely been busier. Or happier.

The director of the Linn Run State Park Complex – which also includes the nearby Laurel Summit and Laurel Mountain state parks – began his job in June. He graduated from Cal U in 2002 with his bachelor's degree in parks and recreation management and in 2004 with a master's degree in geography.

Snyder spent five years as manager of the Memorial Lake State Park Complex in Lebanon County, and three years as manager of Tyler State Park. The U.S. Army veteran served with the infantry from 2006 to 2010, including a deployment to Iraq in 2008-2009.

Now Snyder oversees 612 acres of state park at Linn Run, 493 at Laurel Mountain and six at Laurel Summit.

"My role is to provide for the safety of our patrons as much as we look after the natural resources," he says.

"Park attendance in the commonwealth this year was way, way up, because we were open when many things were closed or canceled. We've had visitors come in droves, and it has been a positive to take out of the (pandemic) situation that more people are experiencing the beauty of our state parks."

There have been challenges, but Snyder embraced those, too, with a small but ambitious paid staff and a crew of volunteers, all of whom are essential to park operations.

"The impact from more visitors has been a challenge – for instance, we had to clean more often – but that's what we're here for," he says. "Our patrons have been very understanding, and it has been a team effort all the way around."

"People often ask how much it costs to get into state parks, and the answer is, it's absolutely free. It's a wonderful natural resource for everyone to enjoy." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

HELPING OTHERS THRIVE

Alexia Doumbouya '05 is passionate about giving others a hand.

As a student at Cal U, Doumbouya studied international business and economics, with a minor in leadership.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with it then, but I always knew I wanted to help people," she says.

Since then, she's found multiple ways of doing just that.

Today, she's a busy mother of two who runs two businesses and helps her husband administer a third. She coordinates community outreach to women entrepreneurs and cohosts *The Legacy Podcast Philly*, a project that engages entrepreneurs and other leaders in discussions about business, issues faced by the African American community and faith.

After spending 12 years in corporate executive leadership and administrative roles, Doumbouya founded Milestone Pros LLC, a Philadelphia-based "professional evolution agency," in 2017. As CEO, she connects small businesses with coaching, training and other resources.



My biggest goal is to see all the different women in a diverse way be able to share resources, share services and help each other grow."



ALEXIA DOUMBOUYA '05

She and her team help entrepreneurs identify opportunities to grow, and she relishes those moments when her clients say, "Oh, gosh, I didn't even think about that."

In fact, even in the midst of the pandemic, she saw opportunities for her clients to develop affordable virtual customer support infrastructure.

As she was researching new business opportunities for a client, Doumbouya discovered Walker's Legacy, an organization that promotes the career advancement, skill sets and networks of multicultural women in business and women entrepreneurs.

Impressed, she reached out to volunteer. The organization, instead, asked her to take on a more substantial role.

In March, she became the Philadelphia city director for Walker's Legacy, coordinating the organization's outreach efforts at the local level.

Doumbouya is finding other ways to help women, too, including the recent launch of Cocobump.com, an initiative that helps to reduce racial disparities in maternal health.

"My biggest goal is to see all the different women in a diverse way be able to share resources, share services and help each other grow." ■

HIGHLIGHT REELS IN TAMPA BAY

Professional football is action-packed, and it's Daniel Beeck's job to catch it all.

The 2019 graduate is a video producer for the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

His job includes shooting video and putting together highlight reels, game-day trailers and other segments that are used on the Buccaneers' social media platforms and website. He uses video to tell players' stories, giving fans a chance to get to know the athletes beyond the field.

"Storytelling plays into every facet of what I do," says the former communication studies major. "And I owe a lot of my storytelling ability to the foundational building blocks that I was able to gather at Cal U."

As a student, Beeck took on roles with campus radio station WCAL, CUTV and the *Cal Times* student newspaper.

Although he wasn't entirely sure what he wanted to do after graduation, he knew that he wanted to work for a professional sports franchise. He had a particular interest in football.

Landing a job with the Buccaneers has been a dream come true – and it came at a remarkable moment in the team's history.

In 2020, the franchise unveiled a new brand and updated its uniforms. Veteran quarterback Tom Brady joined the team roster. And, of course, players and staff had to navigate COVID-19 restrictions.

From mid-March through late July, Beeck worked from home. He returned to Florida as training camp ramped up in preparation for the NFL season.

With Brady joining the team, there's been a heightened sense of excitement, Beeck says. He's seen athletes who are revered in



their own right awed by Brady, a surefire Hall of Fame quarterback with six Super Bowl rings.

