

California University
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Dr. Lee Ann De Reus, a professor at Penn State-Altoona, will describe her work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her talk, at 12:30 p.m. March 6 in the Performance Center, is part of the Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference.

Two Chosen for Fulbright Specialist Program

Cal U's number of Fulbright Specialists is growing.

Dr. J. Kevin Lordon, associate professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership, and Professor Joseph Schwerha, associate professor in the Department of Business and Economics, are the most recent faculty members to be selected to participate in the program.

They join Dr. Aref Al-Khattar, who recently returned from the University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, where he lectured, conducted seminars and worked with faculty in the Department of Sociology and its criminal justice track.

The specialist program is a short-term complement to the core Fulbright Scholar Program, which is designed to increase understanding between the United States and people of other countries. Specialists spend two to six weeks as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development and institutional planning at overseas academic institutions.

Lordon will spend March 2-28 at Hebei University in China, where he will continue work he began in 2005 on the topics of Professional Learning Communities and teacher leadership. Lordon will meet with groups of professors to focus on leadership standards and to share teaching strategies, and an interactive website will extend the program beyond his visit.

"Through the Fulbright Specialist grant, I am excited and blessed to have the opportunity to continue working with the colleagues at Hebei University," Lordon said.

"Our learning goal is to develop Professional Learning Communities composed of teacher-leaders who are truly committed to student learning. We believe that the best teachers are teacher-leaders."

Schwerha, who specializes in cybercrime, plans to travel to the University of Malta next spring. Through a series of lectures, he will consult on curriculum development and provide a U.S. perspective on digital evidence, electronic discovery, privacy, law and technology, and litigation. In addition, an online lecture series featuring international experts may be developed.

"It goes without saying that it is a great honor to be chosen as a Fulbright Senior Specialist," Schwerha said. "The process of nomination and selection took over two years and verifies my efforts to become an internationally recognized expert in my fields of privacy, cybercrime and digital investigations.

"It also speaks very well of Cal U and its continuing work to provide a very high-quality faculty for its student body. I look forward to completing my awarded period and returning to Cal U to share the benefits of this tremendous experience."



Lordon



Schwerha

Women's History Topics Both Political and Personal

Cal U takes a global perspective on women's rights issues — and gets personal, too — as it marks Women's History Month in March.

Presentations throughout the month will focus on women's rights and the role of activists in our own communities and around the world.

Human rights activist Ahmad Ghashmari, for example, has started a campaign to mobilize grassroots action against "honor killings" in the Middle East, including his native Jordan. His presentations explore the issue and examine the future of Middle Eastern women in light of the Arab Spring uprisings.

Ghashmari will speak at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Thursday in Room 120, Eberly Hall.

On March 6, the seventh annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference examines international violence against women with presentations by a special agent from the FBI, a scholar-activist who works with rape survivors in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and a panel of activists from Cal U.

"Our students help to select the topic for this annual conference," said Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, director of the Women's Studies program. "Some of them are very passionate about these global issues, and they are eager both to learn more and to

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Research Explores Learning With Digital Devices

For students from the Westmoreland County Gifted Coalition it was a Crazy Contraption Challenge — a chance to build a Rube Goldberg-style device in competition with other students.

For Cal U graduate student Chris Allen, it was a research project powered by mobile technology and a step toward his Master of Arts Teaching degree.

On Feb. 15 at Bellmar Middle School, in the Belle Vernon Area School District, 10 teams of students from nine school districts faced off with their crazy contraptions. Their assignment: To inflate and then pop a balloon using simple machines in a chain reaction of at least 10 steps.

Team members built their devices with low-tech stuff: pulleys, gears, dowels, wire, marbles and a toy car.

