

California University
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Cal U Hosts State System Summit

Fourteen universities serving 96,000 students. It's a fact and also a mission statement for the 14 schools in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, whose members gathered Nov. 7-8 for "Intersectionality for Student Success," the 2019 State System Summit, hosted by Cal U.

More than 100 faculty, staff and students from State System schools listened to presentations on topics related to intersectionality — the ways multiple forms of discrimination combine, overlap or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups.

The goal: To create campus environments where all students are more likely to succeed.

Dr. Daniel Greenstein, chancellor of the State System, and University President Geraldine M. Jones welcomed attendees to the conference.

"A college campus is a place where you can regularly interact with people who are not like yourself," Greenstein said. "Those interactions help to develop tolerance, which is an element of social justice."

"We do a lot of things right — the Frederick Douglass Institute, Title IX, multicultural student

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Students Toby Maykuth (Santa) and Jeromy Mackey (Buddy) rehearse for Cal U Department of Music and Theatre's performances of 'Elf The Musical.'

Buzz Builds for 'Elf' Adaptation

A gift that came last July for Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre will be a special holiday treat for many right before Thanksgiving.

Last summer Music Theatre International made a license to perform the stage version of the holiday classic movie *Elf* available to educational and amateur theaters, and Cal U has secured the production for 2019 and 2020.

Elf The Musical, based on the 2003 motion picture starring Will Ferrell, will be performed in the Mainstage Theatre of Steele Hall at 7 p.m. Nov. 21-23, with matinees at 2 p.m. Nov. 23-24.

"It is quite exciting for us to be the first (such) theater in Western Pennsylvania to be given the rights to produce the show," said performance director Dr. Michele Pagen, professor and co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre. "When we were waiting for notification that summer morning it was much like waiting to secure tickets for Elton John or Cher!"

"MTI plans to put the show back into the vault, and Cal U will be the first to produce the show in western Pennsylvania."

This modern holiday classic follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity.

Landing the challenging lead role is junior Honors Program student Jeromy Mackey, a dual major in theater and English.

"The hardest part of playing this role is that there's only one scene that Buddy is off-stage, so once the show starts I am singing, dancing and acting pretty much the whole time," said Mackey. "Maintaining my energy to the end is probably my biggest challenge."

Another challenge: The movie version is very well known, which brings many expectations for the role. Fortunately, Mackey says, he faced a similar challenge as a freshman when he portrayed Jason "J.D." Dean in *Heathers: The Musical*.

"People remember scenes from the movie and expect you to do it a certain way, so I am figuring out what I am going to do that's based off the movie but also what I am going to do that's unique to me," he said. "Finding that balance is a tricky thing."

Mackey also has experience as an elf, having played Norbert

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Hunger, Homelessness Awareness Week Set

The University is collecting donations for the Cal U Cupboard food pantry as the campus participates in Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, a national initiative that draws attention to those two issues.

Highlighting the drive is a "parking space" food collection. Donations of microwavable macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes and rice (or other nonperishable items) may be dropped off between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Nov. 21 in Lot 17, behind the Natali Student Center. To schedule a separate pickup, email calucupboard@calu.edu or call 724-938-4793.

The creative collection idea came from the Office of Parking and Transportation.

"In meeting with our students, they wanted to again address hunger awareness and do something a little different to call attention to this issue," said director Chris Johnston. "So, we set up some barricades to identify the spots, but the goal is to try to get as many donations as we can and highlight this important issue."

CALUCupboard

Boxes have been placed in each Vulcan Flyer shuttle as well.

Diane Hasbrouck, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, commended students for their enthusiasm.

"Hunger and Homelessness is a national weeklong event, but it is a serious issue that affects many people every day," she said. "Our students are doing an outstanding job focusing their service and community efforts on matters that are significant," she said.

"The Cal U Cupboard is something that certainly helps our students in need, and this week greatly supports this."

Donation boxes will remain in residence halls for students who wish to drop off items before winter break.

Other events include:

- Nov. 18 — A poverty simulation by Just Harvest will be held in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center from 6-8 p.m. Just Harvest is a nonprofit organization that uses informational outreach and poverty simulations to explain sustainable solutions to hunger's true causes.

