

Harrisburg Internship Prepares Student for Law School

Senior Christopher Gentile is getting a head start on his law career.

A political science major, Gentile is working in the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons office in Harrisburg as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

He is one of 11 students participating this fall in The Harrisburg Internship Semester program.

THIS gives students from each of the 14 State System universities the opportunity to work in state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. Students receive a \$3,500 stipend to assist with living expenses while they live in the Harrisburg region.

Gentile and his fellow THIS interns attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

One of Gentile's duties is to help prepare an analysis report for each applicant, which is used during review hearings. The five-member Board of Pardons votes to determine if the application should be forwarded to the governor for consideration.

Gentile's research paper on criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania focuses on Clean Slate, a new Pennsylvania law that will automatically seal 30 million criminal records. The law is intended to help minimize the damage of old low-level criminal convictions for nonviolent crimes.

The new law covers charges that did not result in convictions, summary judgments, nonviolent crimes committed a decade or more ago, as well as more recent minor misdemeanor offenses that



Christopher Gentile is participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester.

resulted in less than two years in prison.

While interning Gentile has met many politicians, including Gov. Tom Wolf, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and Attorney General Josh Shapiro. His sponsor is Brandon Flood, secretary of the Board of Pardons.

"I honestly could not have chosen a better place to intern to prepare for law school," Gentile said. "The Board of Pardons is very busy but really exciting as well, and this has been an incredible experience for me."

After graduation Gentile, a non-traditional student, will take the Law School Admission Test and hopes to begin in the fall. He and his fiancée, Meghan McConville, had their first child, Elle Quin, this past spring.

Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus

coordinator for THIS and a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, praised Gentile, who she said excelled as a Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow.

"Chris Gentile jumped at the chance to apply for this internship, as he realized the instrumental role it could have in his career trajectory," Blumberg said. "He takes his responsibilities seriously and sets a perfect example for students who are returning to Cal to complete their degrees."

For information about THIS, students may contact Dr. Melanie Blumberg at blumberg@calu.edu or call the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg at 717-720-4089. Details are available at passhe.edu/this.

Mueller Wins Educator Award

Dr. Thomas Mueller, a professor of geography at Cal U, has been honored for developing a high school curriculum to help children study a tragic event in Ukrainian history.

The 2019 Holodomor Research and Education Consortium, a project of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta, awarded Mueller the 2019 HREC Educator Award for his work.

His winning lesson plan, "Holodomor — Three Issues to Examine (High School Edition)," uses currently mapped research data to help students better understand the Ukrainian genocide.

The Holodomor, as it is called, took place in the territory of Ukraine in 1932-1934. The Holodomor is included in curricula on human rights, genocide, history and social justice in many parts of Canada, and is one of five genocides recognized by the Canadian government.

Mueller's areas of expertise are geographic information systems (GIS), geography education and world regional geography.

The HREC Educator Award for Holodomor Lesson Plan Development is awarded annually. It is intended to foster the development of innovative, creative and interactive lessons for grades K-12 that develop

— Continued on page 2

SAB and Adviser Feted at Conference

Cal U's Student Activities Board received impressive awards at the Northeast APCA (Association for the Promotion of Campus Activity) conference, which was held in Teaneck, N.J., Oct. 4-6.

SAB was named the 2019 Northeast APCA Organization of the year. The organization also received third-place awards in the graphics competition for printed material and novelty items.

Melissa Dunn, director of Student Activities and Leadership for the Office of Student Affairs, was named 2019 Northeast APCA Adviser of the Year.

"Being named organization of the year was one of the coolest things I have experienced here at Cal U," said Miranda Anderson, a senior graphic design major and president of SAB's executive board. "I've been involved with SAB since my freshman year. All of us put in so much work, so it's very nice to be recognized for our efforts."

Anderson, who minors in marketing and event planning, designed the third-

place award-winners — a poster highlighting a concert at last spring's President's Backyard Celebration and a Cal U tumbler for new SAB members.

