.California University.

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Deployed Soldier Among Winter Graduates

he loudest applause at Cal U's 183rd Commencement honored a graduate who wasn't in the room. On Dec. 16, the audience in the Convocation Center arena delivered a standing ovation for Lt. Julian Wallace, who earned a master's degree in exercise science and health promotion, with a focus on rehabilitation science. Wallace is a U.S. Army officer on

active duty at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. His mother, Kimberly McDermott, traveled from Philadelphia to accept her son's dinloma

son's diploma.

"He called from his base to tell me
he'd finished his degree," McDermott
recalled. "'Mom, I want you to walk for e.' he said."

Wallace earned his bachelor's degree at Shippensburg, where he took part in

the ROTC program. As a commissioned officer, he was stationed in Texas and deployed to Africa, his moth She expects he'll return from the

Middle East this spring. In her remarks to the graduates, President Geraldine M. Jones noted that Cal U has been designated a Military Friendly School™ for the eighth year in

McDermott said the recognition is

well earned.
"This was just an amazing experience," she said after
Commencement. "That applause, that

support ... it just meant so much." Wallace was just one of more than 1,200 gradu were conferred Dec. 16 and 17, including students whose diplomas

Alumnus speaks

At Commencement ceremonies Dec. 16 and 17, graduating students wer addressed by alumnus James Stofan '71, vice president for alumni relations at Tulane University in New Orleans, La

"You didn't come here (to Cal U) to get the answers," Stofan said. "You came here to learn the habit of imagining and providing the answers — to light a fire,

not fill a pail."

In addition to Tulane, Stofan has been the associate vice chancellor of alumni relations for Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and a member of the alumni relations office at the University of California, where he

- Continued on page 2

Online Bachelor's **Programs** No. 6

al U's 100 percent online bachelor's degree programs have been ranked No. 6 in the country by U.S. News & World Report, a ognized leader in college rankings

Cal U Global Online offers 10 bachelor's degree programs that can be completed entirely online. More than 1,000 students were enrolled in the programs in fall 2016, a 33 percent

rease over the fall 2015 enrollment Texas A&M University shared the No. 6 ranking with Cal U. Other Pennsylvania schools in the top 10 wer Temple University, at No. 2, and Penn State University's World Campus, in a six-way tie for the No. 8 slot.

Recognizing that the majority of online students are working adults often with college experience, U.S. News & World Report ranks online schools across the nation on "how these programs are being delivered and their effectiveness at awarding affordable degrees in a reasonable amount of time," the publication says.

Rankings are based on student engagement — opportunities to interact readily with instructors and fellow students — as well as faculty credentials and training in distance learning; student services and technology; and the program's reputation in the academic

Class sizes, academic and technology support, graduation rates, and student debt are among the factors that U.S. News considers.

"Our online bachelor's program in Arabic Language and Culture has grown dramatically," said Stephanie Franks-Helwich, executive director of graduate admissions and Global Online.

Other fast-growing online programs at Cal U include the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, which allows registered nurses to earn their BSN in as little as three terms, and the B.S. in Wellness and Fitness, which prepares students for Certified Personal Training certification from NASM, the National Academy of Sports Medicine

Cal U also offers online bachelor's degrees in high-demand fields such as computer information systems, homeland and international security land management, legal studies, and social deviance, an emerging field that examines aberrant behavior such as drug addiction, child abuse and domestic

U.S. News ranked Cal U's onlin helor's degree program at No. 111 last year

Speaker Explores Roots of Racism

Rouzorondu kicks off Cal U's Black History Month celebration with a presentation from 4-7 p.m. Jan. 31 in the south conference wing of the Convocation Center.

A nationally acclaimed educator, poe producer, director, performance artist and author, Rouzorondo explores the history of and what steps every person can take

She is CEO of Ma'at Enterprises omprehensive empowerment company with four subsidiaries that provide "personal, professional, cultural and spiritual empowerment

As CEO of Ma'at Enterprises, Rouzorondu has spen nearly 30 years addressing audiences for clients such as the Smithsonian Institution, the Association of Black Psychologists, Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics.



Pennsylvania to California and has given the keynote talk at national conventions such as the African American Women's Conference. Event coordinator Sheleta Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs, University LGBTQA Initiatives, and Commuter and Nontraditional Student Services, said feedback from the Cal U

unity inspired her to bring the speaker "According to reports from Cal U students and staff who attended her session at a conference last fall, Ms. Rouzarondu offers an inspirational, dynamic message to help others

understand the root and cause of racism," Webb said. Rouzorondu founded her first empowerment organization. Ascension Productions, in 1986.