- Nov. 19 — Students will pack peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the City Mission in Washington, Pa., from 4-6 p.m. in Natali 206-207.

- Nov. 20 — From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., students will make Thanksgiving crafts to be included in bags for the Good Eats, a weekend feeding program throughout the school year for children at California Elementary whose families meet guidelines.

- Nov. 21 — Students will pack hygiene bags for high school students from 5-6 p.m. in Natali 206-207.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week began with a presentation on hunger and food security. Other events included a clothing drive and participation in the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank Fall Food Share Drive.



T. David Garcia, vice president for Enrollment Management (left); Presidential Patriotic Service Medallion recipients Morgan Sproul, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, and Colten Kreckle, Army National Guard; President Geraldine Jones; and Robert Prah, director of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Student Veterans' Impact Praised

In a short amount of time, the guest speaker at Cal U's 46th annual Veterans Day dinner has come to appreciate the University's long-standing commitment to its military students.

U.S. Army veteran T. David Garcia, who began in March as Cal U's first vice president of Enrollment Management, acknowledged Cal U's distinction for the past 10 years as a Military Friendly® school, which measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunity for the military community.

"Cal U is an institution that puts actions into words," he said. "While many schools receive this recognition, I can say without hesitation that Cal U is a place where veterans feel welcome and appreciated."

Garcia served six years in the 148th Bravo Company, located in Bowling Green, Ohio. From 1987 to 1993, he served as an infantry soldier and completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, in Georgia. Garcia earned the rank of E-4 Specialist before being honorably discharged after serving his commitment.

Through the assistance of military benefits from the Ohio Army National Guard, he is the first of eight children

from his family to earn a college degree.

He praised the student veterans in the audience.

"This is your home away from home, and Cal U values you and what you bring to its community," he said. "Cal U is a richer place for you being here, and your experiences add to everyone's learning."

"Continue to make Cal U a better place for future student veterans."

Garcia added that those in the military are carrying out missions as a team, regardless of ethnicity, race or religion.

"I would ask that we look out for one another, making sure that we all finish the mission of completing a degree and providing encouragement and support in times of need," he said. "One person can make a difference, but as a collective group, the difference can be made quicker and have immediate impact."

"Veterans are resilient leaders, always fighting forward. Let's continue to take the lead and make a positive difference in our campus and community."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 275 students, faculty and staff at Cal U have served in the U.S. military, including a number of students who have served multiple deployments in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"We have a long history of honoring their courage and sacrifice — and we wholeheartedly welcome those veterans and service members who join our University family," said President Geraldine Jones during her opening remarks.

After Garcia's talk, senior Gregory Jackson, an electronic engineering technology major, was presented with the Col. Arthur L. Bakewell Veterans Scholarship.

Since 1984, this scholarship has been awarded annually in memory of Bakewell, the first Veterans Club adviser. It is funded through the generosity of the Veterans Scholarship Fund 500 Club.

Robert Prah, director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, awarded the Presidential Patriotic Service Medallion to Colten Kreckle and Morgan Sproul. Both returned to campus this August from deployments.

Kreckle is a junior criminal justice major who served on active duty with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sproul is a sophomore psychology major who served on active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Buzz Builds for 'Elf'

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in last year's production of *The Happy Elf*.

"He was kind of a villain and now I get to play a super-fun, carefree, energetic elf, which is a blast."

The show, which sees community members joining Cal U students onstage and behind the scenes, is open to the public.

Pagen says Cal U's theater history with the community dates back to the early '90s with the annual production of *The Nutcracker*.

"Theater, by nature, brings communities together, and by inviting members of the community to take the stage with us, we are personalizing the experience for folks," she said.

"We enjoy having them on stage with us, and they enjoy watching the college students journey through their years at Cal U. We know that we are better as a program, as a department, and as a university, by having the community with us each year."

Releasing the rights to *Elf The Musical* to non-professional groups has caused considerable excitement. Mackey says Cal U's early production of the holiday classic enhances the momentum.

"Being the first, or one of the first certainly in our geographic area, is really neat and helps create a buzz," he said. "When you stop and think about the significance of this, there's certainly some pressure. But this is the most excited and hardest I have ever worked in a role."