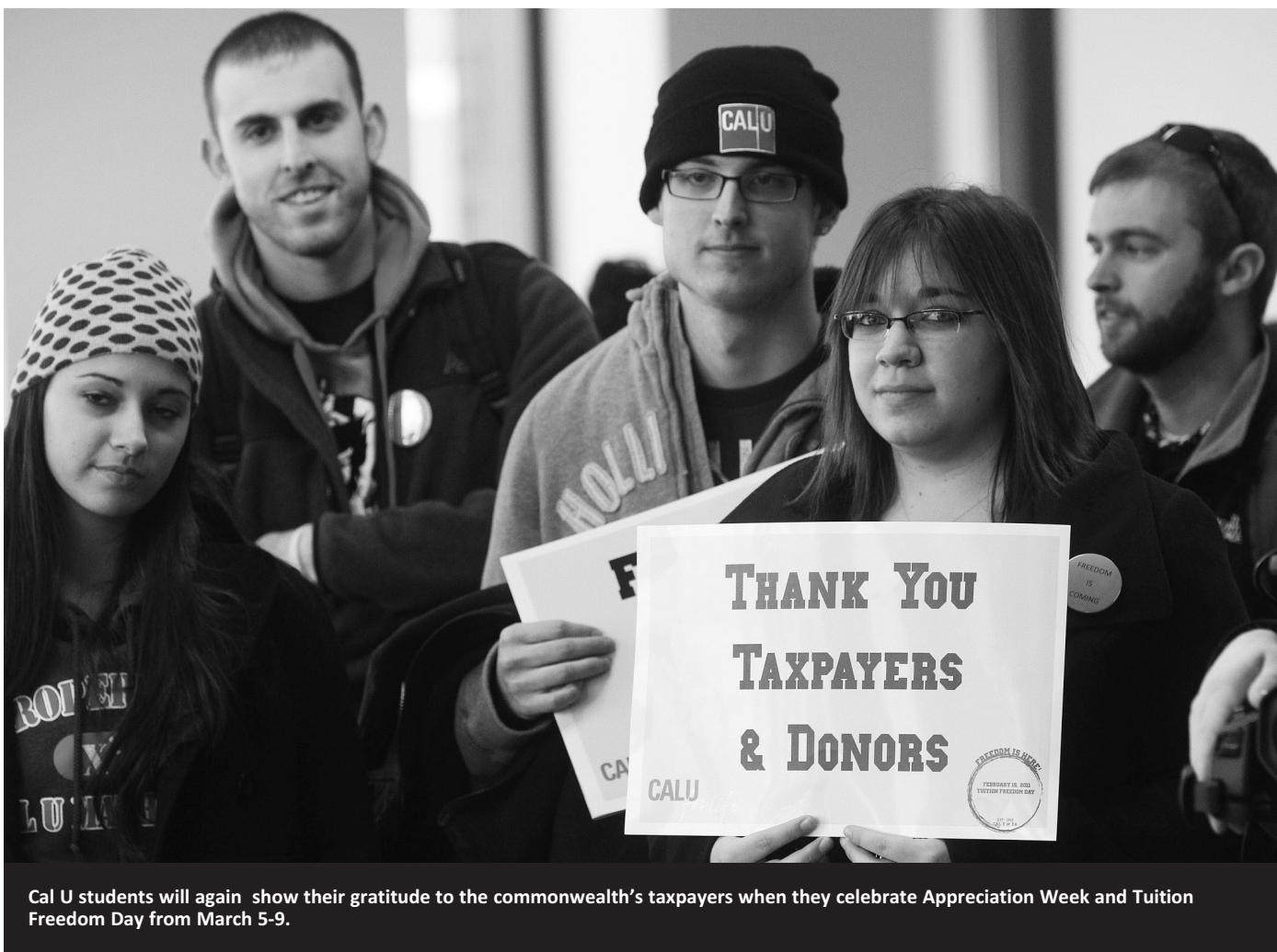
But they used digital technology to develop a basic understanding of simple machines, complete the engineering design process and put together a presentation.

Allen's research project examines whether digital devices

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From left to right: Cal U Applied Engineering and Technology assistant professor Joseph G. Schickel, student teacher Brian Nicholas and graduate student Chris Allen watch Kira Nicholson adjust her team's device during the Crazy Contraption Challenge at Bellmar Middle School on Feb. 15.



Cal U students will again show their gratitude to the commonwealth's taxpayers when they celebrate Appreciation Week and Tuition Freedom Day from March 5-9.

Celebration Honors Former Social Work Chair

Former Cal U faculty member Dr. Virginia "Ginny" Majewski will be honored when the Department of Social Work hosts its second annual Social Work Month Celebration from 6-8:30 p.m. March 9 in the Performance Center.



Majewski

The event also supports the Vulcan Social Work Student Scholarship fund. To date, nearly \$8,000 has been raised for this scholarship.

Nathaniel Morley, chair of the southwest division of the National Association of Social Workers' Pennsylvania Chapter (NASA-PA), will present a talk about "Why Social Work Matters."

Provost Geraldine Jones will introduce Majewski, and student leaders will comment on how her contributions have affected Cal U.

Majewski currently is a professor and associate dean of the School of Social Work at Indiana University. Chair of Cal U's Department of Social Work and Gerontology when she left the University in 2002, she is a past chair of the Division of Social Work at West Virginia University, and she taught at the University of Wyoming.