"As she says, ... understanding racism gives us the

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Starfish Software Targets Student Success

al U's Office of Academic Success — already home to student success facilitators, the four-year graduation plan and other resources to benefit students introducing a new tool for the spring

The software, called Starfish and available via the Vulcan Information Portal, connects students with faculty members as well as other support services on campus. Anyone - faculty, staff or student — can raise an issue or concern related to a student's success at Cal U. Starfish tracks next steps and

omes as offices work collaboratively This is the first time the University has rolled out software campus-wide that is going to help our students succeed,' said Lisa Glasser, who is in charge of keeping the Starfish system running smoothly and also manages Four-Year Graduation Plan.



"In the scheduling center, I might suggest that a student visit the Bursar's Office if there is a hold on the account aid Amanda Rbaibi, a student success acilitator who was part of a team at Cal U who worked on the Starfish

/ith Starfish, I can send a referral so the Bursar's Office knows that student needs to stop by and can follow up with the student in a few days, if necessary.

A "flag" from a faculty member could inform an Academic Success staff member of several missed classes or

assignments We are hoping to catch the at-risk students early on instead of later, when

For example, if a faculty member sees that a student needs help with composition skills, the professor could suggest that the Cal U Writing Center

"Our goal is to reach more student writers with our services and to expand our ability to support the work of our faculty," said Dr. Brent House, an assistant professor of English and

director of the writing center.
"I expect the presence of Starfish will allow us to be more available to students who need our support and to faculty who care about their students' success." A "kudos" section will give students

positive feedback, and a "to-do" feature will provide a nudge at key points in the academic year, such as reminding a udent to schedule cla es for the upcoming semester.

Faculty members will be able to post office hours and choose to accept student appointments via Starfish.

Starfish features a "services" tab a one-stop place to find offices such as Academic Records, Financial Aid and Peer Mentoring.

'Often students don't realize the support that is available to them." said Kara Novotny, a graduate assistant in the Office of Academic Success who helped to test the software last semester

"Starfish provides all support services, contact information, and appointment scheduling in one site. It's

easy to navigate and very user-friendly. Faculty training sessions have been ongoing, and an email from the President's Office to students will explain how to get started with Starfish for the spring semester.

rs about Starfish should be directed to Lisa Glasser, glasser_l@calu.edu



Soldier Among Graduates

- Continued from page 1

worked for more than 25 years.

A native of nearby West Newton, Pa., Stofan remains proud of his western Pennsylvania upbringing. He has endowed the John and Jean Stofan Music Scholarship at Cal U to honor his paren

"My parents believed Cal U was the place where opportunities would take shape for their children, and they were exactly right," Stofan said. "I found many opportunities here at Cal U that came to me from unexpected corners."

He reminded graduates to be trustworthy strategic, humble and responsive, and to realize that on occasion, not getting what you want can be a wonderful stroke of luck.

"You have been uniquely prepared ... to spend the rest of your life imagining and providing the answers to questions big and small," Stofan said. "Now, go out there and light a fire."

Senior gift

Before the undergraduate students received their diplomas, senior class envoy Shannon Barnett presented President Jones with a check for more than \$20,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

With this gift, more than \$170,000 has been raised for an endowed scholarship since the first senior class donation was delivered in 2010.

Barnett - a Delta Zeta sorority sister, peer mentor, alumni ambassador and Cal U for Life Orientation leader — stepped into a full-time job

during graduation week. She interned with ADP last fall and recently

accepted a role as a district manager, partnering with small business owners to help them manage their companies.
"My degree earned me this job," said Barnett,

who studied business administration with a concentration in marketing.
"I believe that to have the best college

experience, you get what you give, and my Cal U
experience was the best I could have hoped for."
Graduate Justin DiPerna, vice president for Student Government, said graduating felt

'Cal U has given me so many opportunities that I don't think I would have gotten at other schools,"

he said.
"I learned so much in my (commercial music technology) major, inside and outside of the classroom. I never imagined being the person I am

President Jones acknowledged Hayley J. Bashada and Shannon Marie Curtis for earnin bachelor's degrees while attaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. Bashada and Kaci J. Sokol earned two separate degrees simultaneously. Corey Gaffron, who completed the ROTC program, was acknowledged for his recent commissioning as a

second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

While the future brings challenges and new rneys, President Jones urged all the graduates to

journeys, President Jones urged ait the graduates to reflect on their academic achievements. "Please pause to take in the moment and savor your success," the President said. "You have worked hard, you have presevered, and you have accomplished something significant.

