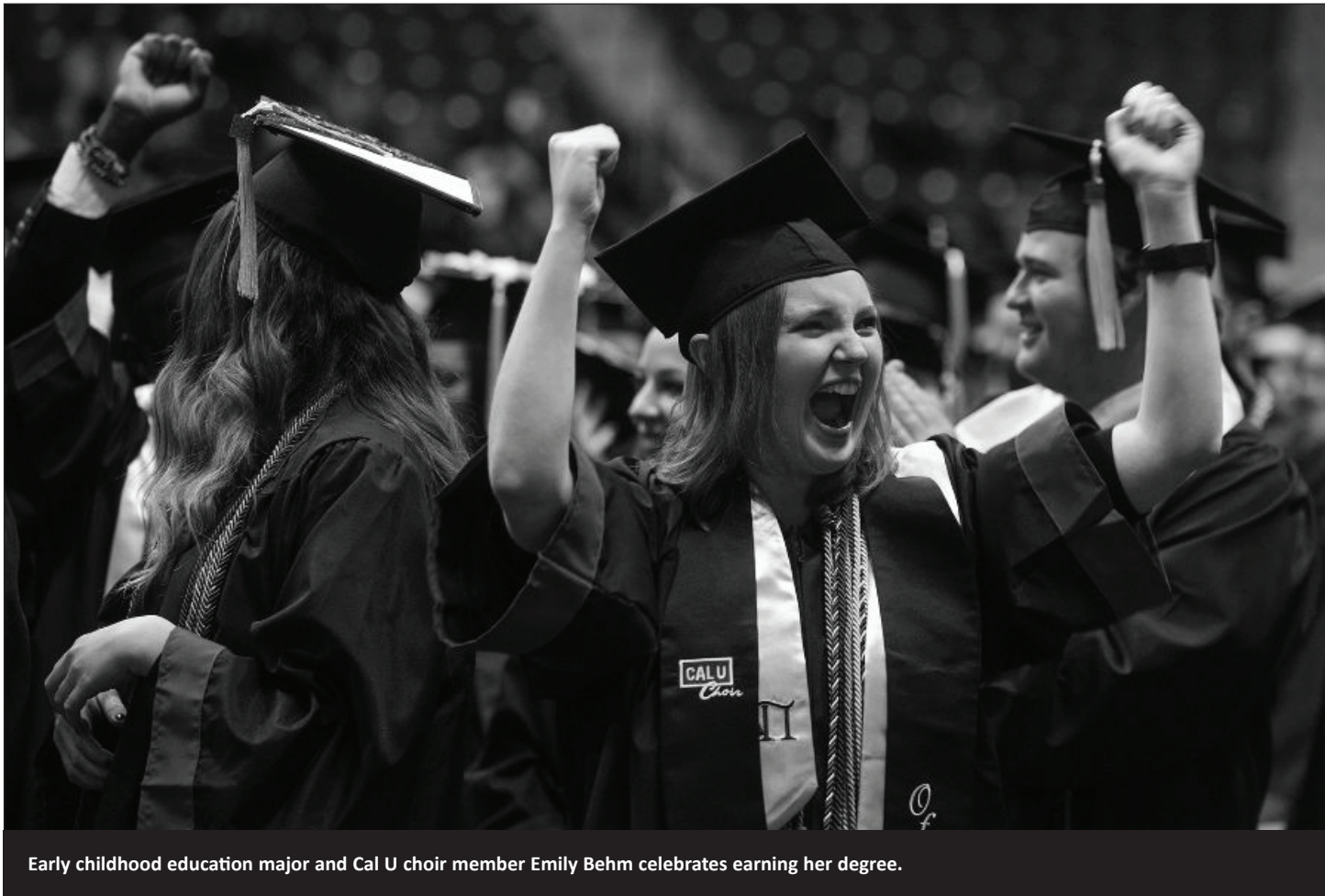


California University  
**JOURNAL**

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Early childhood education major and Cal U choir member Emily Behm celebrates earning her degree.