"This is really special, and all of us are pumped to show audiences what we've been working on."

As an educator, Pagen said the show aligns with the department goals of having challenging roles for the students to dive into. Big ensemble numbers require everyone to be a "triple threat"—equally strong actors, singers, and dancers.

"I get such joy out of watching a student develop a fully-realized character who has a history and goals and relationships," Pagen said. "Our students have been hard at work developing their own version, and I've waited anxiously for this wonderful opportunity to be released to us."

Ticket price is \$12 for adults; \$6 for those 60 and older and 12 and younger. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay a \$5 deposit that is refunded at the show.

For ticket information, or to charge by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

An opening night reception will be held at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in Kara Alumni House. Guests can mingle with theater patrons and President Geraldine Jones. The menu will include hearty appetizers — and perhaps the four main *Elf* food groups, candy, candy corn, candy canes and syrup!

Cost is \$30 and includes a show ticket. Proceeds benefit Cal U theater legacy projects. For reception tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/caluelv>, email alumni@calu.edu or call 724-938-4418.



Cal U Honors Military and Veterans

University President Geraldine M. Jones (seated) signs a proclamation that designates Nov. 11-15 'Military and Veterans Appreciation Week' at Cal U. Looking on as the proclamation is signed are (from left) Tatiana Beauflis, a junior in Cal U's criminal justice program and an ROTC cadet; T. David Garcia, a U.S. Army veteran and vice president of enrollment management; Robert Prah, director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs; and Joe Midgley, assistant director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs. The proclamation states that Cal U 'is committed to providing services and support to members of our military family' and notes that the week is 'a symbolic way to honor, recognize and support the service and sacrifice of current, former and fallen members' of the Cal U community. As a tribute, Cal U is honoring its service members and veterans for a seventh consecutive year by displaying colorful banners that highlight their military service. Each red-white-and-blue banner includes a photo of the Cal U student, graduate, employee or family member being recognized, along with details about his or her military service. The patriotic display has grown to include 66 banners, and they will be on display on campus through Dec. 13-14 Winter Commencement ceremonies.



The Cal U Choir will join student musicians for a Nov. 24 concert in Old Main Chapel and the Washington Symphony Orchestra for performances at Trinity High School on Dec. 7-8.

Musicians Perform On and Off Campus

With designs on giving its audiences new and different tunes to enjoy, Cal U's student musicians are preparing for several performances on and off campus as the fall semester winds down.

Jazz Anyone?

Cal U's Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Frank Stetar, will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

This year the group is performing jazz pieces that were used for old television shows and movies such as *The Bob Newhart Show*, *Taxi*, *Sanford and Son*, *Barney Miller*, *Rocky* and *Cannonball Run*.

"Going back into the history, there were a lot of good pieces of music, and I wanted to see what we could do with them," said Stetar, director of University Bands and co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre. "We never really had a set theme, so this year we just wanted to try it and see what happens."

"It's just a new twist and something different, but our students are enjoying it."

"I like the *Barney Miller*, and it's fun to play," said trombone player Jessie Halapia, a junior psychology major and member of the marching band who is in her first semester with the ensemble. "This has been a good experience, and I definitely think this will be a good show."

Back to Back Shows

Two 7 p.m. holiday choir concerts directed by Dr. Randy Tillmutter will take place in Old Main Chapel on Nov. 23-24.

The Young and Gifted Gospel Choir will perform an assortment of songs on Nov. 23. Along with older gospel favorites such as Harry T. Burleigh's "Right on King Jesus" and Thomas Whitfield's "I Still Wear a Crown," the YGGC will also perform contemporary numbers such as "Set Me Free" by Myron Butler.

Butler visited Cal U and played that song with the YGGC in 2013, Tillmutter said, adding that Butler has played with noted gospel musician Kirk Franklin, whose "He Reigns" is also part of the Nov. 23 show.

"This is the first time we are performing 'Set Me Free' since 2013, and while our current students were not here back then, this is special because they love and are excited about it as much as I am," Tillmutter said. "The audience will be treated to an entertaining range of gospel music."

