

California University
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Cal U Impacts Super Bowl

While neither team's uniforms were Vulcans red and black, Cal U had an impact on the field and behind the scenes when the Philadelphia Eagles played the New England Patriots at Super Bowl LII on Feb. 4 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Gene Steratore, Class of 1988, was the referee heading the officiating crew. And five Cal U alumni, plus a former instructor, handle front-office duties for the NFL champion Eagles.

Steratore has been a referee for 12 of his 15 years as an NFL official. This was his first Super Bowl assignment and his 12th post-season game.

Although he is the first Cal U graduate to serve as the Super Bowl referee, he is the third alum to officiate the big game.

His older brother, Tony Steratore '87, was the back judge for Super Bowl XXXIX in 2005, and for Super Bowl XLVI in 2012 — a point of pride for their mother, alumna Jean Steratore '87.

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Data Science Program Set

Students in the four-year Statistics and Data Science program will learn to manage and analyze "big data" — the estimated 2.5 quintillion bytes of information being generated each day.

Companies such as Amazon, Facebook, eBay and Spotify were among the first to harness this deluge of data to provide tailored content, advertising and personalized experiences for their customers, says program coordinator Dr. Melissa Sovak.

New big data is driving growth and competition in industries from finance and insurance to manufacturing, retail trade and professional services.

Cal U's hybrid degree program in Statistics and Data Science includes on-campus and online courses that address the nationwide shortage of professionals who are skilled in data science, one of the country's fastest-growing occupations.

PayScale.com, which boasts the world's largest database of individual salary profiles, lists "data analyst" among its top in-demand occupations. And the McKinsey Global Institute's 2017 report on big data predicts that data science jobs in the United States will exceed 490,000 this year, with a shortage of more than 250,000 skilled professionals to fill them.

Students who enroll in Cal U's Statistics and Data Science program will be poised to fill this skills gap. The program offers in-depth training in the tools used to analyze and manage data, including software by SAS®, a



Dr. Melissa Sovak is the coordinator of Cal U's newly approved four-year Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Data Science. The program begins in Fall 2018.

recognized world leader in business analytics software and services.

As part of Cal U's new degree program, students will use real-world data and the same SAS® software employed in 80,000 workplaces around the world to earn a 15-credit SAS® Data Science certificate.

The program also includes applied education in Base SAS for data analysis, data cleaning and data preparation; SAS Visual Analytics to visualize data; SAS with Hadoop for processing and storing big data sets; R software for statistical computing and graphics; the Python programming language for statistical modeling; and Tableau for

tasks such as identifying statistical trends.

As Sovak says, "It's really cutting-edge in terms of filling industry needs."

Before graduating from Cal U, students in the Statistics and Data Science program complete a senior capstone project to demonstrate their knowledge and skills through the application of key data science methods.

Students can apply to Cal U now to secure a place in the Statistics and Data Science program, which begins in Fall 2018 semester. To learn more, visit www.calu.edu or contact the Undergraduate Admissions Office.

Month Includes Negro League Baseball Celebration

As part of Cal U's Black History Month celebration, Josh Gray, Pittsburgh Pirates' community outreach coordinator, will present "Long Live Their Legacy: A Celebration of Negro League Baseball," at 1 p.m. on Feb. 7 in Duda Hall, Room 103.

"Long Live Their Legacy" is a Black History Month initiative the Pirates designed to help educate students in surrounding communities about Negro League baseball, its ties to Pittsburgh, and the influence it has had — and still has — on the game.

Pittsburgh was a hub for Negro League baseball during the first half of the 20th century and the only city in the country that had two black professional teams — the Homestead Grays and Pittsburgh Crawfords. Those teams featured stars such as Josh Gibson, Satchel Paige and Buck Leonard. Gray said the Pirates are committed to celebrating that legacy with fans of all ages and backgrounds.