APCA promotes campus engagement through educational experiences, affordable entertainment and community service initiatives. It is divided into five regions, and last year more than 2,000 students and higher education professionals from more than 600 schools attended APCA conferences and institutes.

At the campus activities planning conferences students experience a diverse educational curriculum, stellar live showcase line-up, novelty vendors, well-known speakers, student government training, networking opportunities and community service components.

APCA provides schools within a region the opportunity to merge their buying power and save money by sharing the travel costs for events and programs they book.

— Continued on page 3



SAB Executive Board Members Nikki Tartler (front row, left), Miranda Anderson, Morgan Madanick, Destiny Brooks (back row, left), Josh Bennett, Melissa Dunn (adviser), Mike Bordonaro and Marcus Purtlebaugh.



Taylor Kodric (seated, left), Destinie Olesko, Madison Groover, Chloe Guie, Emily Sloan, Taylor Assad (standing, left), Peter Livengood, Calvin Livengood, Giovanni Marian, Robert Eberly Jr., Kathy Eberly, President Geraldine Jones, Jeff Jones, Thomas Victor, Michael McKittrick, Mason Kelly, Katlyn Massey.

Eberly Scholarship Recipients, President Say Thanks

Students gathered in Kara Alumni House on Oct. 23 to express their gratitude for a full-tuition scholarship that has helped them pursue a Cal U degree.

Robert E. Eberly Jr., president of the Eberly Foundation, and his wife, Kathy, met with recipients of the Eberly Family Scholarship at a luncheon.

In all, 24 students are Eberly scholarship recipients.

Several of them addressed the Eberlys at the luncheon.

"It was one of the most normal days of my life — until I got the scholarship letter," said Dominick Melchek, a first-year student majoring in secondary education.

"It opens up so many doors for my future."

"I'm happy to be of assistance,"

Eberly told the students. "Cal U has a special place in my heart because of all of you and your successes. I wish you all the very best. At some point, when you're able, remember this moment and think about doing something that will benefit future generations."

The Eberly Foundation was established more than 55 years ago by Robert Eberly Jr.'s grandfather, Orville, who did not finish high school but educated himself by reading and taking correspondence courses. He eventually invested in oil and gas, then got into banking. He established the Eberly Foundation to support education through scholarships and other initiatives.

"It's been such a blessing, and I'm so honored," said Taylor Kodric, an undergraduate psychology major who is already taking credits toward a master's

degree in school psychology.

"I'm a first-generation student with other siblings in a one-income household. The scholarship allowed me to focus on my academics and take full advantage of the extracurricular opportunities at Cal U. I've been able to work on research projects and my honors thesis, I've been active on the SAI Board, I've been a campus tour guide and worked in the Academic Success Office.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to thank the Eberlys in person for what a difference they have made in my life."

President Geraldine M. Jones also expressed her thanks.

"We appreciate your generosity," she said. "Your care and concern has helped set the course for our students for the rest of their lives."

Cal U, Community Prepare for 'Elf'

The Department of Music and Theatre is preparing a holiday treat at Cal U for fans of *Elf*.

For the first time, a license to perform the stage version — *Elf The Musical* — is 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 at 7 p.m. Nov. 21-23, with matinees at 2 p.m. Nov. 23-24.

The show, which sees community members joining Cal U students onstage and behind the scenes, is open to the public and will be performed in the Mainstage Theatre of Steele Hall.

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

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 tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

Opening night reception

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 ticket to the show, which begins at 7. Proceeds benefit Cal U theater legacy projects. For tickets visit tinyurl.com/caluelv

Agreement to Benefit ESL Teachers

Cal U and Intermediate Unit 1 have signed an agreement intended to bring more highly qualified teachers of English as a Second Language into area schools.

The pact translates to savings for ESL teachers who are seeking a master's degree at Cal U.

The agreement applies to teachers from area school districts who have taken ESL courses offered by IU1 and who enroll in Cal U's online Masters of Education in ESL.

Under the five-year agreement, IU1 teachers apply to Cal U and, if accepted, enroll as tuition-paying students.