"It's been pretty cool," Beeck says. "It's like a new excitement, that excitement of the unknown." ■

By Laurie Bartolotta,
marketing content specialist at Cal U

THREE AWARDS

CAP OFF CAREER

Ryan Smith '20 collected a trio of awards to close one of the most decorated careers in the Vulcan golf program's history. He became the first men's golfer in recent years to receive All-PSAC First-Team status three time in his career, and he was chosen for the PING all-region team for a third consecutive year.

Smith also was tapped for the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team last spring after being named the 2018 PSAC Champion Scholar.

He led the team with a career-best scoring average of 74.9 strokes in Fall 2019 before the coronavirus pandemic canceled the Spring 2020 season. Smith ended his career with a scoring average of 75.5 strokes, second-best in recent program history.

After spending the summer at Caves Valley Golf Club, near Baltimore, Md., Smith is an assistant at Old Memorial Golf Club in Tampa, Fla. ■

FOOTBALL LINEMAN AMONG THE BEST

Senior offensive lineman Eric Hudanick was named a semifinalist for the 2020 William V. Campbell Trophy, presented by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame.

Open to collegiate players at all NCAA and NAIA levels, the trophy recognizes a player as the best football scholar-athlete in the nation.

Hudanick was one of 20 semifinalists from NCAA Division II. He has started 32 games in his career, including all 22 games over the last two seasons at right tackle.

Nominees for the award must be in their final year of eligibility and have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.2. The committee nominates only those who are significant contributors to their team and demonstrate leadership and citizenship.





MORE ON THE FLOOR

The Vulcans basketball and volleyball teams will have a new look underfoot when they return to home action.

The floor of the Convocation Center arena has been refinished and its logos updated. When the facility reopens, fans will see the Vulcans Athletics logo at midcourt, the Cal U and Vulcans wordmarks at multiple locations on the floor, and a customized PSAC logo inside the free-throw line.

“As an NCAA Division II program, we’ve always felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to play in a first-class facility like the Convocation Center,” said head women’s basketball coach Jess Strom.

“Our student-athletes can’t wait to see the new court firsthand and get back out there to represent Cal U.”

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference voted in July to suspend all athletic events and championships through the fall semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans for the spring semester were uncertain at press time.

This is the first time the floor and logos have been refreshed since the Convocation Center opened with a basketball doubleheader in December 2011.

VULCANS IN THE NFL



Former Vulcans Erik Harris ‘13 and C.J. Goodwin are National Football League playmakers this season.

Harris, the Las Vegas Raiders’ starting free safety in the opening five weeks of the season, was chosen as a team captain after a breakout 2019 campaign.

He previously played for the New Orleans Saints after spending three years with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the CFL.

With the Vulcans, Harris was a three-year starting defensive back. He helped the program qualify for the NCAA playoffs in each of his four seasons, from 2008-2011.

Goodwin continues to be a mainstay on special teams for the Dallas Cowboys after leading in special-teams tackles last season.

In 2017, he became the first Cal U player to appear in a Super Bowl, as a member of the Atlanta Falcons.

Goodwin played in every game for the Vulcans in 2013, his only year with the program.



SCHOLARS SCORE HONORS

Cal U student-athletes and Vulcans athletic teams continue to earn academic awards, despite the pivot to remote learning last spring.

Across all sports, 253 student-athletes maintained at least a 3.0 grade-point average for the Spring 2020 semester and were named to the Athletic Director Honor Roll.

Additionally, 184 student-athletes were named PSAC Scholar-Athletes, which requires a cumulative 3.25 GPA or higher, and 66 student-athletes received the D2ADA Academic Achievement Award, given to students with a cumulative 3.50 GPA or higher through four semesters.

In team awards, Vulcans swimmers earned CSCAA Scholar All-America Team honors for the 18th consecutive season. The men’s and women’s cross country and track and field teams swept USTFCCCA All-Academic honors in the four sports, and women’s soccer and volleyball received team academic laurels for the third consecutive year.

FUNDRAISER HITS THE MARK

Thanks to nearly 350 generous donors – and the power of crowdfunding and social media – Cal U’s third annual Athletics Day of Giving raised more than \$42,000 for athletics scholarships.

Messages from coaches and players reached alumni, friends and parents across the country. Many athletics programs met or surpassed their goals.

“Everyone played a role in the success of the campaign,” says Randi Minerva, manager of annual giving programs. “This was a true team effort.”

Proceeds from the Day of Giving provide scholarship support for Vulcans student-athletes. For more ways to give, visit calu.edu/giving.

\$42,000+ RAISED
FOR ATHLETICS SCHOLARSHIPS

Thinking ahead

Have you included Cal U in your will or thought of including the University in your estate plans?

When it comes to making a long-term impact on education at California University of Pennsylvania, there are many giving options to choose from.

As part of your estate plan, you can support Cal U through provisions in your will, an insurance policy, a trust or proceeds from your financial planning.