"The program is important because of the history Negro League baseball has in Pittsburgh with the two teams that were here, and because of how it impacted the



Cal U's Black History Month presentation on Negro League Baseball on Feb. 7 will include insight on catcher Josh Gibson, who was the second player from this league to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

game that we see today," Gray said. "Hopefully this presentation captures the

essence of the struggle that impacted the game for at least half a century."

The presentation is sponsored by the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U.

Other Black History Month events

The theme for Black History Month is "The Legacy Lives in US!" Admission is free and the public is invited, unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 5 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Giving, 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Natali Student Center Performance Center. All are welcome to stop by and help with a series of volunteer activities and donation opportunities, which benefit various local nonprofit organizations such as the Good Eats Program, Ali's Books, Center in the Woods, Cal U Cupboard, and the Greater Washington County Food Bank. Donations of gently used children's books, toaster pastries, board games, jigsaw puzzles, new toiletry items, school supplies, and non-perishable food are welcome. This event is organized by the Office of Diversity Education and Multicultural Affairs, and the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning.

Feb. 6 — Central Bank Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Natali Student Center Performance Center. To make an appointment, contact the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning at 724-938-4784 or volunteer@calu.edu, or visit www.centralbankbloodbank.org, click "Make an Appointment" and search with sponsor code CU02. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Feb. 19 — Soul Food Luncheon, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Gold Rush Culinary Center. Diners enjoy a menu created from recipes and stories contributed by members of the Cal U community. Soul food is a term used for an ethnic cuisine, food traditionally prepared and eaten by African Americans of the southern United States. AVI Dining and Catering Services is the event sponsor.

Feb. 21 — Black Arts Festival & Multicultural Affairs Night at Cal U Basketball, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., in the Convocation Center. Enjoy Vulcan basketball against Seton Hill and the chance to win free T-shirts and novelty items. Halftime performances at both games will include tributes to Black

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Poster Session Builds Momentum for Spring

The Center for Undergraduate Research and the conference planning committee hosted the Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Annual Fall Semester Poster Session on Nov. 30.

Formerly known as Cal U's Scholarship and Creativity Day, this event began in 1997 and was organized for many years by the research subcommittee of the Faculty and Professional Development Committee.

Both undergraduate and graduate students participated and displayed work, which was based either on creative activity, research, a class project, or literature review.

For junior biology majors Christina Bellly and Alexis Courtwright, creating a poster helped summarize their lab work and research done for their general microbiology course taught by Dr. David Boehm.

Their poster was titled "The Effects of Using Antibacterial Soap Scrub or Cold Water Rinse to Clean Bacteria from the Surface of Potatoes."

Their experiment determined if cleaning potatoes with cold water or antibacterial soap decreased the number of bacteria found on the surface and also determined which bacteria would be more easily washed away.

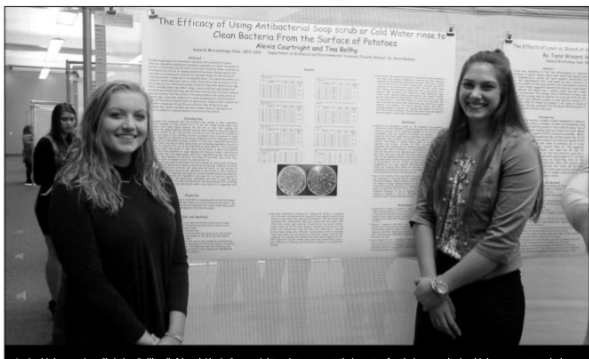
The results showed that rinsing potatoes with only cold water will reduce the number of common bacteria just as well as, if not better than, as antibacterial soap.

"Using soap or detergent is not recommended because the soap gets into the pores of the vegetables, and it does not reduce bacteria any better than water," Bellly said.

Courtwright said creating the poster for the event was rewarding.

"Putting it together for this poster really gave us a clear understanding of how it works," she said. "Preparing for this event was extra practice and helped sharpen our lab techniques."

"I think it was a good event, and we greatly appreciate the willingness of



Junior biology majors Christina Bellly (left) and Alexis Courtwright wait to present their poster for their general microbiology course taught by Dr. David Boehm at Student Scholarship and Creativity Day in the Convocation Center.

