

California University
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Celebrating her dual degrees in secondary education social studies and history, Alyssia Moss gives hugs to Cal U senior parks and recreation major Allison Humphries outside the Convocation Center after the Undergraduate Commencement.

Basketball Teams to Appear on ESPN3

Vulcan basketball fans will turn the Convocation Center red Jan. 27 when ESPN3 broadcasts its NCAA Division II Basketball Game of the Week from Cal U.

The Vulcans are looking for a "red out" in the stands as they entertain longtime rival IUP in a PSAC doubleheader. Both the men's and women's games will be aired nationally on the live, multi-screen sports network available in 99 million homes.

Parking in the River Lot (Lot 4) is free. Doors to the Convocation Center will open at 4 p.m., so fans can warm up for the game with music, face painting and other entertainment.

Alumni, students, faculty and staff are encouraged to watch these two exciting matchups live in the Convocation Center arena.

The women's game starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men's game at about 7:30 p.m. Both will be carried live in their entirety on ESPN3.

Admission is \$1, with proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation. About 1,500 fans will receive free T-shirts.

Other giveaways and contests are planned, along with performances by the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, Cal U pep band, cheerleaders and dance team.

"We are honored to be chosen by the NCAA to be the NCAA Division II Game of the Week on ESPN3," said athletics director Dr. Karen Herje. "The PSAC, Cal U and IUP are all excited to showcase our teams in this great event."

On the air

This marks the first time that PSAC basketball has been highlighted as ESPN3's Game of the Week, but neither the Vulcans nor the Crimson Hawks are strangers to the national media.

In March, the CBS Sports Network broadcast the NCAA Division II national semifinals and finals, following the Cal U women's basketball team's rise to the national championship.

The IUP men's team also reached the NCAA Division II national championship game in March. The Hawks fell to Florida Southern in a game that also was aired by CBS.

Combined, the four competing teams have won 26 PSAC championships and made 45 NCAA Tournament appearances over the years.

Vulcans fans of all ages are urged to wear their team colors to the Convocation Center and show their support for both the women's and men's teams.

For more information, visit the Cal U athletics website at www.caluvulcans.com.

General Praises Individuality at Winter Commencement

As he addressed the graduating students at Cal U's 181st Commencement, Lt. Gen. Alan R. Lynn '79 quipped that seeing the audience all dressed in the same outfits made him feel right at home.

Although their uniforms of caps and gowns united them as graduates, the career Army officer said the students' differences would matter more in the days ahead.

"Individuality is the key to success," Lynn said. "Your individuality and that quality of your character that distinguishes you from others like you will define you in every choice that you make."

"While school is no longer going to be in session for you at Cal U, the school of experience is about to begin. Cal U has taught you how to learn. And the one thing I have

learned about the school of experience is that it will repeat the lessons."

Lynn, whose decorated military career spans more than 36 years, spoke to master's degree candidates Dec. 11 and undergraduates Dec. 12. Both ceremonies were held in the Convocation Center.

The Commencement speaker recently stepped into dual roles as director of the Defense Information Systems Agency, a combat support agency of the U.S. Department of Defense, and commander of the Joint Force Headquarters—

Department of Defense Information Networks, based at Fort Meade, Md.

His military career has included command assignments

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Performance, Service Honor King

Cal U will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a free presentation on Jan. 19 and its annual Day of Service on Feb. 3. "King's Dream" will be presented at 11 a.m. Jan. 19 in the Natal Student Center's Performance Center.

The multimedia performance blends historical film footage with live narratives, music and songs to relive key events in King's life and explore the roots of the civil rights movement and the unrest of the 1960s.

Admission is free to both the Cal U community and the public.

"I am very excited we are able to host this performance of 'King's Dream' at California University," said Shelda Webb '89, '94, director of

Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, as well as Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Services. "It is a great medium to depict the amazing life and legacy of Dr. King. I look forward to witnessing the event with our campus and local community."

Day of Service

Cal U students will participate in the annual Day of Service on Feb. 3. The event is coordinated by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, in collaboration with the Office of Volunteer Programs and Service Learning.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Inspiration for the event 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."

Students from various clubs and organizations will gather from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Performance Center to complete a variety of craft projects. A Central Blood Bank blood drive will be held in conjunction with the event.

For more information, e-mail Shelda Webb at webb_s@calu.edu or Diane Hasbrouck at Hasbrouck_d@calu.edu.

Trustees Approve Strategic Plan, Budget

After months of committee work and input from the entire campus community, the University's 2015-2020 Strategic Plan received the unanimous approval of the Council of Trustees at its quarterly meeting Dec. 2.