## 'Day of Service' Jan. 28

Cal U will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with its annual Day of Service on Jan. 28.

From 10 a.m.-6 p.m. volunteers will meet in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center to perform service-oriented activities for nonprofit organizations, including Special Olympics Pennsylvania, Mon Valley YMCA, American Cancer Society, Center in the Woods, The Residence at Hilltop and Southwestern Veterans Center.

"All students, faculty and staff are most welcome," said Amanda Andrews, graduate assistant in the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning. "They can walk in and help at any time for however long they want. Any amount of time given just shows how much Cal U cares about doing our part."

Inspiration for the day of service was a 2003 visit to Cal U by the late Coretta Scott King, who asked that the day commemorating her husband be observed as "a day on, rather than a day off."

The day of service will begin Cal U's Black History Month celebration.

This year's theme is "The Next 400 Years: Recognition, Restoration, and Resilience." 2019 marked 400 years since the first enslaved Americans were brought to the United States. Cal U's 2020 Black History Month observation will recognize and celebrate the struggles, triumphs and resiliency of people and events that blazed the trail to the next 400 years.

For more information about the Day of Service or other volunteer opportunities, contact Amanda Andrews at [and1648@calu.edu](mailto:and1648@calu.edu) or 724-938-4794.

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## Graduates Look Ahead to Careers

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

Walking across the stage on Dec. 14 to receive her degree from President Geraldine M. Jones during Cal U's 189th Commencement was brief by comparison, but the joy of that achievement will last.

"I cannot help but feel bittersweet because the excitement to start a new chapter of my life is there, but my Cal U experience is one I will never forget," said Ebersole a communication studies major who will participate in the Disney College Program in 2020.

She joined more than 1,000 students who graduated from Cal U at ceremonies Dec. 13-14, including the second class to graduate from the Doctor of Health Science and Exercise Leadership program.

Yukiko Suzuki, from Japan,

graduated in August 2019, went back to Japan with her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and is working as a counselor but returned to savor the moment in person.

"I wanted to come back," she said of the decision to return to the University from Tokyo. "I had a wonderful on-campus experience, and it's great to see all my classmates!"

"Her goal was to return to Japan to work with adolescents experiencing high levels of stress, anxiety and depression associated with social situations and parental pressure," said Dr. Elizabeth Gruber. "The faculty and students were delighted to have her back at Cal U for graduation!"

Evan Gray, of Sarasota, Fla., and his parents came to Cal U for the first time as he received his master's degree in exercise science with a concentration in sport psychology. A personal trainer, he looks to become a mental skills coach.

"What I want to do entails more stress- and anxiety-reduction techniques and the mental aspect of sport, because I am trying to help athletes reach their full potential," he said. "This degree will really help build my career, and we've loved our visit."

Alumnus Col. Lance D. Oskey '93, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Cadet Command, addressed graduates at both ceremonies.

He echoed President Jones' welcoming remarks by urging the graduates to be lifelong learners and said he was fortunate to be in a profession that requires the pursuit of education and training.

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

## President's Commission Selects Two Students of the Year

Madison Dulion and Sierra Snyder were named Student of the Year by the President's Commission for the Status of Women at a luncheon Dec. 4 at Kara Alumni House.

The awards are given by the commission to students who are dedicated to Cal U, successful personally and professionally, and supportive of women on and off campus.

Dulion, who earned her undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in women's studies and sociology from Cal U, graduated Dec. 13 with her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling.

She was chosen for her support of women's issues on campus in her role as a community assistant.

"Madi left her mark on multiple students' lives," said residence hall director Rebecca Barnhart, who nominated Dulion for the award. "She was always able to provide a listening ear to support students and staff."

Snyder earned her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in art Dec. 14. She, too, served as a community assistant.

"Sierra is actively involved in the housing community as a role model to her coworkers and peers, and her dedication to this campus is clear through her work, her studies, and her ability to build and maintain positive relationships with people around her," said her nominator, Alyssa Crooks, a fellow community assistant and pre-K to grade 4 education major.



Madison Dulion (left) and Sierra Snyder display their Student of the Year plaques at Kara Alumni House.