Poster Session Award Winners

The top three finishers in each of two categories — Data Oriented Research and Information Oriented Scholarship — at the Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Annual Fall Semester Poster Session:

Data Oriented Research

- First Place: LaTasha N. Everett, Farida E. O. Soulam, & Emre Kurt — "Effect of Arabinose and Ampicillin Concentration on pGLO Transformation Efficiency"
- Second Place: Taylor Blizzard, Kelly Brown, Megan Gobet, Danielle J. de Perrot, Madison Thrasher — "The effects of Lysol vs. Bleach at various concentrations

on the growth of gram positive and gram negative bacteria"

- Third Place: Vanessa Martik, Jalen Scott, McKenna Greene — "A water quality assessment and total coliform count of local streams around California, PA"
- Information Oriented Scholarship
- First Place: Amanda Sloan — "Children of war: mental health interventions with Syrian refugees"
- Second Place: Angelia R. Geho, Mary F. Frischkorn, Robert A. Milhoun, Nathan C. Thorne — "18th Century Conflict"
- Third Place: Samantha Glocckl — "Native Whale Hunting"

students to participate and the judges to volunteer their time," said Dr. Gregg Gould, director of Cal U's Center for Undergraduate Research. Gould said the Creativity Day is a

good lead-in for the Strike A Spark Conference, which will be held at the Convocation Center on April 25 and showcase faculty and student presentations, performances and

exhibitions from all disciplines. "It's really important that we recognize and celebrate the wonderful learning and teaching that takes place here every day," he said.

Campus BRIEFS



Governor Knows Cal U is ALL IN

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has sent a letter of congratulations to Cal U noting its achievement in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

The Challenge is a national awards program recognizing colleges and universities that have made a commitment to increasing student voting rates. Last fall, Cal U received a Best in Class Award for having the most improved student voting rate within the four-year, medium, public institution category.

In his letter, the governor noted that "civic engagement is a privilege and a responsibility of all Americans."

"Pennsylvania is fortunate to have your institution as an example of determination, altruism, and citizenship," Wolf wrote.

More than 300 campuses, enrolling over 4 million students, have joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

Dr. Melanie Blumberg, of the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, is leading the program at Cal U that is designed to educate students about the candidates, issues and importance of voting.

The congratulatory letter from Gov. Wolf is on display in the President's Office.

FPDC Merit Awards Nominations Due Feb. 15

Feb. 15 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Faculty Professional Development Committee merit awards.

Each of the five FPDC subcommittees — Research, Teaching and Learning, Technology, Service and Service-Learning, and Grants and Contracts — offers a merit award to recognize faculty who are engaged in these areas.

At a special event, each award recipient will receive a certificate and be given honors cords to wear at spring Commencement, where merit award recipients also are recognized.

Any Cal U employee or student may submit nominations. Self-nominations will be accepted.

Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Cal U website. Visit calu.edu and search using the keyword "FPDC merit awards." Completed nomination forms must be received by noon Feb. 15 in the Faculty Center, Azosky Hall, Room 134.

Faculty-Staff Convocation Feb. 13

President Geraldine M. Jones will deliver her "state of the University" report at the 2018 Spring Faculty-Staff Convocation, set for Feb. 13 in the Performance Center, inside the Natall Student Center.

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

Black History Month Celebrated

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History Month. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for visiting students. Cal U students with valid CalCards and children under age 12 are admitted free.

Feb. 1-28 — The Dream Legacy Service Challenge. To honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life of service, campus clubs, organizations and offices can compete in this challenge by registering through Oxygene and participating in the various activities. The student organization and office that completes the most volunteer items and donations will each receive a free pizza party provided by challenge sponsors the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education.

For more information about the challenge, email volunteer@calu.edu.

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



New Website Impresses

California University's new website debuted on Jan. 17 with a fresh look and a clearer purpose.

Developed with input from about 125 members of Cal U's faculty and staff, the new site at www.calu.edu was created in consultation with Ruffalo Noel Levitz, a national leader in strategic enrollment planning.