In her report to the Trustees, interim University President Geraldine M. Jones said the plan is based on three tenets that align with the University's and the State System's mission: enhancing academic excellence and the academic experience of Cal U students; operating with sound and efficient fiscal and governance practices, and achieving optimal enrollment.

"I appreciate the participation of the many individuals across campus who provided comments and feedback on the draft plan," President Jones said. "We tried to be inclusive and give everyone a chance to weigh in."

Trustee Michele Mandel praised the plan, but emphasized that approval is just the beginning.

"This is wonderful conceptually," she said. "Now we look forward to the follow-up... to see how this is carried out."

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

"We didn't find any errors and found no weaknesses in your internal controls," Gillett said.

Budget approved

Following the auditor's report, the Trustees approved a revised 2015-2016 University budget, taking action the council had voted to postpone at its September meeting.

Although the budget presented in September anticipated a \$5.4 million deficit, the revised \$117.5 million budget projects a surplus of \$1.5 million, which will be used to bolster the University's unrestricted net assets — in effect, its emergency fund.

Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, explained that the revised spending plan assumed a 3 percent increase in state appropriations — a figure that may be adjusted once the state budget impasse is resolved in Harrisburg.

Other assumptions, which Trustee Robert Miner called "very conservative," include a 3.5 percent tuition increase and a 3 percent enrollment decline both this year and in 2016-2017.

Thorn credited the turnaround in the 2015-2016 projection primarily to a one-time payment of \$5.5 million resulting from the University's purchase of six main-campus residence halls from the Student Association Inc. Those funds had been held in an escrow account and were unavailable prior to completion of the housing purchase in October.

Additional savings resulted from reductions in services, supplies and other expenses, and from retirements and vacancies that will reduce personnel costs.

Looking ahead, Thorn also presented a 2016-2017 budget that anticipates a surplus of nearly \$286,000. If revenue from appropriations or

tuition should exceed projections, he said, the additional funds will be placed in reserve.

"You've made difficult decisions," said Larry Magg, the council's chairman. "You've done a tough job during a tough time, but you did what you had to do."

Quarterly reports

In other business, Dr. Bruce Barnhart, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, reported on enrollment management efforts. He noted that inquiries by prospective students have increased significantly, with more than 13,300 called thus far for Fall 2016, compared to about 10,000 for all of last year.

Barnhart also reported on the growing popularity of Cal U's five-week Winter College, which recently completed its third year. The 2015-2016 Winter College showed a significant enrollment increase compared to last year, he told the Trustees.

Figures compiled after the Dec. 2 meeting show that Winter College students enrolled in 28 undergraduate courses and 15 graduate courses, with 78 sections in all. During the winter term 1,440 students earned a collective total of 6,672 credits — an enrollment increase of more than 10 percent compared to last year, and a 12 percent increase in credits.

Barnhart also outlined Cal U's current marketing initiatives for the Trustees, including the new Finish Line degree completion program.

Reporting on the University's Communications and Public Relations office, President Jones touched on changes in the Cal U website's structure, design and content that streamline a prospective undergraduate's route from exploration to application.

In the first two weeks after the changes were made, clicks on "Apply Now" buttons throughout the website increased by 60 percent.

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, focused on the Cal U Cupboard, a student food pantry based in the Natali Student Center.

Diane Hasbrouck, director of Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, spoke about the program, which began with a food drive in August.

So far more than \$1,600 has been raised for the pantry, and 1,000 non-perishable food items have been collected. Cal U is one of 230 schools nationwide who are members of the College and University Food Bank Alliance (CUFBA).

Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, announced that his area has raised more than \$1 million in donations and pledges in the current fiscal year.

He also commented on the President's Showcase, which was held in conjunction with Homecoming Week festivities. Since its debut in 2014, the annual event has raised more than \$100,000 for retention scholarships for students majoring in science, the arts, and education.

The Council of Trustees is scheduled to meet again March 2.



Accepting Women of the Year honors from Interim President Geraldine M. Jones are Kiyana King (center) and Feleisha Wright.

Students Honored as 'Women of the Year'

Two outstanding December 2015 graduates were honored as Women of the Year by the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

The commission, whose members are appointed by the University President, is an advisory group that advocates for an environment where women can flourish professionally, intellectually and socially. The 2015 fall semester awardees were Feleisha Wright, a graduate student in the social work program, and Kiyana King, an undergraduate in psychology with a minor in women's studies.

Wright was a graduate assistant for the Master of Social Work program. She also completed an internship with the Cal U End Violence Center. She plans to take her Licensed Social Worker exam this winter before joining the U.S. Air Force.