Whether you want to put your donation to work immediately or design a plan that provides benefits after you're gone, you can feel good knowing that you are helping to shape the future of California and its students.

People often assume that planned gifts are only for the wealthy, but this could not be further from the truth. In fact, several of California University's most generous donors were people just like you – men and women who wanted to make a difference in the lives of our Cal U students, both now and well into the future.

What's in your plan?

If you've already included Cal U in your estate plans, we need to hear from you.

As with any donation, we want to know your intentions, so your gift can be put to work according to your wishes. We also will talk with you about the best way to recognize your gift.

So how can you know which avenue of support is right for you? To identify a charitable gift that best meets your family's needs *and* supports our University's vital mission for years to come, you need a plan – and we're here to help. ■



To learn more about how to include Cal U in your estate planning, please contact the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations at 724-938-5775 or mauro@calu.edu.

MILESTONES

50s

Andrew "Andy" Skero '56, a former industrial arts major, lives in Pittsburgh, Pa

60s



Tom Hopkins '60 taught mathematics in Scottsdale, Ariz., until he retired in 1995. Although he added French to his certification and taught that language,

he enjoys using the Spanish he learned at California High School when traveling. Tom and his wife, Lynda, have visited seven South American countries.

Larry Morris '63 is retired from the automotive industry. He and Joanna Morris live in Reno, Nev. Larry majored in industrial arts education and was in Delta Sigma Phi.

Joann Barantovich Carnes '66 and Dr. James Carnes live in Lakewood Ranch, Fla. Joann was Cal State's 1964 Homecoming Queen and a member of Delta Zeta.

Beatrice "Bea" Esken-Worton Kuchta '66 is president of Tech Boxz, in California, Pa. Bea studied secondary education at Cal U, where she was a dorm counselor and a member of Jazz Club and the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association. She and Edward Kuchta live in Pittsburgh, Pa.

David Tanner '67 and **Janet Patterson Tanner** '67, '73 are retired and living in Dauphin, Pa. They have two sons and five grandchildren. Janet, a former elementary school teacher, is a certified volunteer counselor at Morningstar Pregnancy Services in Harrisburg, Pa. David served for nine years as a U.S. Navy P-3 pilot before transferring to the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a C-130 pilot and senior intelligence officer, retiring in 1997. He was stationed in the Gulf of Arabia as air wing intelligence director during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Along with this military service, David taught industrial arts and owned an architectural consultant firm. He received the "Who's Who in America" Lifetime Achievement Award.

Raymond "Ray" Johnston '67 and Isabel Johnston live in Clermont, Fla. He is a retired green-job developer with Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corp. Ray is a former industrial arts major.

The Hon. Alfred B. "Al" Bell '69 lives in Greensburg, Pa. He studied political science at Cal U.

Sue Ann Olsavicky '67 is the owner of Never Too Many Stamps, in Goodyear, Ariz. She and Lt. Col Robert Hicks live in Goodyear. She studied secondary education, mathematics at Cal U.

70s

Joseph Laslavic '70 and Margaret Laslavic live in Pittsburgh, Pa. He majored in elementary education and counseling at Cal U and played on the football team for four years.

Joe Panarella '70 and Liz Panarella live in Frederick, Md. He majored in industrial arts education at Cal U.

Gary Veltre '70 and Rebeca Veltre live in Nineveh, Pa. Gary studied secondary education at Cal U, where he was a resident assistant in Johnson Hall and worked in the Dixon dining hall kitchen.

Joseph Waugh '71 and **Susan Clutter Waugh** '72, '76 live in Kernersville, N.C. Joseph studied Earth science and was a member of the Student Congress. Susan studied speech-language pathology.

Paul Rach '69, '72 works for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. He and Janice Rach live in Monongahela, Pa. Paul studied social studies education at Cal U and was in Phi Sigma Pi.

David Huber '74 is a retired deputy assessor supervisor. He and Donna Huber live in Mission Viejo, Calif. David majored in English at Cal U and was in Glee Club, the choir and Theta Xi.

Edward "Bud" Finfrock '73 is a sales engineer for Ramco Specialties, in Hudson, Ohio. He and Kim Finfrock live in Uniontown, Ohio. Bud studied urban recreation at Cal U.

Lynn Robb '72 and Curt Robb live in Bristow, Va. Lynn was an education major at Cal U.



Dennis Smiddle '72 is executive director of nonprofit Fans 4 Help (Health, Environment, Learning and Play). A retired Pennsylvania

childcare health and safety inspector, Dennis has won Senior Games gold medals in football and softball competitions in five consecutive years. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from Cal U.