It is intended, first and foremost, to serve the needs of future Cal U students and their families. Comprehensive webpages introduce prospective students to the University's academic programs, along with pertinent information about tuition, financial aid, residence halls and the Cal U Difference — those elements of campus life that make California University stand out.

It's easy for future students to request information, arrange to visit campus or apply from any page. In addition, the new website features useful information for current Cal U students, faculty and staff, alumni, parents and community members.

Global online student Glenora Kivador will graduate this spring with a bachelor's degree in sport management, with a wellness and fitness concentration.

A resident of Pittsburgh who works as an instructor at the Beaver

County YMCA, Kivador took the website's virtual tour of the campus last month. The online student's only in-person visit to Cal U was on a wintry day in January 2016.

"The only thing I was concerned with was 'When are we going into the next building to get out of the wind and cold?'" she recalled. "The virtual tour ... makes me eager to come to Cal U because now I want to see everything I missed."

"The campus is beautiful, and I must say that I am impressed with the website."

Associate professor Dr. Angela Bloomquist, Cal U's School Psychology program coordinator, found her first visit to the website appealing.

"The new Cal U website has a modern flair, with user-friendly navigation and terrific graphics," she said.

Regina Musar, a fiscal technician in the Office of Student Accounts, looks at the Cal U website every day. "It has a classy look to it," she said. "It makes you want to check things out and explore."

Christine Kindl, associate vice president for Communications and Public Relations, explained that the former website simply wasn't adapted for the latest technology.

"Our website is the place where many people encounter the University's story for the very first time," she said. "We needed to create a more streamlined, engaging online experience, especially for future students who are discovering Cal U on their tablets or phones."

"This website makes it easier for users to find the information they need. At the same time, we aimed to capture the hometown warmth of our campus, share stories of student success, and highlight the lasting value of a Cal U degree."

Alumnus and former WCAL and CTV sportscaster Joe Duffy '88 still follows Vulcan athletics via live stream at his home in Roswell, Ga. His oldest son, Andrew, is a high school senior. "Obviously, we have seen a ton of college websites, and Cal U's new site is as impressive as any," he said. "I especially love the virtual experience and have always been proud of Cal U being ahead of the curve in multimedia."

High-quality websites evolve, Kindl notes, as new content is added and pages are enriched.

"This launch is a milestone, but it's just the beginning," she says. "Our new calu.edu has unlimited potential, and we're working hard to maximize its impact."

Interim Deans Appointed

Two Cal U faculty members have been appointed to serve as interim deans during a national search to fill the positions.

Dr. William Biddington, a professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, has been named interim dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

He fills the post that was vacated Jan. 22 by Dr. Stanley Komacek, who accepted a new position as Special Assistant to the President for Academic Programs. In his new role, Komacek will oversee development of high-demand academic programs and shepherd them through the approval process.

Biddington, a certified athletic trainer, joined the Cal U faculty in 1976 and was chair of his department from 1988-2009. Since 2004 he has been the university's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR).

In 2015, Biddington received the Cal U Alumni Association's John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service to the university.

Dr. Yugo Ikach, a professor in the Department of Music and Theatre, will become interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts in late March, when current dean Dr. Mohamed Yamba retires.

Ikach joined Cal U in 2004. He became chair of the Music Department in 2012 and co-chair of the combined Music and

Theatre Department in 2016. He is director of choirs at Cal U and, since 2005, principal conductor and music director of the Washington (Pa.) Symphony Orchestra.



Dr. William Biddington



Dr. Stanley Komacek



Dr. Yugo Ikach

Cal U Has Impact on Super Bowl LII

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The first alumnus to officiate the NFL's biggest game was 2010 Cal U Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Dale Hamer '60. He was the head linesman for Super Bowl XVIII in 1983 and Super Bowl XXII in 1988.

Hamer retired from the field in 2001 and stepped down as a replay-booth official in 2014. Officials are not allowed to talk to the media during the season, and he joked that a pre-game comment from Steratore was out of the question.