# PEOPLE OF THE



## Looking Back at those Who Left Their Mark

It is no small thing to take the measure of a decade. How can anyone summarize 10 years of history or count the highlights of the past 3,652 days?

Yet as we look back at the “20-teens,” we know this for sure: More than anything, we are proud of the people associated with Cal U. We are proud of our students, so many of whom flourished as athletes, scholars and leaders during their time here. We are proud of our faculty for their scholarship and mentorship, and of our alumni for their dedication to their alma mater. We are proud of our donors, who never forgot the value of their education and have chosen to pay that forward.

So before we embrace the 2020s, let’s take one last look at a few of the people who made an impact during the decade past. Thanks to them and to everyone who has put their mark on the past 10 years.

### 1. President Geraldine M. Jones

The University’s first female African-American president was installed Oct. 14, 2016. Cal U has been part of her personal and professional life for decades, and she continues to propel her alma mater toward a more sustainable future. As her 45-year career shows, a commitment to high quality academics and student achievement never goes out of style.

### 2. Tom and Karen Rutledge

Their contributions include the largest gift in the University’s history of to establish the Rutledge Institute for Early Childhood Education; scholarships to Cal U students who are studying

economics or raising a family while earning a degree; and the Rutledge Internship Awards to help southwestern Pennsylvania students pay living expenses when they take internships outside the area. Their generosity has made a world of difference for countless children, students and families.

### 3. Swimming and basketball champions

In 2011, Melissa Gates won the 50-yard freestyle at the NCAA Division II swimming championships. In 2015, the women’s basketball team put an exclamation point on a 32-4 season with an 86-69 victory over California Baptist at the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship game. These champions, and many other successful student-athletes, set the bar high.

### 4. George Novak

Many Cal U alumni have devoted their careers to the University. A much more exclusive list can claim a 60-year career as faculty members. Novak, Class of 1955, began teaching at California State College in 1959 and retired in 2019 from the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems. He received the Cal U Lifetime Achievement Award, the Alumni Association’s John R. Gregg Award, the Foundation for California University’s Dixonians Award and the President’s Faculty Award for Teaching. His impact continues through scholarships established during his long and memorable career.

### 5. Robert Eberly Jr.

Scholarships are more important than ever, and Cal U is grateful to all the donors who have support students in

their quest for success over the past 10 years. One especially bright light is the Eberly Foundation, led by Robert Eberly Jr., which administers the Eberly Family Scholarship at Cal U. During the decade, the Eberly Foundation awarded over \$1.7 million for more than 260 scholarships to Cal U students.

### 6. Fulbright Specialists

The expertise of Cal U faculty resonates around the world. Through the Fulbright Specialists program, Dr. Aref Alkhattar (criminal justice), Dr. Joseph Schwerha (business and economics), Dr. J. Kevin Lordon (secondary education) and Dr. Sean Madden (history and political science) shared their knowledge of curriculum, faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions overseas. Alkhattar went to the United Arab Emirates, Schwerha to Malta, Lordon to China and Madden to Russia.

### 7. Endowed Chair and Fellow

Two Cal U professors earned these prestigious academic honors during the past decade. Dr. Katherine Mitchem was installed in 2009 as the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust Endowed Chair in Education, and Dr. Diane Nettles received the Jeff and Beverly Berger Faculty Fellowship in Education in 2011. They join Dr. Kevin Koury, now the dean of the College of Education and Human Services, who was installed as a Berger endowed chair in 2004.

### 8. Honorary doctorate recipients

Over the past 10 years, the University has awarded honorary doctorates — a

Doctor of Humane Letters or Doctor of Public Service, *honoris causa* — to individuals who have made significant contributions in their fields and to society. The distinguished honorees: LaDonna Harris, Carol Mitchell ’72, ’75, Craig Shoemaker ’09, Charles Pryor ’73, Muriel Summers, and Tom Ridge.