Charles "Danny" Ross '73 and Darlene Ross live in Allison Park, Pa. Danny is a former elementary education major. At Cal U he participated in basketball, track and field, and Student Congress.

Paul Bittner '77 is a painter for Sampson Morris Corp., in Monroeville, Pa. He and Elaine Bittner live in Pittsburgh. Paul studied secondary education and social studies at Cal U and was a member and treasurer of Kappa Phi Kappa fraternity. He also participated in the college marching band, the community symphony orchestra and intramural basketball and softball.

Cathy Corbett Zumpetta '77 and Dr. Anthony Zumpetta live in Calvin, Pa. She majored in social work at Cal U and was in the band, Social Work/Sociology Club, and Pi Gamma Mu, along with volunteering in the Collegiate Center.

80s

Melanie Patterson '82 is CEO/president of Broad Innovations LLC, in Belle Vernon, Pa. She and **Robert Patterson** '68 live in Belle Vernon. Melanie studied elementary education at Cal U.

IN THE SPIRIT OF JENNIE CARTER

University President Geraldine Jones received the 2020 Jennie A. Carter Award at a virtual ceremony attended by 75 colleagues, family members and friends. The annual award honors those who embody the resilient spirit of Elizabeth 'Jennie' Adams Carter, California's first African American graduate, Class of 1881. Joining the event from Hawaii were William Carter, Jennie Carter's great-grandson, and his wife Kay, both longtime supporters of the University. Jeff Jones, Cal U's first gentleman, presented the award.



Lorene Thornburg '83 is a litigation paralegal, legal support manager for the labor, employment and employee transitions teams at Charles Schwab & Co. Inc.'s campus in Lone Tree, Colo. She was a member of Sigma Kappa sorority.

Melissa Starkes Council '85, of Pittsburgh, Pa., teaches second grade at Pittsburgh Mifflin Elementary School. She majored in early childhood education, was in the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir and was a Kappa Sweetheart.

Derek Clark '85 is a teacher in the Dearborn (Mich.) Public Schools. He studied industrial arts at Cal U.

Paula Tirpak '86 is a speech-language pathologist for West Boca Medical Center, in Boca Raton, Fla. She and **Kenneth Tirpak** '85 live in Lake Worth Beach, Fla. Paula studied speech and language pathology at Cal U and was in chorus and the Speech and Hearing Club.

John Bell '86 is CEO of John P. Bell Consulting, in Bowie, Md. He and Deitra Bell live in Bowie. John studied political science at Cal U, where he participated in football and fencing.

Gerald "Gerry" Peterson '86 is founder and managing principal of Tartan Group LLC. A commuter student who earned his M.B.A. through evening classes at Cal U, he and Karen Peterson live in Murrysville, Pa.

Stephen Woods '89, of Fairview, Pa., is plant manager for Erie Forge and Steel Inc. He studied industrial management, manufacturing and numerical control at Cal U. He worked in manufacturing in Erie, Pa., and Baltimore, Md. He enjoys coaching youth hockey in his free time.

Janie Walmsley-Wilkerson '89 is box office manager at Cal U. She and Jason Wilkerson live in Rostraver Township, Pa. As a student, she majored in political science.

90s

Jeff Broadwater '92, who studied elementary education at Cal U, is the owner of Roughcreek Holdings LLC, a manufacturing company in Frisco, Texas.

Alison Omega '95 is a teacher from Latrobe, Pa. She studied elementary and special education at Cal U.

Sheref Zurga '95 is a controller for World Bank Group in Washington, D.C. A resident of Silver Spring, Md., he studied business administration at Cal U.

Frank Liu '95 lives in Taoyuan District, Taiwan. He studied biology at Cal U.

Catherine Urban Dolfi '96, an elementary education major, is supervisor of operations for Peoples Natural Gas, in Pittsburgh, Pa. She and Brett Dolfi live in Coal Center, Pa.

Col. Jeffrey McCartney '96, formerly of Uniontown, Pa., graduated from the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle, Pa., with a master's degree in strategic studies in June 2020. His next assignment is as deputy commander with the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency, Joint Base Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Michael Elphick '97 is a regional account manager for Meyn, a global specialist for poultry processing equipment. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at Cal U, where he completed an internship with Lucent Technologies.

Louise Urban '98 is senior vice president of operations for Allegheny Health Network. A graduate of Cal U's B.S.N. program, she was president of both Canonsburg and Jefferson hospitals.

Jenn Valeriotte '99 and her husband, Mike Fry, live in Versailles, Ky. She was a communication studies major at Cal U and an All-American centerfielder on the Vulcans' 1997 and 1998 NCAA Division II national championship softball teams. Jenn was also a four-year standout on the volleyball team.

00s

Marta Allshouse Smith '00 and Ryan Smith live in Beaufort, S.C. Marta studied elementary and special education at Cal U.