"Gene's an outstanding referee, and this really should have happened a long time ago," Hamer said. "He runs a good, solid game and has the respect of all the coaches and media. When a team sees Gene come on to the field, they know what kind of game they'll get."

"He lets them play, but he will be tough."

Paul Lancaster '95, a former Vulcan basketball standout, is in his first year as the Eagles' director of player engagement — the same role he played for 16 years with the Buffalo Bills.

It's Lancaster's job to be a mentor and

resource for all Eagles players off the field. Through a wide array of programs, he prepares them mentally, emotionally and physically for life on the gridiron and supports them during their transition to post-football careers.

This was Lancaster's first playoff season, and he was busy helping Eagles players and their families make arrangements for the game.

"God just put me in the right place at the right time, and our players did such a phenomenal job," Lancaster said.

"For my family and I to go the Super Bowl my first year here, after not getting a win of the playoffs for 16 years, is really beyond words."

Lancaster pointed out another Cal U connection: Dr. Kevin Elko '81, a performance consultant and motivational speaker, is on retainer with the Eagles and addressed the team before its NFC championship win over Minnesota.

Both Lancaster and Elko are originally from Brownsville, Pa.

Four more alumni, all graduates of Cal U's exercise science program, are part of the Eagles' Sports Science team: Shaun Huls '16, director of high

performance; Joe O'Pella '09, assistant athletic trainer; and Keith Gray '13 and Ben Wagner '15, assistant strength and conditioning coaches.

And Chris Peduzzi, head athletic trainer for the Eagles, has been an instructor for both graduate and undergraduate programs in Cal U's Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies.

Dr. Barry McGlumphy, a professor in the department, developed Cal U's master's degree program in exercise science and health promotion. Each year he also works as an athletic trainer for National Football League teams, including several Eagles training camps and some regular-season games.

"I have been very fortunate to work closely with many of these professionals and cannot state enough how important they are to the success of the Eagles team this season," McGlumphy said.

"These graduates have excelled in the professional setting and are responsible for the year-round health care and conditioning of this Super Bowl-bound team."

Huls said his Cal U degree, which

was in in the sport psychology concentration, has been very helpful. He coordinated the strength and conditioning and injury programs for the Navy SEAL Teams before joining the Eagles in 2013.

"In any walk of life you are always dealing with the psychological aspects and athletes are no different," he said. "I looked at this degree as a vehicle for my own self-improvement so that I could extend better benefits to the players."

"I felt the Cal U program was high quality education that definitely fit our busy schedule."

McGlumphy has tracked the success of his program's graduates since 2003. Tallying alumni who've worked in the NFL, MLB, NHL, NBA and MLS, he speculates that Cal U's online exercise science program leads the nation for the number of graduates working in professional sports.

"It is refreshing to know that as proud as we are of these graduates, they are equally as proud to represent Cal U each day in their pursuit of excellence."

That pursuit continued on Super Bowl Sunday.

Alumnus Competes Again in Winter Olympics

Matt Antoine '09 will again represent Team USA as a member of the men's skeleton team when the Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, take place this month.

A native of Prairie du Chien, Wis., Antoine earned a bronze medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics at Sochi, Russia — America's first medal in the event in 12 years. He has earned 11 World Cup medals in his career and is ranked seventh in the world in skeleton, a sport in which competitors race down a frozen track headfirst, lying face down atop a small, steel-framed sled with no brakes or steering devices.

"The opportunity to represent my country on the world's largest stage is an honor of immeasurable proportions," he said. "Obviously there are great emotional highs, but there can also be some low points or struggles. But I love sharing my story, the sport, and my medal with everyone that takes interest."

Antoine earned his bachelor's degree in 2009 through Cal U Global Online, which offers degree and certificate programs 100 percent online to students across the United States and around the world.

The athlete's travel and training schedules made online learning a convenient option, and Cal U's degree program in sport management, with a focus on wellness and fitness, "was right up my alley," Antoine said.