"Feleisha is a shining star," said Donna Hook, from the End V Center. "I saw her build relationships with the other

workers and also the women and students who came to the center."

"She made a lot of students feel welcome who may have dropped out," added Nancy Skobet, associate dean for Student Affairs.

King's service to the community while a student at Cal U included 300 hours as an AmeriCorps volunteer for Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania, based in Fayette County.

In addition to working in the Women's Studies office, King also was president of the Cal U Activist Club and was a panelist for a discussion about sexual assault.

"Kiyana has a great sense of humor," said Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, director of Women's Studies and associate professor in the Department of History and Political Science. "She is passionate and compassionate. She has overcome major obstacles to achieve her undergraduate degree."

Dual Degree Program Blends Nursing, Business

In today's increasingly complex healthcare environment, nurse leaders require a broad range of skills, including management perspective on business issues and management practices.

So Cal U now offers an MSN-MBA dual degree program that prepares graduates for management positions in nursing and other areas of practice, as well as entrepreneurial ventures or roles as chief nurse officers.

"The MSN-MBA program combines the best aspects of both programs," said program coordinator Dr. Mary O'Connor, of the Department of Nursing.

"The MSN provides nurse leaders with comprehensive preparation and development in nursing administration, in specifics related to the health care field, and in managing quality initiatives and patient-centered nursing care."

"The MBA program provides students with an intensive focus on accounting, marketing and business management principles."

To meet the needs of busy health care professionals, the program is being offered 100 percent online.

Students who have completed the

required MBA foundation courses can complete the dual degree with just 54 credits, compared to the 81 credits that would be required if the Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Business Administration programs were taken separately.

Graduates of Cal U's MSN-Nursing Administration and Leadership program can add the MBA degree by completing just 33 additional credits, O'Connor noted. Students who graduated from other accredited MSN programs in nursing administration also may be eligible for an accelerated schedule.

All courses in Cal U's MSN-MBA curriculum are taught by faculty from the departments of Nursing and Business and Economics. Cal U Global Online provides support services for online students.

"The dual MSN-MBA program offers prepares graduates with an all-inclusive education in both areas," O'Connor said.

Applications are being accepted now; cohorts begin in spring and fall. For information, contact the Global Online office at caluglo@calu.edu or 1-866-595-6348.

Professor: Climate Change is Warming

Dr. Derek Gray, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, is a key contributor to a global study that finds climate change is rapidly warming the world's lakes, threatening freshwater supplies and aquatic ecosystems.

The study's findings were announced Dec. 16 at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union. With nearly 24,000 attendees, it is the world's largest Earth and space science meeting.

An international cohort of more than 60 scientists contributed to the study of lake temperatures. Gray was a lead participant in the data analysis phase and one of four co-authors of a report slated for publication in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*.

"Fresh water is one of our most vital resources," said Gray, who noted that lakes are important sources of water for drinking, irrigation, energy and food production.

"Yet this is one of the first studies to take a worldwide, long-term look specifically at lakes."

Funded in part by NASA and the National Science Foundation, the study is the largest of its kind and the first to use a combination of satellite temperature readings and measurements taken manually at lakes around the world.



Cal U faculty member Dr. Derek Gray is a key contributor to a global study that finds climate change is rapidly warming the world's lakes, threatening freshwater supplies and aquatic ecosystems.

Gray and his fellow researchers assembled and analyzed a massive database of temperature readings for 235

lakes and reservoirs — more than half the world's freshwater supply — between 1985 and 2009.

The study reveals that lakes are warming an average of 0.61 degrees Fahrenheit each decade, more than the warming rate of either the oceans or Earth's atmosphere.

Warming fastest are lakes in the northern latitudes that typically ice over during the winter.

"The ice is breaking up earlier every year," said Gray, whose postdoctoral research examined the impacts of climate change on Lake Baikal, in Siberia.

"In fact, some of the ice-covered lakes are warming even more rapidly than the air around them."

The study also points to a significant increase in algal blooms — the rapid and sudden growth of microscopic algae — that over the next century may have harmful effects on both water quality and aquatic life, including fish harvested for food.

The researchers forecast a 4 percent increase worldwide in lakes' emission of methane, a potent greenhouse gas implicated in global warming, over the next decade. And as lake water warms, evaporation increases and water levels decline, making less fresh water available for human use.

"This study shows that warming of lakes already has begun, with potentially serious consequences," Gray said.

"Ultimately, water security is an issue that affects us all."