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

Campus BRIEFS

Faculty-Staff Convocation Feb. 9

University President Geraldine M. Jones will host the 2017 Spring Faculty and Staff Convocation Feb. 9 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

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

OSD Sets Registration Meetings

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides services and support for California University students. The OSD office is located in Carter Hall, Room students. The OSD office is located in Carter Hall, Roon G-35. Office hours are 8 a.m. 4 p.m. weekdays. Contact OSD at 724-938-5781 or osdmail@calu.edu. Interested students are invited to attend semester

registration meetings by contacting the OSD office for meeting dates and times.

Additional information can be found at www.calu.edu/osd.

New President at West Chester

Earlier this month Penr ania's State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors selected Dr. Christopher M. Fiorentino to serve as president of West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Fiorentino, who assumed his duties Jan. 9, held the

position of university interim president since April 2016. Prior to being named interim president, he had served as vice president for external operations at the university since 2013. He previously spent nearly 20 years as dean of West Chester's College of Business and Public Affairs

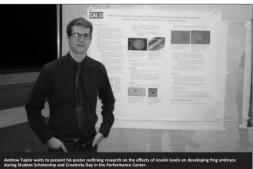
U.S. News Ranks Online Programs No. 6

Franks-Helwich attributed Cal U's dramatic rise in the rankings to rapid growth — from four to 12 academic programs in just two years — fueled in part by The Finish Line degree completion program.

The Finish Line allows those who may wish to complete a degree to get a head start using college credits that have already been earned. Cal U offers evening classes, accelerated degree programs and 100 percent online options. Enrolled students may even be eligible for credits based on prior learning or on-the-job experience.

U.S. News is not the only educational organization to recognize Cal U's online bachelor's degree program. SR Education Group (OnlineU.org), founded in 2004, has ranked California University's online bachelor's degree program No. 8 on its 2017 OnlineU list of Most Affordable Online Colleges. In addition to 10 bachelor's and two associate degrees,

Cal U Global Online offers certificate programs, more than 60 master's degrees and a Doctor of Health Science, all online



Students Showcase Research

reating a poster showcases one's work, but senior Andrew Taylor also believes that summarizing his research helps him take his studies to the next level.

Taylor, a biology major with a pre-medicine concentration, was one of more than 50 students who participated in Student Scholarship and Creativity Day last month in the Performance Center.

Taylor's data-oriented resear project was titled "Effects of variations of insulin levels on developing Xenopus laevis

"It's basically frog embryos," he explained, but the research reflects a situation also found in human development, when an expectant mother experiences high bloodsugar levels.

"So I wanted to take these frog embryos and do the same sort of thing, expose them to insulin and see how much they develop."

Taylor will present his research at the 2017 National Conference on Undergraduate Research April 6-8 at the University of Memphis, in Tennessee. He also is looking forward to Cal U's third annual Strike a Spark Conference, set for

April 26 in the Convocation Center. Last August he traveled to Millersville University for STEMathon, a statewide conference for all disciplines of in science, technology, engineering and math.

"It just makes sense to be involved with these types of events," Taylor said. "For me, making posters along with writing research

papers ties everything together."
Seniors Garrett Del Re and
William Jordan, along with
juniors Mackenzie Morrell and
Riley Koller, presented a different
type of research.

type of research.
Their poster for Student
Scholarship and Creativity Day
focused on "The Washington
Redskins Controversy." It was
completed for Dr. Clarissa Confer's
course in Native American History
After 1850.

er 1850. "It's a big topic that most people D 1

are interested in," said Morrell, as he discussed the National Football League team founded in 1932.
"Their inkname is a big part of their history, but I think it should be changed. You can keep the Native American aspect, but the Redskins name is ... offensive to many

people."
Cal U's Scholarship and
Creativity Day began in 1997 and
was organized for many years by
the research subcommittee of the
Faculty and Professional
Development Committee.

This year it was organized and sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research and the Strike a Spark planning committee. "This was a reasonable and logical handoff," said Dr. Gregg

logical handoff," said Dr. Gregg Gould, director of Cal U's Center for Undergraduate Research. "The fall event is a prelude to

Strike a Spark and several faculty members have fall-semester classes that are research-based, so this a good opportunity for our students to display their work."

GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- Nancy Skobel, of the Department of Student Affairs, has been awarded a \$29,994 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Governor's "It's on Us," program, established to prevent and address sexual assault.
- prevent and address sexual assault.