On Nov. 24 University Choir, Cal Singers, Acapella Stella, Vulcanize, and Isolated Incident will all perform.

Two songs from the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* — "Hallelujah" and "He Shall Purify" — will be performed. Another piece will be Mack Wilberg's arrangement for "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

"Other songs we are doing are not necessarily holiday or Christmas-related because our show is earlier this year due to the way the academic and holiday calendar falls this year," Tillmutter said. "But because of that this year's concert is very different from last year and should be most enjoyable."

All three events are free and open to community.

Cal U and WSO

At 8 p.m. Dec. 7 and 3 p.m. Dec. 8, the Cal U

Choir will join the Washington Symphony Orchestra at Trinity High School in Washington, Pa., to sing several selections at "Ho Ho Ho with the WSO."

Dr. Yugo Ikach, acting dean of Cal U's College of Graduate Studies and Research, and professor in the Department of Music and Theatre, is the WSO's music director and principal conductor.

The University Choir will join the WSO and the All-Star High School Choir formed with choir members from the 14 Washington School District high schools. Selections include: a glorious fanfare and procession of "O Come All Ye Faithful," Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Christmas Canon," John Rutter's "Angels' Carol," and Handel's "Hallelujah" from *Messiah*.

Ikach is pleased that Cal U has become a regular part of the WSO holiday tradition for many years.

"I am always trying to tie Cal U into as many community events as I am able," he said. "More importantly, it's so rewarding to see our students want to be a part of making the community better while bettering themselves."

For details about performances by Cal U musicians, contact the Department of Music and Theatre at 724-938-4878 or email tillmutter@calu.edu or stetar@calu.edu.

For tickets for the WSO, visit www.washsym.org or call 888-718-4253. Advance tickets for "Ho Ho Ho with the WSO" are available at Citizens Library and Peters Township Public Library; tickets also are available at the door. Cal U students with a valid CalCard are admitted free of charge to WSO concerts.

Holly Day Scheduled for Dec. 8

The California Borough Recreation Authority and Cal U welcome everyone to California Holly Day, 4-6 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Natali Student Center.

The free community event includes performances from Buddy the Elf, carolers and an *Elf The Musical* performance from students in Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre, and the Cal U choir.

Santa Claus is expected to arrive by 4:30 p.m., when there will be a photo opportunity as well as cookies, hot chocolate, and treat bags for the first 100 children who attend. Blaze, the Vulcan mascot, will also again be part of the holiday tradition.

During the two-hour Holly Day, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* will be shown continuously in the Vulcan Theatre.

There will also be a holiday craft fair in the Performance Center. The Cal U Bookstore will also be open and local business, churches and Cal U student organizations will have activity tables throughout the building.

Free parking is available in the lots behind the Student Center.

LaRae Dillon '01 plans to bring her



Blaze, the University mascot, will be part of California Holly Day on Dec. 8.

young children, Kroy and Danica, to Holly Day again this year.

"There's a lot of things to do and see, and they love it," she said. "It's exciting and a very nice event that brings

together the town and University.

"It's definitely become one of our holiday traditions."

For more information, email Melissa Dunn at dunn@calu.edu.

Campus BRIEFS

Trustees Meet

The California University Council of Trustees will hold its final quarterly meeting of 2019 at 6 p.m. Dec. 4 in the President's conference room, Old Main, Room 110.

Schedules Change for Thanksgiving

So that students can observe the Thanksgiving holiday, no classes will be held Nov. 27-Dec. 2.

The University will be closed Nov. 28-Dec. 1 and will reopen Monday, Dec. 2. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Residence halls will close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, and re-open at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1.

The final print **Journal** of the Fall semester will be available online and in print on Dec. 9.



Chancellor Dan Greenstein speaks inside the Performance Center during the 2019 State System Summit.

Cal U Honored for Voter Efforts

California University of Pennsylvania was recognized Nov. 12 for its success in encouraging students to vote during the 2018 midterm election.

At the 2019 ALL IN Challenge Awards ceremony, Cal U received a Silver Seal for achieving a student voting rate between 30% and 39%.