### 9. Jennie Carter Award recipients

In 2009, Lynn Hayes-Freeland, a reporter at KDKA-TV, became the first recipient of the Jennie Carter Leadership Award, which honors the spirit of Jennie Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the school’s first African-American graduate. Since then, the annual award has been presented to alumni Aaron Walton ’68, Cynthia James ’02, Brian Johnson ’94, ’96, Shujuane Brown Martin ’01, ’03, Dwayne Marshall ’86, Shanita Carmichael ’08, Alan James ’62, Blayre Holmes Davis ’12, Paul Lancaster ’66, ’69 and Jesse McLean Jr. ’83, ’94.

### 10. Student members, State System Board of Governors

Cal U empowers students to take on a variety of leadership positions. One group that made a statewide impact: those Student Government presidents selected to serve on the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education. In the past 10 years, Ryan Jerico, Bonnie Keener, Chelsea Getsy and Shaina Hilsey gained valuable leadership experience in that role. (Ryan Gebley served from 2007-2008.) We’re confident that all our student leaders have the potential to make positive changes in their professions and their communities.

## Cal U Touch Added for Rad Tech Program

Workers add a touch of Cal U to an entrance at Washington Hospital, where a new awning and interior signage identify California University of Pennsylvania’s School of Radiologic Technology at Washington Health System. The two-year program prepares radiologic technologists — also known as radiographers or X-ray technicians — for high-demand careers in healthcare. Cal U students attend classes and learn diagnostic imaging skills at Washington Hospital and gain hands-on experience at other clinical locations to earn an associate degree from the University. The Cal U program is accredited by JRCERT, the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology. Learn more about the program at [calu.edu/academics](http://calu.edu/academics).



# Room Rate Adjusted for First Time Since '12

At its final meeting of 2019, Cal U's Council of Trustees unanimously approved a 3.5% increase in residence hall room rates.

Beginning in fall 2020, students who live in on-campus residence halls will pay between \$115 and \$156 more per semester, depending on the type of room they select.

This is the first time that room rates have risen since 2012, said Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance.

"In that time the cost for utilities, personnel — nearly everything — has gone up," Thorn said. "We have worked hard to keep room rates as low as possible, knowing what it means to our students. But the residence halls have to pay for themselves."

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, also discussed on-campus living. Her report to trustees focused on the success of University Housing and Residence Life, including the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) and First Year Experience living-learning communities.

Based in Smith Hall, the DEI community celebrates the diverse backgrounds of all its residents. Students are encouraged to embrace their identities, and gender-inclusive roommate pairings are an option.

The First Year Experience community will expand from a single floor to encompass all of Guesman Hall in 2020-2021, Pinardi said. The

community provides intentional programming to help first-year students learn to live independently and make good decisions.

Cal U's six on-campus residence halls are staffed around the clock, Pinardi noted. Three resident directors, three graduate student resident directors, 38 community assistants and 184 desk assistants support Cal U students who choose to live on campus.

"Our staff gets involved with each of their students," she said. "Residence Life provides them with opportunities to learn and grow while they live, study and play in the residence halls."

Trustees also heard a report by CPA Jared Clark, an auditor with the CliftonLarsonAllen accounting firm. The auditors annually examine the University's budgeting process and financial controls, scrutinizing the way revenue and expenses are handled and recorded.

"We found no material weaknesses in your internal controls," Clark said. The firm's "unmodified opinion" means "your numbers are fair and true."

In other business:

- University President Geraldine M. Jones reported on the University's financial stability policy, which is part of the State System's redesign. It includes creating uniform budget processes across universities, allowing all 14 schools to better evaluate financial strengths and weaknesses.

- Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and

senior vice president for Academic Affairs, reported that Cal U award 1,040 graduate and undergraduate degrees at winter Commencement ceremonies Dec. 13 and 14. Among the graduates are members of the second cohort of the Doctor of Health Science and Exercise Leadership program.

Barnhart also noted that Cal U continues to prepare for the March visit by a peer-review team from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

- T. David Garcia, vice president for Enrollment Management, reported that freshman applications are up 30% compared to a year ago, and the number of first-year students accepted for fall 2020 is 11% higher than at this time last year. In light of demographic trends, "improving retention and persistence is our biggest opportunity to grow enrollment," he said.