 Dr. Thomas Mueller, of the Department of Earth Sciences, has been awarded a \$6,000 grant from NASA through Penn State University, This funding will continue Call U's participation in the Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium, which includes building a research agenda and teaching materials on geology, meteorology and public safety applications for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVS), Assisting Mueller with the original proposed (UAVS), assisting Mueller with the original proposed of the Department of Earth Sciences, and Dr. efferey Sumey, of the Department of Enth Sciences, and Dr. efferey Sumey, of the Department of Enth Sciences, and Dr. De Antan McClarosis. Commonw. of the Department of Enth Department of Enth
- Dr. Marta McCliatock-Comeaux, of the Department of History, Politics and Society, has received a \$4,800 grant from the American Association of University Women for the "Learn to Earn" project, intended to increase knowledge and skills related to negotiation, leadership and equal pay for undergraduate and graduate students at Cal U.
- Terra Rogerson, of the Department of Library Services, was awarded a \$2,000 community grant from Walmart. It was used to fund books, a reception and other activities leading up to the Oct. 20 Noss Lecture Series presentation by award-winning writer Jeanne Marie Laskas, author of Concussion and other works.
- Dr. Carol Biddington, of the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, was awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Pennsylvania Eaculty Health and Welfare Fund for "Cal U Fitness Memberships." The project is designed to introduce the benefits of regular physical exercise to faculty members diagnosed with chronic conditions.
- Dr. David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from Washington County for "The Assessment of the Southern Redbelly Dace in King's Creek." The dace is a freshwater fish.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research serves foculty and staff by providing supports to serve foculty and staff by providing supports to the developing proposals for funding from federal, state descending from the providing supports of the staff of support of the staff of support of the staff of support of the staff of t

Trustees Poised to Nominate Officers

White the terms of its chair and vice chair set to expire in of Trustuce, the University's Council of Trustuces will look to members Aaron Walton, Thomas Uram and Larry Maggi to prepare a slate of nominees to fill those positions.

Maggi, the outgoing chair, announced

Maggi, the outgoing chair, annous the committee assignments at the council's quarterly meeting Dec. 7.

council's quarterly meeting Dec. 7.

He and vice chair Annette Ganassi both have served frow tow-year terms in their respective positions. The role of secretary will be filled by a new student Trustee once the council's current student member, Clauda Pehowic, graduates this sorina.

The nominating committee will make its recommendations at the March 1 quarterly meeting, and the council will elect new officers at its June 7 meeting.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as chair," said Maggi, who will remain a trustee. "Despite challenging times, Cal U continues to move forward. It's an exciting place to be a part of."

Turning to finances, the trustees heard a report by CPA Jared Clark, an auditor with the CliftonLarsonAllen accounting firm.
This is the fourth time that

This is the fourth time that CliffonLarsonAllen, one of the nation's top 10 accounting firms, has conducted to University's annual financial audit. As part of that process the firm examined to University's budgeting protocols and financial controls, scrutinizing the way revenue and expenses are handled and recorded.

"We found no control deficiencies or materials weaknesses" during the riskbased audit, Clark said, and he praised the work of vice president Robert Thorn and the Office of Administration and

Thorn's report to the trustees updated the University budget projection presented at the council's September meeting. The new projection takes into account the \$1.9 million in increased personnel costs resulting from collective bargaining agreements negotiated with APSCUF and other unions this year.

Thorn also briefly discussed capital projects, noting that bids for the Coover Hall renovation will be going out early in the new year, with construction expected to begin this summer. Coover, which

houses classrooms and science labs, we be unoccupied during the renovation.

The Vulcan Parking Garage remains closed, Thorn also reported, while engineering firm Wiss, Janey, Elstner Associates completes its evaluation and submits a final report.

In other business:

 University President Geraldine M.
 Jones reported that fundraising is under way for the Rising to the Future campaign introduced at her Oct. 14 investiture. The scholarship initiative looks to raise \$1 million to provide a new pool of financial support for needy students.

"Through this effort we state firmly that our Cal U students come first," she said. "Even as we move into a new phase of our University's history, California remains a place of opportunity for hardworking students who view higher education as the route to a better life."

Reporting for the Office of
 Academic Affairs, associate provost
 Dr. Dan Engstrom reported that the
 Department of Art and Languages
 received re-accreditation with
 commendation for four degree programs

from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The department's Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Art Education, Bachelor of Science in Graphic Design and Bachelor of Fine Arts have been reaccredited for four years.