Once they have earned 12 credits by successfully completing four graduate-level courses required for the M.Ed., the University will accept up to nine credits earned through the intermediate unit's ESL program in these courses:

- EDE 704: Introduction to Teaching English as a Second Language (3 credits).

- EDE 709: Developing Cultural Awareness (3 credits).

- EDE 713: Language Acquisition and Development (3 credits).

Teachers then complete nine additional credits (three graduate-level courses) at Cal U to earn the degree.

All Cal U coursework for the master's degree in ESL can be completed entirely online, making it convenient for busy, working educators. Teachers save when their IU1 credits are transferred to California University at no additional cost.

"Our school-age population is becoming more diverse," says Dr. Susan Morris-Rutledge, coordinator of the University's ESL program.

"Both our children and our school districts benefit when educators are skilled in teaching English language learners — and teachers with an advanced degree in ESL may find more opportunities available to them."

Teachers from IU1 can apply to Cal U online at calu.edu/apply. Candidates must submit a letter attesting to their completion of all IU1 coursework in ESL prior to application and enrollment.

The M.Ed. program covered under the agreement does not include initial teacher certification or ESL certification. Separately, Cal U does offer an M.Ed. program that includes ESL certification, as well as a certificate-only option. Prospective students can learn about all of Cal U's academic programs at calu.edu/academics.

Mueller Honored for Curriculum Development



Dr. Thomas Mueller

— Continued from page 1

critical thinking skills while addressing the genocide, and to recognize the outstanding educators who create them.

"I am excited and humbled at winning this award," Mueller said. "I could not have done it without my mentors and friends at California University of Pennsylvania and Harvard's Ukraine Research Institute MAPA Program."

This is the first time the award has gone to an American educator.

Mueller is an educational associate team member for the MAPA program, which uses GIS to illustrate and explain economic, historical, political and social transformations within Ukraine.

In 2018, he created a lesson plan for Cal U students — "MAPA in the Classroom: Ukraine and Language Exercise."

For the Holodomor project, students will use data from Harvard's Ukraine Research Institute to create maps illustrating the population losses during the Holodomor. That information can then be compared to facts about collectivization, environmental issues or losses by nationalities.

Mueller worked with student William Greene and plans to use the curriculum in his Introduction to Geography class.



Harlem Globetrotters Return Jan. 9

The world-famous Harlem Globetrotters, featuring larger-than-life entertainers, will bring their all-new show, “Pushing the Limits,” to the Convocation Center on Jan. 9, 2020.

Showtime is 7 p.m. Doors open to the general public at 6 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$30. Those purchasing a “Magic Pass” for an additional \$17 will be admitted at 5:30 p.m. for a 30-minute pre-show that includes court access and photo and autograph opportunities with the players.

Tickets are available at ticketweb.com.

Every Harlem Globetrotters show features a blend of hilarious hijinks and

incredible basketball skills, including ball handling, high-flying dunks and a new record-breaking attempt.

Globetrotter stars include Big Easy Lofton, Hi-Lite Bruton and female stars TNT Lister, Swish Sutton and Torch George.

This is the third time that the Harlem Globetrotters have made the Cal U Convocation Center a stop on their World Tour.

“We are excited to have the Harlem Globetrotters back at Cal U,” says Becky McMillen, executive director of University Conference Services. “This event is always a wonderful night of family-friendly entertainment that brings the regional community to campus.”

Campus BRIEFS

One More Open House This Fall

Cal U will hold this fall’s final Open House program for prospective undergraduate students on Nov. 9.

The events introduce prospective students to Cal U or give students who have been accepted a chance to explore the campus.

Students and families learn more about Cal U’s programs of study, housing and student life. They can talk with Cal U students, meet faculty members from their academic area of interest, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village on the upper campus.

The Open House begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. in the Natali Student Center followed by a welcome and overview. All students receive a free Cal U T-shirt at the end of the day.

To register for an Open House date and see a schedule of events, visit calu.edu/visit or call 724-938-4404.

Spring Registration Begins Nov. 4

Current students may register for Spring 2020 classes beginning Nov. 4.