Michelle Senneway '00, '04 is the Pittsburgh area's lead volunteer for Pandemic of Love, a mutual-aid community of volunteers that has spread across the United States and into Mexico since its start in March 2020.

Efrain Martinez '01 is principal of Orozco Academy in Chicago, Ill. He majored in Spanish at Cal U and was a member of the Hispanic Student Association.

Kimberly Krieg '03 and Keith Krieg live in Beaufort, S.C. Kimberly majored in secondary education, English at Cal U and was in Phi Sigma Pi

IN PRINT



Norman K. Clark '69 has published his first novel, *Into the Endless Mountains*, a mystery/suspense epic set in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania in the 1980s. Norm is a lawyer and managing partner of an international legal management consulting firm. A Pittsburgh native, he now lives in Florida.

Mark Hofmann '02 is the author of *Good Mourning!: A Guide to Biting the Big One ... and Dying, Too*, a semi-inspirational book of dark comedy. He earned his degree in creative arts from Cal U and is a reporter and award-winning columnist with the Uniontown *Herald-Standard*.

Christopher Kramer '14 is the author of *The Good Things in Life: A Nurse's Story of Connection*. His book highlights the impact of human connection on his life as a pediatric nurse, husband, father, son, brother, friend and, stranger still – a human. He earned his Master of Science in Nursing from Cal U.

Richard A. Ruck, Jr. '07, '13 has had his most recent publication, *Adaptations to Police Academy Facilities/Dormitories in a Post Covid-19 Environment*, published by the American Criminal Justice Society in the September 2020 edition of *ACJS Today*. He is a professor of criminal justice at East Stroudsburg University and a former municipal police officer.

TRANSITIONS



Dr. Bruce Barnhart '83, '89, '01 retired in July 2020 as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Cal U. Bruce joined the Cal U faculty in fall 1984 and taught for 24 years in the athletic training and physical therapist assistant programs. A certified athletic trainer, he was the athletic trainer for the 1984 football team, which won the PSAC championship, and the 2004 women's basketball team, which brought home the NCAA Division II national championship title. He transitioned to University administration in 2008 and spent four years as associate provost and eight years as Cal U's chief academic officer. He and his wife, **Mary Jo Barnhart** '84, live in Brownsville, Pa. Succeeding Bruce as chief academic officer is interim provost Dr. Daniel Engstrom, a former faculty member in the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, former associate dean of the College of Education and Human Services, and associate provost for Academic Success since 2012.

Joseph Sneddon '04 is deputy state marshal for the Maine State Marshal Service. He and Stacy Sneddon live in Phippsburg, Maine. He studied criminal justice at Cal U.

Dr. Margaret "Maggie" Hardy Knox '05 received the *Pittsburgh Business Times*' 2020 Career Achievement Award at its annual Women of Influence event. President and CEO of 84 Lumber, she also oversees Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, Pa.

Robert Nebel '05 is a managing partner for Apex Unlimited Services, in Washington, Pa. Rob and **Ashley Nebel** '07 live in Finleyville, Pa. Rob majored in business administration at Cal U and was in Phi Kappa Sigma.



Eric Zeznanski '06, who majored in technology education at Cal U, is principal and a football coach at Chestnut Ridge High School in Fishertown,

Pa. He and **Lauren Keefer Zeznanski** '06, '07 live in Osterburg, Pa. They have a son, Odin Joseph.

David Shallenberger '07 is the lead forecaster at National Weather Service (NWS) Pittsburgh. A certified incident meteorologist, David has served in the Pennsylvania National Guard since 2001.

Jess Shumar '07 and **Wesley Shumar** '09 live in Chambersburg, Pa. Jess studied criminal justice at Cal U and was a member of the Delta Zeta sorority.

Robert John "R.J." Thompson '07 was a winner at the Graphic Design USA 20th annual Web Design Awards for his video project, "Pitt Business Backstory." R.J. is associate director of student engagement in the College of Business Administration at the University of Pittsburgh. He earned his bachelor's degree in graphic design at Cal U.

Angela Bohus-Diaz '08 is a teacher in the Clark County School District, in Laughlin, Nev. She and James Diaz live in Bullhead City, Ariz. Angie studied elementary education at Cal U and was active with the choir, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Cal U Call Center. She also gave tours to incoming students.

10s

Michael Ulderich '10, an assistant professor of technology education at Cal U, was selected to serve on the Pennsylvania Science and Technology Standards Rewrite Committee. Michael also used his 3D-printing skills to produce personal protective equipment to distribute during the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, his wife, **Alyssa Schardong** '11, appeared in a rendition of *Tomorrow*, featuring Broadway star Marisha Wallace, as the theater industry copes with the pandemic.