Majewski holds a master's degree in Hispanic languages, a Master of Social Work, and a doctorate in public and international affairs from the University of Pittsburgh.

She specializes in community organizing, social policy, research, program evaluation, group work and cross-cultural practice.

Majewski has co-designed and taught four service-learning courses on American Indian reservations in South Dakota. Her research and scholarship include service and experiential learning to enhance the social work curriculum, hunger and food insecurity, American Indian issues, rural social work practice, and applied ethnographic research.

She has received grants for implementing service learning in the curriculum and building co-curricular volunteer opportunities for social work students. In 2007 she co-edited the book *Social Work and Service Learning: Partnerships for Social Justice*.

"Dr. Majewski is a very accomplished social worker and much beloved faculty member," said Dr. Pamela Twiss, chair of Cal U's Social Work Department and director of the BSW program. "This is a celebration."

Last year about 60 people attended the inaugural social work event. It honored emerita professor Dr. Beverly Willison, whose work on domestic issues and violence against women helped to pioneer Cal U's Student Sexual Assault Response Team. An early supporter of the PEACE Project, now the END V Center, Willison retired in 2005.

Admission to the celebration is free; refreshments will be served. Reservations are requested. RSVPs are due Wednesday; call 724-938-5910.

Students to Express Thanks

Cal U students will keep the commonwealth's taxpayers in mind as they celebrate Appreciation Week and Tuition Freedom Day.

As part of the *Cal U for Life* initiative, students will meet at 11 a.m. March 6 near the Kara Alumni House and then parade to the Natali Student Center for a Tuition Freedom Day rally at 11:30.

Various student leaders and alumni representatives will speak at the start of the rally.

Tuition Freedom Day is the mathematical date when the tuition funds that students or their families paid for the 2011-2012 academic year are exhausted.

For the remainder of the school year, the education provided to Cal U students is funded by a combination of state monies, appropriated through the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and privately funded scholarships.

The precise date for this year's Tuition Freedom Day was still being calculated at press time, but it likely will have passed by the start of Appreciation Week, March 5-9.

Throughout that week students will have an opportunity to sign thank-you postcards or an open letter thanking Pennsylvania's taxpayers and legislators for their support of public higher education.

At tables in the Natali Student

Center, students also can sign up for the Senior Gift Drive Committee, Quizzo Tournament or Civic Engagement Center Activity.

"Although state appropriations for public higher education keep declining, Pennsylvania taxpayers ultimately provide support for every student who attends a state-owned university," said Ryan Jerico, coordinator of student and young alumni activities.

The weeklong celebration has three goals, he said: To educate Cal U students about financing for public higher education; to instill a sense of appreciation and gratitude for the support taxpayers provide; and to show the public that Cal U students are grateful for their support.



Networkers

Students Danielle Gigliotti (left) and Catherine Mathison chat at the Mock Networking Reception and Etiquette Dinner Feb. 15 in the Natali Performance Center. More than 80 students and 30 Cal U employees and alumni attended the seventh annual event, where students sharpened their networking skills and learned how to navigate employment interviews that take place during meals.

Black History Month Celebration Continues

Film and television actor Morris Chestnut will discuss the images of African-Americans portrayed in the media, and the impact they have on American society, during an appearance at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Cal U Provost Geraldine Jones will guide the discussion, a free event presented as part of Cal U's Black History Month celebration.

Chestnut is known for his role as a high school football player and teen father in the 1991 movie *Boyz n the Hood*. On television, he recently has appeared in the series *V* and in *American Horror Story*.

The presentation at Cal U is free and open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third

Street near the campus entrance.

Cal U will conclude its Black History Month celebration with a closing ceremony at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Performance Center. Dr. John Sutton will lead the closing ceremony and deliver a talk on "Surviving the Jim Crow Era." This event is co-sponsored by Cal U Men United; the Office of Social Equity; the Justice, Law and Society Honors Fraternity; and the Criminal Justice Honors Fraternity.

On Wednesday, Sutton will discuss "Pathway to a Career in the Criminal Justice Field" at 11 a.m. in Room 303, Duda Hall. This event also is co-sponsored by the Office of Social Equity; the Justice, Law and Society Honors Fraternity; and the Criminal Justice Honors Fraternity.

Students Compete at History Day Contest

Education and history met at Cal U when more than 100 eighth-grade students from Sewickley Academy and the Belle Vernon Area, Charleroi and Trinity school districts competed in the fifth annual Primary Sources History Day contest, held in the north conference wing of the Convocation Center.