Students should log in to the Vulcan Information Portal (VIP) and click on “academic info” to see class level, academic standing and registration day.

Students are encouraged to stay on top of their academic progress,

and timely registration maximizes the ability to register for classes students will need to complete their degrees on time.

For more information, visit the Office of Academic Success in Noss Hall or call 724-938-4186.

Musicians Prepare for Holiday Performances

Cal U’s talented student musicians are tuning up for holiday performances.

Jazz ensembles under the direction of Dr. Frank Stetar will perform holiday tunes and an assortment of jazz melodies at 8 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

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

The Young and Gifted Gospel Choir will perform a selection of holiday favorites on Nov. 23.

On Nov. 24 University Choir, Cal Singers, Acapella Stella, Vulcanize, and Isolated Incident will all perform and encourage audiences to sing along.

All three events are free and open to community.

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.

Garcia Speaker at Vets Dinner

T. David Garcia, Cal U’s first vice president of Enrollment Management, will be the guest speaker at the 46th annual Veterans Day dinner Nov. 7.

Hosted by the Cal U Veterans Club, the event will be held in the south conference wing of the Convocation Center. Doors open at 5 p.m.; the program begins at 6 p.m.

Garcia, who started at Cal U in March, has more than 28 years of higher education experience at four different institutions.

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.

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.



T. David Garcia

“Dave’s ‘student-first’ approach to success and his commitment to our veterans on campus and building a sense of community made him an ideal choice for this year’s guest speaker,” said Robert Prah, director of the Office of

Military and Veterans Affairs. “He is sincerely concerned with not only helping recruit veterans to come to Cal U but also in seeing they do well here and after they graduate.

“He certainly adds to our dinner’s longstanding list of distinguished speakers.

Cal U students are admitted free; so are Cal U alumni who are current or former service members. Cost for all guests is \$15. Checks should be made payable to SAI-Vets Club.

Reservations are required; deadline to register is Nov. 4.

To make a reservation or inquire about payment options, email veterans@calu.edu or call 724-938-4076.

Banners honoring Cal U veterans also will be displayed on campus.

Spots Open on D.C. Bus Trip

Tickets are still available for the Department of Art and Language’s trip to Washington, D.C., a regular item on the University’s calendar for the past 11 years.

The one-day excursion is open to students, alumni, staff and faculty. Cost is \$25 and can be paid in Vulcan Hall Room 100.

This year’s destination is the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum. The bus will depart at 6 a.m. Nov. 6, arrive at the museum by 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., depart from the museum at 7 p.m. and return to campus by 11 p.m.

For information, email Maggy Aston at aston@calu.edu.

SAB and Adviser Feted at Conference

— Continued from page 1

Dunn explained that an outside agency nominated Cal U SAB for their organization award and praised the Cal U students.

“This honor speaks volumes of our students, and frankly they carry themselves much different than other schools do at the conference,” Dunn said. “There’s a bit of a carnival atmosphere there with a lot of complimentary items and entertainers,



but our students are more about doing business than chasing the shiny objects.

“I strongly believe the association and

agencies see and are influenced by the professional way they handle themselves as undergraduates.”

Though humbled to receive her award, which was selected by APCA staff, agencies and fellow advisers, Dunn was most honored that she was nominated by SAB.

“Everything I do, I do for my students. They are what keeps me coming back every single day, because every single day is different with them,” she said. “Knowing that I’ve been able

to impact them with their college careers and maybe their career paths means more to me than anything.”

Anderson said she and her SAB peers were thrilled to nominate Dunn.

“Missy deserves this and so much more because she does so much for us and everyone on campus,” Anderson said. “She always puts her best foot forward and is always there for you if you need help with anything or even life advice.

“She’s a great mentor.”



The Cal U's men's soccer team takes a break after participating at the 25th annual Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh Buddy Walk at Highmark Stadium.

Soccer Team Volunteers at Walk

The Vulcans men's soccer program recently participated in the 25th-annual Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh (DSAP) Buddy Walk held Oct. 19 at Highmark Stadium.