- Thorn reported on a variety of capital projects, noting renovations at Lilley Field are nearly complete and the field should be ready for the spring softball season. In Eberly Hall, a new molecular biology lab is expected to be online this spring, when construction will begin on specialized facilities for the veterinary technology program.

At Thorn's request, trustees also approved a one-time New Student Orientation fee of \$100 for all incoming students. The fee covers the cost of meals for students and their families who attend orientation, as well as other

expenses for the full-day program. Last year 13 orientation programs were held from mid-May through August.

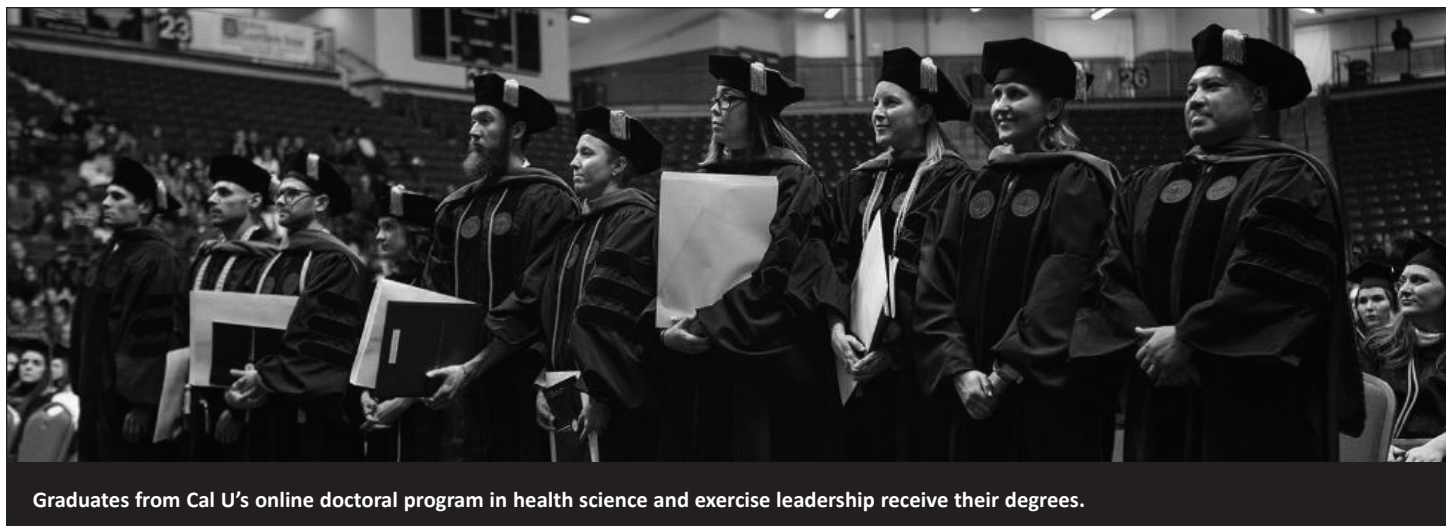
- Christine Kindl, vice president for Communications and Marketing, reported on updates to Cal U's "Build You" marketing campaign. New images of Cal U students are appearing in digital, print and outdoor advertising as the campaign enters its second year.

- Tony Mauro, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that Cal U raised more than \$6.3 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The total was included in the Development Office's annual Voluntary Support of Education reporting.

Mauro also reviewed recent alumni events and informed the trustees of upcoming activities, notably the University's signature fundraiser, the Bow Ties & Pearls Ball, set for May 2 in the Cal U Convocation Center.

The next quarterly meeting of California's Council of Trustees is scheduled for March 4.

At a special meeting held via conference call on Jan. 9, the trustees voted to send a tuition pricing plan to the State System for approval. That plan calls for tuition increases of about \$115 per semester in each of the coming three years, with funds set aside to bolster scholarships and academic support services for students. The system's Board of Governors is expected to vote on the plan at its April meeting.