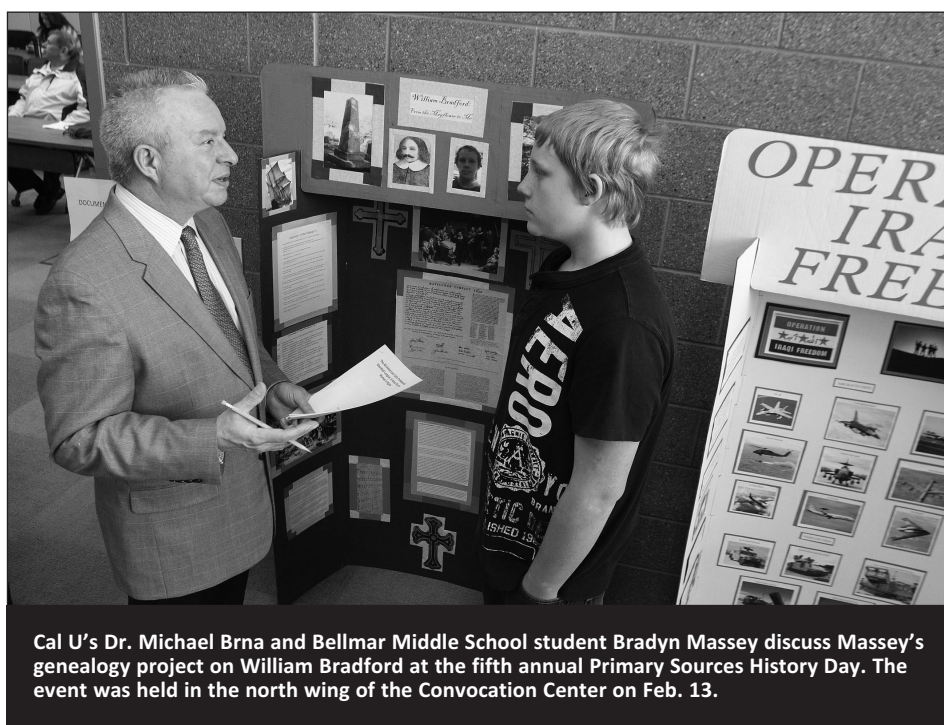
The History Day competition is sponsored by the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources program.

First-, second- and third-place medals were awarded in junior and senior divisions for outstanding exhibits, documentaries, performances, websites and research papers. All participants received framed certificates.

"Everyone here is a winner," said Dr. Michael Brna, director of Cal U's Teaching with Primary Sources program.

"When I look at the exhibits and talk with you (students), I can see the passion you have for history and your subjects. Each of you has put in countless hours and you all are to be commended for going above and beyond the call of duty for scholastic achievement."

Judges and event volunteers included Cal U history and political science and education students, University faculty, current and retired educators, and community members who belong to local historical societies.



Cal U's Dr. Michael Brna and Bellmar Middle School student Bradyn Massey discuss Massey's genealogy project on William Bradford at the fifth annual Primary Sources History Day. The event was held in the north wing of the Convocation Center on Feb. 13.

The event is modeled after the National History Day competition. For many students, the Cal U contest was a warm-up for next month's regional competition, to be held at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

One of those students was Bradyn Massey, of Bellmar Middle School in Belle Vernon. For his genealogy project, "William Bradford: From the Mayflower

to Me," Massey traced his family tree back 14 generations and learned that Gov. William Bradford, leader of the Plymouth Colony, was among his ancestors.

Bradford's is the second name listed on the Mayflower Compact.

"Because of this project I learned so much about him. I probably would not ever have done this otherwise, just

because of being busy with school and other activities," Massey said. "It was gratifying."

Trinity Middle School student Peter Rinehart's exhibit focused on Joseph Lister, the "Pioneer of Antiseptics." While working at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary in the late 1800s, the British surgeon introduced the use of carbolic acid (phenol) to sterilize surgical instruments and to clean wounds, which led to safer surgeries by reducing post-operative infections.

"I was interested in medical advances as I was looking into historical figures, and I first came across information on him (Lister) on a website," said Rinehart. "So I was intrigued and looked further into it."

Among the 22 judges was Steve Bullick, a social studies supervisor in the Mt. Lebanon School District and a National History Day regional coordinator. He said the Cal U competition gives students a tremendous amount of feedback and constructive criticism, so they can make adjustments to their work.