Nikki Popielarcheck '11 has been elected secretary of the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association of Graduate Enrollment Professionals. She is assistant director of Graduate Admissions at Cal U.

Britney Vokish Knight '11 is associate pastor of spiritual formation at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, in Erie, Pa. She and **Zachary Knight** '14 live in Erie. Britney majored in psychology at Cal U, where she was in the Honors College and Alpha Lambda Delta. She participated in theater and dance activities and was on the dance team.

Clyde Mealy '11, who majored in exercise science and health promotion at Cal U, lives with Charlotte Mealy in Rancho Mission Viejo, Calif.

Edward "Ed" Robbins '11 is a pharmacist for Associated Food Stores Inc., in West Valley City, Utah. He and Stephanie Robbins live in Sandy, Utah. Ed studied exercise science and health promotion at Cal U.

Nathaniel Dixon '12 is the founder and CEO of Smart Growth Advisors, a business consulting firm in Pittsburgh, Pa. He majored in communication studies at Cal U, where he was in Sigma Tau Gamma, the Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Public Relations Student Society of America, and the Interfraternity Council. Nate lives in Wexford, Pa.

Donte Jay '12 and Sara Gould live in Gainesville, Fla. Donte studied electrical engineering technology and played football and rugby at Cal U.

Chris Campus '13 and Laura Campus live in White Oak, Pa. Chris majored in mathematics at Cal U and was a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, Kappa Kappa Psi, and the marching, jazz and concert bands.

Fran Del Duca '13, of Sutersville, Pa., is the founder and CEO of Brideology International LLC, an online wedding merchandise boutique. She studied middle-level education at Cal U and was a member of the Honors Program, Future Math Teachers, Student Pennsylvania State Education Association, Ballroom and Latin Dance Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Student Honors Advisory Board, Student Government, Leadership Club and Photography Club. She also was a Cal U Peer Mentor.

Michael Meehan '13 is a teacher in the Wake County Public School System, in Apex, N.C. He studied education at Cal U and now lives in Holly Springs, N.C., with his wife, Shelby Price.

U.S. Army Capt. Nicholas Granfield '14 is commander of the Dakota Troop, 1st Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, in Vilseck, Germany. He took part in a virtual change-of-command ceremony on April 1, 2020.

MILESTONES



Joshua Trout '13 is the chief executive officer at Select Hospital, in Camp Hill, Pa. After earning his bachelor's degree in sports management at

Cal U, Joshua earned a master's degree in healthcare administration at Ohio University. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and a board member of the American Heart Association's National Post-Acute Care Writing Committee.

Matt Hagy '15, '16 has been the sports information director since 2018 at Albright College in Reading, Pa. He earned his bachelor's degree in communication studies and his master's degree in sport management at Cal U, where he participated in marching band, CUTV and WCAL, and was sports editor of the *Cal Times*.

Danielle Hayes '16 is the assistant girls' volleyball coach at Arnold High School, in Panama City Beach, Fla. At Cal U she was a two-time all-region selection; she helped the Vulcans win the 2014 PSAC championship and make three appearances in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Ryan Kaufman '17 is a news producer for WCTV in Tallahassee, Fla. He worked previously at WTAP in Parkersburg, W.Va. Ryan majored in liberal arts at Cal U and was active with CUTV.

Lakelyn Denny '17, '18 is lead teacher at New Directions Partial Hospitalization Program, in Uniontown, Pa. She earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and her master's degree as a reading specialist at Cal U, where she was in Sigma Pi Epsilon Delta, Kappa Delta Pi, the Council for Exceptional Children, and the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Andrew Cohen '18 is a school psychologist. He and Rachel Cohen live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Avonlea Firda '18, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is the managed care administrator for the Pharmacy Division of Giant Eagle Inc. Avonlea holds dual degrees from Cal U: a B.S. in Science and Technology; Multidisciplinary Studies with a minor in sociology, and a B.A. in Social Science with a minor in biology.



TROPHY TIME

Josh Famularo '14, a former equipment manager for Cal U's club hockey team, poses with trophies (including the famed Stanley Cup) won this fall by the Tampa Bay Lightning of the NHL. Josh was in charge of equipment logistics for the Lightning, coordinating deliveries to Edmonton and Toronto, the Canadian cities that hosted the National Hockey League playoffs in September. Josh studied business and marketing at Cal U; his dad, Jim, graduated from Cal U in 1984.

James Doman '18, who studied criminal justice at Cal U, is a hazmat technician for Specialized Professional Services Inc. He and Jill Doman live in Washington, Pa.