General Praises Individuality at

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at every rank from captain to lieutenant general. Before earning a master's degree in national resource management from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Lynn earned a bachelor's degree in English from Cal U.

"It's been more than 36 years since I graduated from Cal U," he said.

"Although this University gave me a great start, I never imagined when I sat in with my graduating class that I would be a general or be invited as the Commencement speaker."

"Often the best of plans change, and you must be able to adapt."

Lynn's offered the graduates six pieces of advice: be flexible; value family, friends and friends; stay passionate; take charge; don't limit yourself; and stay humble.

"History is replete with people who have changed the world or just made a huge difference, and someone in this room is going to make that kind of impact," Lynn said. "Believe that it can be you. I believe in you."

Following Gen. Lynn's remarks, Cal U interim President Geraldine M. Jones conferred more than 645 graduate and 565 undergraduates degrees. Not every student chose to attend the ceremonies.

"Graduates, congratulations on this milestone in your life, and please know that I am also very proud of you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have made to reach this point," President Jones said.

"You truly can do anything you put your mind to, so never hold back. Whatever you choose to do, give it your all. Be courageous and know that you can — and will — make a difference for those you meet along the way."

President Jones also urged the graduates to take in the moment, savor

their success and remember those that helped them reach their goals.

Family was definitely in the forefront for Nicole Husk, of Marietta, Pa., who received her master's degree in school psychology.

She arrived for Commencement with her cap elaborately decorated with glitter beads and LED lights — a design created by her 6-year-old son, Connor.

"I was the only married woman and the only mother in my cohort," said Husk, who also has a 1-year-old son. "It was really hard, but I wanted to do it. It taught my children the importance of education."

Giving back was a goal for Ephraim Yoder, of Unintown, Pa., who was among the first graduate students to earn a degree in English as a Second Language through an articulation agreement between Cal U and Intermediate Unit 1.

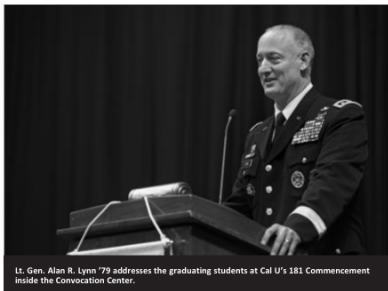
Yoder earned his Cal U bachelor's degree in elementary and special education in 2009, when he played with the Cal U hockey team and helped to found the Lacrosse Club.

Now he teaches special needs students in grades 9-12 at Albert Gallatin High School in Uniontown. He called the specialized degree "a way to open more doors" for students who face a variety of challenges.

His career is "a way to give back, to the maximum," said Yoder.

"I made the most of my Cal U experience," he said. "My mother always said, 'Don't do what you like to do, do what you're called to do.' I did both, right here at Cal U."

The tradition of giving back or paying it forward continued during the undergraduate ceremony when Nicole Alfer, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented President Jones



Lt. Gen. Alan R. Lynn '79 addresses the graduating students at Cal U's 181 Commencement inside the Convocation Center.

with a check for more than \$28,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

More than \$140,000 has been raised for an endowed scholarship since the first senior class donation was delivered at the spring 2010 Commencement.

"Those of us who worked on and contributed to the 2015 Senior Class Gift Drive certainly embrace the idea of a lifelong relationship with Cal U," Alfer said.

President Jones acknowledged Emily Grace Dickey and Kayla Nicole Zaken for earning bachelor's degrees while attaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. Eight other students earned two separate degrees simultaneously.

The President also acknowledged Amy Walker, who traveled from Qatar to receive her master's degree in Exercise Science and Health Promotion; Wellness and Fitness.

Following each ceremony, many

graduates acknowledged both a sense of accomplishment and relief.

Haylee Kraushaar, who graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Education, worked full-time as an EMT while earning her degree and completing her student teaching.

"It was rough because my shift was 4 (p.m.) to midnight, so I'd go to class all day and work all night, but I am so beyond excited to have graduated," she said.

"I can't wait to get some rest and start my life."

Echoing Kraushaar's thoughts was Sadie Rylander, a sport management major from Mount Pleasant, Pa.

"It's very exciting ... to know that all this hard work has paid off," she said. "I met a lot of awesome people and great professors."

"It was an amazing experience."

Students Collect a Bus Full of Toys

As the fall semester came to a close, Cal U students began the holiday season by thinking of those less fortunate.

Members of the Cal U Student Government Association and the campus chapter of the Acacia Fraternity conducted toy drives on and off campus.