"By participating today, you are practicing many skills that will benefit you regardless of whether you decide to go onto the regional, state or national events," Bullick said.

Research Explores Learning

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such as the iPod Touch or tablet computer can have a positive effect on student learning.

He collaborated on the contest with Cal U alumnus Ian Finn '03, who teaches gifted students in Belle Vernon Area. Judging the crazy contraptions were Dr. Stephen Whitehead and Joseph Schickel, of Cal U's Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, and student Brian Nicholas, a student teacher at Bellmar.

With the help of associate provost Dr. Stanley Komacek, Cal U loaned each team of students an iPod Touch they could use to research the contest assignment. Allen created a website with access to appropriate computer apps and a blog where the students posted journal entries documenting their progress.

Dr. Len Colelli, dean of the Eberly College of Science and Technology, donated funds to purchase machine kits the students used to construct their contraptions. The donation was made in memory of his father.

"I hope to use this as a steppingstone to secure grants for continued research projects similar to this one," said Allen, a student teacher in the art department at Park Elementary School, in the Laurel Highlands School District.

"But what's most important is for teachers and students to see and understand what mobile technology can do in the classroom. By using iPods, students not only are having fun, they're actually learning many different skills without realizing it."

Whitehead and Allen began discussing the project in 2010, when Allen was a student in Cal U's Graphics and Multimedia program.

"Chris had the passion to take it all the way through," Whitehead said. "With educational technology, everyone gets so caught up in the technology they forget the educational



Penn-Trafford students Andre Guest (left) and Mitchell Plute prepare their device at the Crazy Contraption Challenge in Bellmar Middle School's gymnasium.

phase. But Chris totally gets it. It's not about the technology; it's about the engagement.

"He found a way to get kids doing physics, science, chemistry and math in a hands-on activity that opens them up to being taught."

Finn noted that several teams used the iPod to post their daily journals, in addition to doing research.

"At the middle school level we participate in a lot of competitions that try to home in on specific talents," he said. "This event gives them extra enrichment. We are very pleased with this project and how it worked out."

The students began working on their projects in January. At Bellmar, their efforts came down to a series of three, two-minute demonstrations.

Their faces grew serious as they set their contraptions in motion for the judges.

"It was definitely fun, but getting the ball-bearing to go down was a challenge," said Mitchell Plute, of Penn-Trafford Middle School.

"Our balloon didn't pop right away when the judges were there, but it did when they walked away, and

they saw it."

Pre- and post-contest surveys will inform Allen's research results, but he was pleased that the event ran smoothly.

As a teacher, he said, he looks to incorporate technology into as many lessons as he can.

"Having them use the iPods and do everything on their own made this truly a student-centered activity," he said. "The teachers were simply 'guides on the side' offering guidance and suggestions."

Whitehead said the event was an excellent introduction to research for Allen, and an opportunity to introduce bright young students to Cal U.

Allen's passion for technology is contagious, he added — and a reminder that new tools may change the way teaching and learning take place.

"We teach the way we were taught, because that's the way we are comfortable with," said Whitehead. "But Chris' opinion is that with all this new technology, maybe we don't have to. Perhaps need to take a step back and think about how to start fresh."

Campus BRIEFS

Auction Closes March 7

Pittsburgh Penguins fans have until March 7 to bid on autographed All-Star jerseys, dinner in the exclusive Lexus Club at CONSOL Energy Center, or one of the other prizes offered during the fourth Pittsburgh Penguins online auction to benefit Cal U students.

Online bidding opened Feb. 26 at www.pittsburghpenguins.com. Bidding closes at 5 p.m. March 7, 2012.

Eleven prize packages are available in all, including collectibles autographed by Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, James Neal and Kris Letang. Descriptions are online; visit www.calu.edu for a link to the Pittsburgh Penguins' website.

Cal U is the official education partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins. Proceeds from the online auction support the Pittsburgh Penguins Scholarship, awarded annually to a Cal U student.

Convocations This Week

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will host the 2012 spring staff and student convocations this week in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center. The Staff Convocation will be held at 1:30 p.m. today, and the Student Convocation will be held Tuesday during the University's common hour, beginning at 11 a.m.

Prom Donations Sought

The Cal U Entrepreneurs' Club is collecting used formal dresses and accessories for the Princess Project, which will help girls in the Washington County area whose families are experiencing financial hardships attend their proms.

Items may be dropped off in Cover Hall, Room 122, through Friday. All sizes and styles are needed.

For more information, contact Kelly Hunt at hunt@calu.edu.