"I want to stay involved with sports on the marketing side or management side of a team," Antoine said after his bronze-medal performance in Sochi. "There's no question the degree will lead into what I want to do" after his 2018 Olympic run. Antoine will be 33 years old this April. In his blog,



Having already earned a bronze medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics, Matt Antoine '09 will again represent Team USA as a member of the men's skeleton team when the Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea, take place in February.

he says he can't imagine anything better than traveling around the world competing in the sport he loves and interacting with so many amazing people.

"I no longer fear for what awaits after that final run. I now look forward to discovering that next great adventure. The adventure I've found in skeleton is going

to be ... a tough one to top, though."

More than 2,800 athletes from more than 85 nations are expected to participate in 15 sports at the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The 17 days of Olympic competition take place Feb. 9-25, with skeleton races scheduled for Feb. 15-17.

Foundation Announces Officers, Honorees

The Foundation for California University elected officers Dec. 11 and presented its annual awards to four individuals.

Elected to one-year terms were Dr. Harry E. Serene '65, vice president; Lynne Stout '94, vice president; Dr. Donald J. Thompson, secretary, and Paul L. Kania '87, treasurer.

The board added three new members: Dr. Chester Chichin '63, Yvonne Chichin, and Jeffrey Jones. It also presented three annual awards:

Job Johnson Award

Dr. David L. Amati '70 received this honor, named for one of the founders of what is now California University of Pennsylvania.

The award recognizes alumni who have received recognition outside the University for excellence, innovation, community service or other notable achievements.

Amati founded Global Business Associates, LLC nine years ago and serves as its president and managing member.

The company provides business development, strategic planning and corporate representative services for local, national, and global organizations.

He established the David L. and Nancy M. Sivek Amati Early Childhood/Elementary Education Scholarship in memory of his late wife,



From left: University President Geraldine M. Jones, Dr. Annette Kaleita '55, recipient of the Society of 1852 Award; Dr. David L. Amati '70, recipient of the Job Johnson Award; Dr. Richard Cavasina, recipient of the Dixonians Award; and William R. Finn '68, president of the Foundation for California University.

Nancy. He is also a member of the Steele Society, is a former member and past president of the Foundation for California University Board of Directors, and a former member of the University's Board of Presidential Advisors.

Dixonians Award

Emeritus professor Dr. Richard Cavasina was honored for his unselfish service to the University. His award is named in honor of

John N. Dixon, the "Grand Old Man" among Cal U's founders, who served on the Board of Trustees for 46 years.

During his 28-year teaching career in Cal U's Department of Psychology, Cavasina served in many roles, including being named the director of the school psychology clinic.

Since his recovery after receiving a liver transplant at Allegheny General Hospital, he has drawn on his experience in the field of mental health as director of the patient advocacy

program at the Pittsburgh-based Abdominal Transplant Institute, which helps to support transplant patients and their families through surgery and recovery.

As chair for the Cavasina Endowment for Transplant and Research, Cavasina is conducting research regarding psychological issues involved with transplantation.

Society of 1852 Award

This philanthropic award, which recognizes distinguished contributions to the enhancement and excellence of California University, was presented to emerita professor Dr. Annette Kaleita '55.

A dedicated faculty member for 25 years in the Cal U's Department of Communication Disorders, Kaleita developed the Language and Learning Enrichment Center, which incorporates a language-based curriculum literacy for children up to 5 years old and gives undergraduate and graduate students valuable, real-world experience.

Kaleita continues to serve as an executive committee member for the Emeriti Faculty Association and was a member of the Mon Valley Renaissance. She served on the University's Capital Campaign, Red and Black Affair Extraordinaire, and Sequicentennial committees, and was a class leader for the Class of 1955. She was also a member of the Mon Valley Renaissance.

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Editor

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Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Nancy Pinardi
Vice President for Student Affairs

Bruce Wald
Writer

Office of Communications and Public Relations 250 University Avenue California, PA 15419 724-938-4195 wald@calu.edu

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