For the fifth consecutive year they collected brand-new games, dolls, toy trucks and other playthings, as well as monetary donations, for the 96th KISS Pittsburgh "Stuff-A-Bus" holiday campaign for Toys for Tots.

A number of other campus organizations also annually contribute time, as well as toys, and collectively they were able to donate \$2,500 to the campaign.

Thanks to GG&C Bus Co., of Washington, Pa., the toys were delivered Dec. 3 to the collection point in Robinson Township, Pa.

"The spirit has been great," said graduate student Brendan Giary '15, SGA president, as he was gathering toys in the Natali Student Center lobby.

"This is one of the things the students look forward to all semester. It's

a great way to finish off the term right before finals."

Acacia brother and past fraternity president Mike Russell, a senior majoring in computer information systems, has taken part in the event for the past four years.

"Our fraternity motto is 'Human Service,' so we do various things throughout the year, but this is always one of our most important projects," he said. "It's a good way to interact with and reach out to the community."

Jessica Curry, a junior accounting major and the SGA financial secretary, said the toy drive is her favorite of the many community-service events that Cal U students participate in each year.

"This tops them all — and it's more like fun than actual work," she said. "So many people have said it's not just community service but a bonding exercise for all of us that helps a worthy cause. It's a blast."

In keeping with her tradition, interim University President Geraldine M. Jones helped to carry the last of the toys onto the bus parked in front of the student center.

"Our students understand the



Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones and student Jason McCray prepare to load toys onto a campus shuttle for the "Stuff-A-Bus" holiday campaign for Toys for Tots.

importance of helping others," she said. "It's so gratifying to see their enthusiasm and passion for this."

Cal U students continued to accept

donated toys through the end of the fall semester, delivering the additional toys to the Washington County Toys for Tots program.

Student Teacher Arranges Lab Visit

While student teaching in the Bethlehem Center School District, Haylee Kraushaar '15 enhanced her students' learning experience with a special field trip to Cal U.

Kraushaar, who graduated *magna cum laude* last month with a Bachelor of Science in Education, arranged for 13 students from Beth-Center High School's 12th-grade honors biology class to visit the University's cadaver laboratory in Hamer Hall.

She asked one of her favorite teachers, anatomy professor Dr. Ed Zuchelkowski, to host the Nov. 24 visit, which also included Beth-Center's Jill Matiyasic, Kraushaar's cooperating teacher.

"Dr. Z was wonderful," Kraushaar said. "He showed the students all the (cadavers) different body parts and explained why they passed away and some of the health issues they had. After he was done, all three of us quizzed the students."

Students in the high school honors class are preparing to enter a medical or science program in college, Kraushaar said. Beth-Center has illustrations and a skeleton available as learning tools, but she knew that visiting the cadaver lab would add another dimension to her class's exploration of human anatomy.

"I thought this would be great for them to actually see," she said. "The students did a great job answering almost all of our questions, and I was



Haylee Kraushaar '15 and her students from Beth-Center High School's 12th-grade honors biology class enjoy a moment in the Hamer Hall lobby before visiting the University's cadaver laboratory.

so proud of how well they did. They're really a good group of kids."

Kraushaar spent the first eight weeks of the fall semester teaching at Beth-Center's middle school before she began teaching anatomy to biology students in grades 9, 11 and 12.

"Miss Kraushaar did an exceptional job as my student teacher," Matiyasic said. "She came into the classroom with a very positive attitude, and she's created and designed effective lessons since her very first day here. "I truly feel that my students are fortunate to have been given the

opportunity to have Miss Kraushaar as one of their teachers this year. Haylee will be a fantastic addition to any school staff."

Like any good teacher, Kraushaar was pleased to give her students a lesson with added value. She also stressed that the chance to study a human cadaver, however briefly, is not an everyday occurrence.

"I told them there are people who go through their entire undergraduate careers and never get to see what they saw in high school, so they're really fortunate," she said.

Campus BRIEFS

Faculty-Staff Convocation Jan. 28

Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones will host the 2016 Spring Faculty and Staff Convocation Jan. 28 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

The convocation, for University employees only, will be held during the common hour, beginning at 11 a.m.

Werner Named Edinboro Interim President

The Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education recently appointed Dr. David J. Werner, former chancellor emeritus of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, to serve as interim president of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, effective Jan. 19.

Werner was chancellor of Southern Illinois Edwardsville from 1997-2004. He served as Indiana University of Pennsylvania's interim provost in 2008 and as IUPUI's interim president from August 2010 to June 2012. He was Mansfield University's interim president during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Werner replaces Dr. Julie E. Wollman, who will become president of Widener University on Jan. 19.

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