Graduates from Cal U's online doctoral program in health science and exercise leadership receive their degrees.

## Graduates Look to the Future

— Continued from page 1

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

"Endeavor to accomplishing any mission and please continue to broaden your mind and your perspective by remaining dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning."

A mother of four from Richmond, Va., Sara Dilworth earned her master's degree in Arabic language and linguistics and will focus on her skills as a medical interpreter.

"This program was wonderful because I could really delve into subjects deeply, and it was self-motivating study," she said. "I felt a great sense of accomplishment with each assignment and each class."

Chris Gentile earned his bachelor's degree in political science and is starting law school after his internship at the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons

office in Harrisburg last fall.

"California University has given me the character and confidence to pursue my dream," Gentile said. "I honestly never thought this was possible. Thank you for allowing me to dream big and grow as a person. It's an honor to be part of the Cal U family."

Alexis Zosky, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee and an alumni ambassador, presented President Jones with a check for more than \$15,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

She earned her associate degree in liberal studies and will begin training for emergency medical technician certification.

"As I look back on where I was when I was a freshman to where I am now, a lot has changed for me in many ways," she said. "My time at Cal U was a big learning experience for me, and I have made relationships with alumni from all over the world which was an amazing opportunity."

Another graduate using benefitting from lifelong learning at Cal U is

Drew Cubic, a registered nurse house supervisor, who works at Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown, W.Va. He earned his M.S.N. in nursing, administration and leadership.

"This degree helps you fine-tune your skills in specific areas, and for someone not technologically savvy, the online program was fine."

Military veterans, active and retired, among the graduating classes and in the audience, were also recognized at both ceremonies.

President Jones also acknowledged Taylor Shiann Phillips and Alexander James Murphy for earning bachelor's degrees and Trudi Anneke Brinkmann for earning her associate degree, all with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

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

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

## CPDC Receives Donation

The Enterprise Holdings Foundation recently presented a donation of \$5,000 to California University of Pennsylvania's Career and Professional Development Center.

The money will be used for career-related events or initiatives that benefit Cal U students.

"Through Jill Thomas, talent acquisition manager at Enterprise, we have had a really good track record with Enterprise," said CPDC director Rhonda Gifford. "Each of the past three years we have had 10 students become full-time candidates or interns. They have a great management trainee program that enables our students to advance into corporate positions ranging from accounting, finance, IT and marketing."

One of the major initiatives the donation will support is the CPDC's Campus Closet Project. Located in Room 138 of the Natali Student Center, the Campus Closet takes donations of professional and business-casual wardrobe options to help prepare students for interviews, career fairs, internships and jobs.

Donations are accepted from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays or can be dropped off during non-business hours at the Natali Information Desk in the building's lobby.

"This project is a really good fit for Enterprise because they emphasize professionalism and professional dress is a really important part of it," Gifford added.

# Athletic Hall of Fame Adds Five

Four former Vulcans standouts and a retired coach will comprise California University of Pennsylvania's 24th Athletic Hall of Fame class.

The 2020 inductees are former baseball outfielder Sam DiMatteo, Class of 2010; football cornerback Terrence Johnson, Class of 2009; football coach John Luckhardt; volleyball setter Renata Silva Gray, Classes of 2010 and 2011; and football safety Jim Snyder, Class of 1985.

The 2020 Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized at California University of Pennsylvania's signature fundraiser, the Bow Ties & Pearls Ball, set for May 2 in the Cal U Convocation Center.

The event is open to the public; proceeds benefit scholarships for Cal U students and alumni recognition projects on campus. Ticket prices and more information are available online at [calu.edu/bowtiesball](http://calu.edu/bowtiesball).

- DiMatteo earned multiple All-American honors his final two seasons



Sam DiMatteo

and was a three-time all-conference outfielder who played for the baseball team from 2007 through 2010.