“Our ‘Midterms Matter’ campaign was designed to help students understand the importance of voting even in non-presidential election years,” said political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg, adviser for Cal U’s campus chapter of the American Democracy Project. “This award suggests that students heard that message.”

“I thank those faculty, staff and administrators who are committed to making voter engagement a part of our campus culture. Much of the credit also goes to a corps of dedicated students who organized voter engagement events, helped to register new voters and made sure that they and their friends cast their ballots in the 2018 midterms.”

Student participation in voting increased from the 2014 midterm election to the 2018 midterm. According to the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement, an initiative of Tufts University’s Institute for Democracy & Higher Education, voter turnout at the more than 1,000 institutions participating in the study increased by 21 points, from 19% to 40%.

Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, praised Cal U’s “intentional efforts to increase democratic engagement” by encouraging students to learn about the issues and go to the polls.

About the ALL IN Challenge

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is a nonpartisan, national initiative recognizing and supporting campuses as they work to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and full student voter participation. The Challenge encourages colleges and universities to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campus.

More than 560 campuses, enrolling more than 6.2 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

Cal U received a Bronze Campus Award at the inaugural ALL IN Challenge Awards ceremony, in 2017. Both the 2017 event and the Nov. 12 ceremony were held at the Newseum, in Washington, D.C.

Students, Faculty, Staff Gather for Summit

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groups, women’s organizations on campuses that have advocated for equity and parity. We must always strive to do more to address the challenges of inclusion amid an increasingly diverse population.”

The conference is a place to “learn about programs and policies that can make a difference on all our campuses,” President Jones said. “Openly addressing issues builds a campus environment where all students can thrive.”

In addition to presentations by State System faculty and staff, Melanie Harrington, president and CEO of Vibrant Pittsburgh, discussed economic growth and diversity in our region; and Holocaust survivor Irene Skolnick, of Pittsburgh, described her Jewish family’s struggle to survive during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

Faculty, staff and students from Cal U provided expertise during several of the presentations and poster sessions:

- Dr. Sheri Boyle, Sheleta Camarda-Webb and graduate students James Fulton and Anna Lotze presented “Stop the Hate: Bystander Training

- Erica Malone presented “Intersectionality in the LGBTQ+ Community: Exploring Identities, Experiences and Challenges.”

- Dr. Kristen Majocho, Dr. Laura Tuennerman, Andrea Cencich, Laura DeFazio, Dr. Mathilda Spencer, Suzan Mohney and Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux presented “Embracing Inclusion ... Every Student Matters.”

- Dr. Azadeh Block co-presented “Collaboration in Assessment: Refugee Peer Support Groups in Allegheny County.

- Dr. T. David Garcia presented “Supporting Hispanic Students by

Establishing a Hispanic Faculty and Staff Campus Organization.”

Students Felix Rivera, Natalie Trainer and Jamie Weaver presented posters on intersectionality topics.

Taylor Phillips, a senior social work major, presented her research on the effects of environmental influencers on attitudes and social service practice. The goal was to identify factors that contribute to the development of prejudicial attitudes and find ways to address these views.

“Self-awareness is essential as a social worker,” Phillips said. “It is very easy not to realize how many biases you have.

“We need to recognize our personal biases, encourage familiarity with the unfamiliar by engaging in new and diverse learning experiences, and, above all, be advocates for everyone. It’s all about advocacy. If you can help someone get where they want to go, that’s what it’s all about.”

Holiday Pottery Sale Dec. 4-5



Junior Eliza Richardson prepares pottery for the annual Holiday Student Pottery Sale, which will be held Dec. 4-5 in the Ceramics Studio, near Vulcan Hall.

The annual Holiday Student Pottery Sale will be held from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 4, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 5 in the Ceramics Studio, near Vulcan Hall.

Members of the Student Pottery Association create all the handmade wares, including mugs, bowls, pitchers, jars and vases of all sizes.

The two-day event is open to the public, and complimentary refreshments will be served.

“This showcases the quality work of our students, and they take considerable pride in this,” said Richard “Duke” Miecznikowski, professor in Cal U’s Department of Art and Languages.

For more information, contact the Department of Art and Languages at 724-938-4182 or Miecznikowski at 724-938-4083 or miecznikowski@calu.edu.

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