Cross Country Teams Honored for Academics

Both Cal U cross country teams have earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic Team status, and four runners from each team received individual USTFCCCA All-Academic honors.

To qualify for USTFCCCA All-Academic status, a team must have a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.00 or better and have compiled a score (finished at least five runners) at their NCAA regional championship.

To qualify for All-Academic individual honors, a student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or greater through the most recent semester, completed at least 12 credit hours in the semester of cross country competition, and placed in the top 50 percent at the most recent NCAA National Championships or in the top 30 percent at the NCAA Regional Championships.

With a cumulative GPA of 3.44, the Vulcan women's squad earned All-Academic team honors for the third consecutive year.

Individual All-Academic honors were achieved by redshirt senior Laurie Hall, redshirt sophomore Erin Kling, and freshmen Allison Hall and Alex Zanella. Cal U was one of 124 women's teams recognized by the organization.

The Vulcan men's team earned All-Academic team honors for a fifth straight year, with a 3.36 GPA. The quartet of All-Academic winners comprised senior Chris Wolfe, sophomores Savantuy Boyette and Aaron Dinzeo, and freshman Nick Pezza. The team was one of 80 men's squads to be recognized.

Sixth-year veteran Daniel Caulfield coaches both teams.



Among the eight Vulcan cross country runners to earn individual All-Academic honors are Alex Zanella (No. 43) and Allison Hall (No. 26).

Topics Both Political, Personal

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raise awareness about them.”

Registration for the daylong conference opens at 9 a.m., and all events are held in the Performance Center in the Natali Student Center.

FBI agent Denise V. Holtz discusses human trafficking at 9:30 a.m. At 12:30 p.m., Dr. Lee Ann De Reus, a professor at Penn State-Altoona, describes her work with Congolese women, and the “Activists in Action” panel convenes at 2 p.m.

The conference closes with a showing of *Call + Response*, a critically acclaimed documentary about modern-day slavery.

Activists also spark debate when they share their passions in TED Talks videos. On March 20 activist Sheryl WuDunn, co-author of *Half the Sky*, discusses the effects of poverty on women and girls in developing countries. On March 29, Sunitha Krishnan talks about “Fighting Sex Slavery.”

Both video presentations are offered at 11 a.m. in Room 120, Eberly Hall. Each will be followed by a facilitated discussion.

Other events this month include a talk by Kay Dorrance, director of the END Violence Center at Cal U, at 11 a.m. March 22 in Room 120, Eberly Hall; and a meeting of the “i am that girl” group at 5 p.m. March 27 in the Carter Hall multipurpose room.

Cal U's annual performances of *The Vagina Monologues* will begin at 7 p.m. March 7 and 8 in the Blaney Theater, inside Steele Hall.

The award-winning play celebrates women's sexuality. Ticket price is \$5 for students, \$10 for others.

Sexuality is also the topic when Harlan Cohen, the author of *Naked Dating: Five Steps to Finding the Love of Your Life (While Fully Clothed and Totally Sober)*, gives a frank and funny presentation at 8 p.m. March 21 in the Performance Center.

Cohen describes his talk as “hilarious, candid and highly interactive.” It is based on his new book, which is due out in April. Cohen also is the author of *The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College*.

Women's History Month events at Cal U are sponsored by the Women's Studies program, the Women's Center, the Activists Club, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. Most are free, and all are open to the public.

A complete schedule of Women's History Month activities is available online, along with speaker biographies, a preview of the film “Call + Response,” and directions to Cal U. Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For this information and more, visit www.calu.edu.



The President's Gala on June 2 will again take place in the Omni William Penn Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

Award Winners to be Honored at Gala

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., has announced the honorees for this year's President's Gala Awards for faculty and emeriti faculty.

The awards will be presented at the President's Gala on June 2 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh.

The President's Gala is the University's largest annual fundraiser; net proceeds support student scholarships.

Dr. Marc Federico, of the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, will receive the President's Faculty Award for Teaching.

Dr. Paul Crawford, of the Department of History and Political Science, will be honored for research. The award for

service will be presented to Dr. Kelton Edmonds, also of the Department of History and Political Science and director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U.

Dr. Phyllis McIlwain and Professor Richard Nemecek '65 will receive the President's Emeriti Faculty Awards.

Dr. David L. Amati '70, '72, current president of the Foundation for California University, will be this year's recipient of the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award.

Honorary co-chairs for the event are Dr. Charles “Chuck” '73 and Marianne '72 Pryor.

This year's theme for the black-tie fundraiser will be “A Night on Broadway.”

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