The event was introduced to the program courtesy of the team's athletic trainer, Mindi Fisher, who has two uncles with Down syndrome. She is a member of the planning committee for the event as well as a volunteer.

The Vulcans contributed in a

variety of activities, including setting up prior to the event, leading the walk from Highmark Stadium, handing out medals to participants and engaging with families on the soccer field at the conclusion of the walk.

"For us it was important to show our support to Mindi and her family at this event," said head coach Emedin Sabic. "She does a lot for our team and it was great for us to give back to an event that means a lot to Mindi, her family and so many people that are affected."

The Buddy Walk is the largest fundraiser of the Down Syndrome Association of Pittsburgh. Their mission is to enrich the lives of individuals with Down syndrome and their families in the community, which is largely funded through the Buddy Walk team and individual donations. They fulfill that mission in two ways: creating opportunities for families to share resources and create community and by funding the Down Syndrome Center of Pittsburgh.

Vulcans Have NCAA Roles

Two Vulcans athletics administrators are representing the University at the NCAA Division II level.

Jenni Morrison, Cal U's associate athletic director of business operations and senior woman administrator, is beginning her first year as chair of the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Atlantic Region Committee. She has been a committee member for three years.



Jenni Morrison



Dr. Karen Hjerpe

Athletic Director Dr. Karen Hjerpe is in her fourth and final year as the chair of the NCAA Division II Women's Volleyball Atlantic Region Committee.

and men's golf coach Peter Coughlin finished serving as regional and national chair for men's golf this past spring.

Regional committee chairs automatically serve on the national committees for those sports.

Responsibilities as chair include leading the regional committee in the review of teams and statistics each week and helping the national committee evaluate teams for weekly rankings and post-season tournament appearances.

"To have both Jenni and I on the national committee and Peter having already served certainly shows a level of commitment to each of the sports and a willingness to volunteer and serve," Hjerpe said.

Obligations also include serving as NCAA site representative at both the regional and national tournaments. At the national tournaments, the committee members also participate in community service projects.

Hjerpe said at last year's NCAA II volleyball championships, which were contested in Pittsburgh, Pa., her committee worked with student-athletes to distribute items to patients at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

"I have also visited veterans hospitals and worked with high school gym class students through my experiences," she said. "It provides a great professional development opportunity because you get to work with leaders at other institutions as well as the NCAA staff while representing and talking about Cal U."

Student Competes for Warrior Title

Cal U first-year student Jordan Amrhein endured constant mental and physical challenges for four straight days — with hopes of doing it again next year.

A private first class in the U.S. Army Reserve and ROTC student, Amrhein competed for the title of Best Warrior at Niagara Falls, N.Y., earlier this fall.

The annual competition was a preliminary event used by major Army Reserve commands to select the best junior enlisted soldier and noncommissioned officer in their ranks. The winners represented their units at the 18th annual United States Army Reserve Command Best Warrior Competition last month at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Amrhein, of South Park, Pa., competed in a variety of challenges including firing weapons, a six-mile ruck march, formal interviews, warfare simulations, land navigation, the Army Physical Fitness Test, written exams, and various "mystery events."

He is part of the 393rd Medical Company out of Coraopolis, Pa., and was one of three nominated from a 120-person field to compete among the 439th Battalion by 1st Sgt. Brian Hogan.

Though Amrhein did not advance, he hopes to return to



Jordan Amrhein competed in a contest to find the best Army Reserve soldier.

the competition next year.

"It was definitely a learning experience that helped show me where I am at in my military career and how much I need to develop," said Amrhein, who enlisted in the Army in April 2018 while still a student at South Park High School. "Having gone through it once will give me a pretty good advantage moving forward next year."

Amrhein is majoring in computer

engineering technology. His goal is to be commissioned as a second lieutenant when he graduates and then go to Ranger School and Special Operations before active duty.

"Growing up I've always wanted to be in the military," he said. "But I also really enjoy working with computers and my academics here can only help me in my military career and will always be something I have in the future."

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