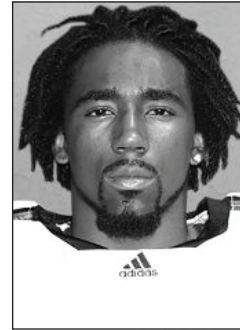
He helped the Vulcans win the 2010 Pennsylvania State Athletic

Conference championship and was named the conference tournament's Most Valuable Player. He still owns the PSAC career record with 115 stolen bases and also held career school records with 223 hits (now second), 50 doubles (second) and 175 runs scored (tied first).

DiMatteo finished with a .375

career batting average, and his 31 home runs and 161 RBI ranks second and third in school history, respectively.

- Johnson, a cornerback, earned multiple All-American accolades



Terrence Johnson

his final two years and was a three-time all-conference selection from 2006 through 2009.

He led the Vulcans in interceptions in each of his four seasons and finished with

16 career picks, the most in recent school history.

He helped the Vulcans compile a 44-10 cumulative record with four straight PSAC-West titles and three straight appearances in the NCAA Division II national semifinals.

- Luckhardt served as the football team's head coach from 2002 through



John Luckhardt

2011. He is Cal U's winningest coach in program history with an 88-33 cumulative record and .727 winning percentage.

Luckhardt concluded his Cal U coaching

career by guiding the Vulcans to five consecutive seasons of double-digit victories and the program's first five NCAA Division II playoff appearances, which included three straight trips to the national semifinals. Cal U won or shared the PSAC-West title each of his final seven seasons.

- Silva Gray received multiple All-

American honors each of her final three seasons and was a four-time all-conference setter for the women's volleyball team from 2006 through 2009.



Renata Silva Gray

She holds the all-time school record and ranks fifth in PSAC history with 5,507 assists. Silva also ranks third

in school history with 497 sets and her 126 career service aces still ranks 10th.

The 2008 and 2009 PSAC Tournament Most Valuable Player, she helped Cal U compile a 111-12 cumulative record and 41-0 conference mark over her final three seasons with three straight PSAC and NCAA Atlantic Regional titles. In 2009 she became the volleyball program's first Academic All-American.

- Snyder was a three-year starting defensive back from 1981 through 1984.



Jim Snyder

He was a two-time, first-team all-conference safety and earned Associated Press All-American honors his senior season. Over his last three seasons

Snyder posted 220 career tackles (108 solo) with 14 interceptions, 23 pass break-ups, six sacks and four fumble recoveries.

During that 1984 season Snyder, a co-captain, helped the Vulcans win their first PSAC championship in 16 years and compiled the team's most single-season victories, eight, since 1958.

# Union Contracts Approved

At a conference call meeting last month, the Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education unanimously approved collective bargaining agreements with the unions representing faculty and campus professionals at Cal U and 13 other state-owned universities.

Members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF) and the State College and University Professional Association (SCUPA) had ratified their respective contracts earlier this year.

Both agreements include no pay increase for the first year.

"Our universities and students are poised for success during the next four years because of these new contracts," Chancellor Dan Greenstein said. "I want to thank APSCUF and SCUPA's leadership teams for their parts in what proved to ultimately be successful teamwork, and I look forward to what we all achieve together during the next four years."

State APSCUF President Ken Mash noted the participation of the chancellor and board Chair Cynthia Shapira in the negotiating process, and he called for more support from the state Legislature.

"Pennsylvania ranks 48th, 49th and 50th in most measures of higher-education support," Mash said, "and our students — many of whom are struggling under crushing debt — deserve far more funding from the Commonwealth."

Cal U's Sheleta Camarda-Webb, state president of SCUPA, said her union is proud to support student success.

"Ratifying this contract enables us to continue serving our students collectively."

*Read the complete news release on the State System website, [passhe.edu](http://passhe.edu).*

## Soccer Team Sends Jerseys to Africa

Students at the Nassarawo-Koma Secondary School in Nigeria wear 2008-2010 soccer jerseys donated by the Cal U women's team. Head coach Pete Curtis led the initiative, which he first learned about when he coached at Washington & Jefferson College. "There is Cal U in Africa, thanks to the generous support and donation," said W&J professor Buba Misawa, who collects books, clothing and school supplies for communities in Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia.



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