Shaina Hilsey '18, who studied sport management at Cal U, was accepted to Harvard's Graduate School of Education where she'll pursue an M.Ed. in Higher Education. As a student, Shaina was a member of the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. In 2018 she was one of 10 college women selected to serve on the American Association of University Women's National Student Advisory Council. She is a policy analyst for the office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Ivy Jackson '18 and **Jevone Norman '18** live in Coatesville, Pa. Ivy studied early childhood education at Cal U and was in the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, the Black Student Union, TRIO, Cal U Women United, Kappa Delta Pi and the Student Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Evan Johnson '18 is manager of quality assurance at the University of Pittsburgh. He majored in computer information systems at Cal U and played in the marching band. Evan and Jill Johnson live in Washington, Pa.

Andrew Kotlar '18 is operations manager at 84 Lumber, in Eighty Four, Pa. He studied sport management at Cal U.

Gino Wolfe '18 and Sue Wolfe live in Oak Harbor, Wash. A mental health clinician, Gino majored in sociology at Cal U.

Wanda Anderson '19 is a registered nurse for Miners Medical Center, in Hastings, Pa. She and Dick Anderson live in Clymer, Pa.

20s

Alex Arnold '20 is an interpretive park ranger at Gateway National Recreation Area, in Sandy Hook, N.J. He earned degrees in both history and parks and recreation at Cal U, where he was a student member of the Council of Trustees and a member of Student Government and the Parks and Recreation Student Society.

Jake Krause '20, who majored in biology at Cal U, lives in Washington, Pa.

Michelle Tirado '20, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, is the women veterans program manager for the New Mexico VA Health Care System in Albuquerque. She graduated from Cal U with a Master of Science in Nursing in Nursing Administration and Leadership.

ANNIVERSARIES . . .

Ted Geibel '60 and **Rosemary Geibel** '59 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June 2020. Ted taught in the Canonsburg and Butler school districts before becoming a registered architect. He then worked for BHKR in Butler, Pa., and Eckels in New Castle, Pa. Rosemary taught in the Upper Saint Clair and Butler school districts before owning a private preschool. The retired couple now live at St. Barnabas Retirement Village in Gibsonia, Pa.



Art Figurski '63 and **Pat Figurski** '63 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 19, 2020. They were the first married couple to receive the Scholarship Awards in their respective fields upon graduation, Pat in mathematics and Art in industrial arts. Following their teaching careers, they served together in occupational ministry and now live in North Carolina.



Robert Suchy '69 and **Sandy Trona Suchy** '69 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6, 2020. The couple, who have a daughter, Joelle, live in North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

ENGAGEMENTS

Robert Luckasevic '16, '18 and **Shelby Urbine** '17, '19 are engaged. The couple met in 2014 while both were members of the Cal U Marching Band. They plan to be married in 2021. Bobby is an account manager for Rainmaker Polymers LLC. Shelby is interim assistant director of recreation at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

BIRTHS



KirkRyan McFarland '13, '14 and **Valerie McFarland** welcomed their first child, daughter BrookLyn Grace McFarland, on Aug. 29, 2020. She weighed 8 pounds and was 19 inches long.

WEDDINGS



Angie Bohus '08 and James Diaz were married on December 31, 2019, in Henderson, Nev. The couple lives in Bullhead City, Ariz. Both teach in the Clark County School District.

IN MEMORIAM

The Hon. Fred C. Adams Sr. '48
Wayne Alexander '74
Sandra Ballentyne '70
Joseph H. Batterby Sr. '58
Gloria Kathleen Therese Vagnoni Beck '61
Elaine C. Bender '52
Dr. William R. Benedetti,* former dean and emeritus professor of education
John N. Bente '86
Bonnie McNab Bertini '88, '96
Cindy Bohnak '96
Andrew Cairns '70
Harold A. Christopher '60
Azure Dee Mary Kathleen Comedy '02
Elaine Costello '64, emerita professor of chemistry
Donna J. Cox '72
Ronald Anthony D'Amico '76
Helen Ciappa Davis '63
James W. Derrick '68