* Tony Mauro, associate vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office has raised more than \$765,000 in donations and pledges since the start of the fiscal year. This is an increase of more than \$186,000 over the average of the previous four-year totals for the same reporting

The Council of Trustees is scheduled to hold its next quarterly meeting March 1.



Dunn Named Region's Coach of the Year

as Cal U's head football coach, American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Region 1 Coach of the Year.

Dunn was one of five coaches in NCAA Division II who were named regional Coach of the Year. He is one of only 25 regional recipients from FBS, FCS, Division II, Division III and NAIA programs to earn the laurel in his first year as head coach.

Last January, Dunn became the first California alumnus to lead the football program since Jeff Petrucci, who recruited Dunn as a player and coached the Vulcans from 1981-1992.

In 2016, Dunn led the Vulcans to 11 wins and the program's first undefeated regular season (10-0) in nine years. Cal U concluded the regular season by defeating Kutztown 49-7 for the footba program's first PSAC championship since 2008

Then the Vulcans overcame rival IUP for the second time in 2016, chalking up a 44-23 victory in the round of the NCAA Division II

The season ended with a loss to eventual national finalist Shepherd



(W.Va.) University in the NCAA Division II Super Region One title

Cal U led NCAA Division II in scoring offense this season at 49.6 points per game, scoring at least 50 points six

times. In their 11 wins, the Vulcans posted a 33.8-point margin of victory.

"We are proud of this significant honor for coach Dunn, who is certainly most deserving," said Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's athletic director.

"Not only did the team enjoy great success on the football field, but under coach Dunn's leadership the players have been an active and positive part of the campus and local communities."

Dunn's initial year back at his alma mater has also had a positive impac alumni, according to Bill Lee '67, a standout Vulcan quarterback and 2011
Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

"Gary has really changed the

football culture around here and has truly made all past players feel welcome," Lee said.

"We appreciate his sincerity and enthusiasm. I congratulate California University on having such an impressive football coach "

Cal U's 11-win record ties the 2009 team for the third most single-season

victories in school history.

The Vulcans will conclude their 2017 spring practices with the annual Spring Game on Saturday, April 22, at Adamson Stadium



Start New Year With Intramurals

al U faculty and staff whose New Year resolutions call for more physical activity in 2017 might want to give intramurals a try.

Cal U's Department of Recreational Services offers 16 intramural sports, which are open to all male and female students, faculty and staff members.

The winter sports lineup consists of 5-on-5

basketball and indoor soccer. Spring intramural activities include softball, outdoor soccer, dekhockey, roller hockey and water volleyball.

The recently concluded fall intramural lineup featured flag football, volleyball, dodge ball, racquetball, pickle ball, Ultimate Frisbee, Wallyball and 3-on-3 basketball.

"The more staff and faculty we have playing, the re dynamic our competitions are,' Hasbrouck '06, '09, Cal U's assistant director

"Intramurals provide a way for faculty, staff and students to engage one another on a level playing field, get exercise and develop friendships, especially with our students.'

Most intramural sports are played at Herron Recreation and Fitness Center.

Football and softball teams play at Roadman Park, and dekhockey players use the courts adjacent to Hamer Hall. Soccer games are contested at Roadman Park or the Phillipsburg soccer complex.

Hasbrouck said registration is open now for winter

and spring sports.

Anyone interested in participating in intranural sports mus register online at www.imleagues.com/CUP, or they can email Tom Hasbrouck at hasbrouck_t@calu.edu.

Black History Month events set

opportunity to think and act differently and move vard ending injustice at all levels," Webb

'I am truly excited that she will be at Cal U to kick off Black History Month 2017.

Black History Month events

This year's Black History Month theme at Cal U is "Struggle, Strength, Resilience, Triumph." These

revents are free and open to the public:

Feb. 1 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day of
Giving and American Red Cross Blood Drive,

10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Natali Performance Center. Feb. 2 — A Raisin in the Sun: A Multimedia Showing, 7 p.m. in the Blaney Theatre, Steele Hall. The Department of Music and Theatre looks at various stage and film versions of this award-winning 1959 play about a black family's struggles to overcome racism and pursue their ams. The look-back sets the stage for th department's production of a Raisin spin-off,

Glybourne Park, set to open April 20.

Feb. 8 — "A Dichotomous Life: A Person of Color Living in Two Worlds," noon-1 p.m. in Natali 206/207. Bring your lunch and join the Department of Social Work for a roundtable discussion of the personal and societal expectations faced by people of color in various

For more information about Black History Month events at Cal U, visit www.calu.edu or contact the office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education at 724-938-5758 or webb_s@calu.edu.

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