Robert Francis Diehl '64
Ralph "Rick" DiPiazza '74
Mary E. Donahoo '68
Sandra J. Dran '71
Sandra L. Dunn '75
David B. Evans '67
Mary Z. Fabian '85
Nancy M. Farkos '79
Howard Fields '64
Andrew Robert Freeman Jr. '71
Mark M. Hall '95
Marie K. Harless '66
Leo R. Hill '71
Brenda Jennion '83
Verteree Cole Johnson '00
Barry L. Jones '68
Joseph A. Karpa '82
Kathleen C. Kelemen '68
Steven M. Kime,* former maintenance and grounds supervisor
Sandi K. Kindervater '79
Jeffrey M. Knudson '92
Kemp W. Konick '69
Jamie J. Kudas '89
Deborah S. Lee '95
Ronald L. Leech '77
Gail Bronwyn Lese '83, former trustee
Donna Lincavage '74, '78
Steven W. Lutska '83
Marian Cecilia Lynch '65
Betsy Mechling '72
Margaret A. Miller '60
Linda Schneider Mehlman '68
Leonard Jonathan Moncheck '72
Myron M. Myrga Sr. '62
Mary Elizabeth Parr '74
Perry Anthony Pinto '69, '72
Richard Alan Pulig '86
Mark "Swiftly" Puskarich '74
Marion Claire Ramage-Saeli '71, '74
Joyce Arlene Roscoe '70
Bonita Lee Rymarchyk '04
Shirley Shipley '74
The Rev. Mark J. Skertich '96
Andrew F. Suchko '59
Robert L. Sumara '15
Michael S. Tetteris Sr. '67
P. Ronald Tarullo,* emeritus professor of business and economics
Michael T. Twardy '59
Bernard Tychinski '77
Richard Tylka '60
Melvin Ujchick '63
Suzanne Vacheresse '59
Henry Vogt '67
Steven R. Westover '83
Carol Wagner Williams '63
Candie Todaro Wood '86
Dr. Peter H. Wright,* emeritus professor of technology education
Robert J. Ziegler '83
Paul Zolak '69, '73
Katherine D. Zollars '49
Ronald Zubaty '77
**No class year available or on file*

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EMPLOYER

SPOUSE'S / PARTNER'S NAME

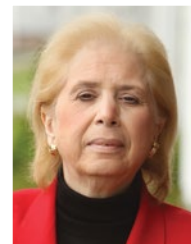
CLASS YEAR

Milestones are published as space and deadlines allow. Please email high-quality images to revieweditor@calu.edu using "Milestones Photo" as the subject line. Be sure to tell us your name, year of graduation, University activities or sports you participated in, and the identity of everyone in the photo. Please do not send printouts or low-resolution digital photos, as they will not reproduce well.

REMEMBRANCES

Dr. Melanie Blumberg died June 4, 2020, shortly after she retired from the history department, where she had taught political science since 2001. She was campus director of the American Democracy Project and a tireless advocate for civic and voter engagement.

Mel was the recipient of Cal U's Faculty Professional Development Merit Award for Research, the Student Government Community Eagle Award, the President's Gala Award for Service, the Alumni Association's C.B. Wilson Distinguished Faculty Award, the President's Commission on the Status of Women Woman of the Year Award for Faculty, and the Caryl J. Sheffield Faculty Excellence Award for Mentoring and Diversity Leadership.



Leo T. Krantz died Sept. 21, 2020, at the age of 80. He was a former chair and member of the University's Council of Trustees, serving two six-year terms from 1999-2012. He also held leadership roles in PACT, the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees.

Leo received the Dixonians Award, one of the Foundation for California University's most prestigious honors. It is named for John N. Dixon, who served on the Board of Trustees in the school's early years.



Carolyn Ruth Eberly Blaney '06 died May 8, 2020. Carolyn was well known in the Uniontown community for her philanthropic endeavors. As a past president and trustee of the Eberly Foundation, and as a trustee of the Eberly Family Charitable Trust, she was instrumental in providing numerous gifts, including a \$2.5 million gift to Cal U for the Eberly Science and Technology Building, which opened in 1999.

At the 1996 Spring Commencement she received the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, and in 2006 the "black box" theater in Steele Hall was named the Carolyn and Gerald Blaney Theatre.



Dr. Richard G. Cavasina died July 6, 2020. He taught for 30 years in the Psychology Department and retired in 2012. Cavasina participated in many academic and scholastic publications for university and medical applications, as well as research projects for inner-city youth.

He was the recipient of Cal U's Faculty Professional Development Merit Award for Service, the Dixonians Award from the Foundation for Cal U, and the President's Faculty Award. He was also a member of Cal U's Robert M. Steele Society. He discussed his experience as a liver transplant recipient as a Noss Lecture Series speaker in 2014.



Dr. Anthony "Tony" Lazzaro '55 died May 15, 2020. An emeritus professor and a lifetime honorary member of the Cal Alumni Board of Directors, he taught chemistry and astronomy for 35 years and was active with the Science Olympiad, which holds regional competitions at Cal U.

In retirement, he was involved with the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties and the Cal-Ed Federal Credit Union. He also served a term on the Centerville Borough Council.





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ALL DONE!

Todd Pinkham, a professor in Cal U's art department, worked through the summer and fall semesters to complete a large mural with the help of the Cal U Art Club. The artwork covers both sides of a highway underpass in Fredericktown, Pa., and serves as a gateway to the Monongahela River Water Trail and boat launch. See images from the project online at calu.edu/review.