

California University JOURNAL

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Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones urges every Cal U employee to become involved in recruiting and retaining students. She spoke to faculty and staff at the spring 2015 convocation, held Feb. 5 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

At Convocation, President Urges Engagement

Speaking at the spring 2015 Faculty-Staff Convocation, interim University President Geraldine M. Jones urged employees to become more active advocates for the University, pointing out the potential benefits to both enrollment and Cal U's bottom line.

"If we want our University to remain strong, we absolutely must turn the tide and increase our student population," she said.

"Enrollment growth is essential to supporting quality academic programs and a robust workforce. It is a crucial component of any plan to maintain financial stability and keep this University moving in the right direction. In very tangible ways, it affects us all."

Speaking several days before the official census date, the President noted that enrollment for the spring semester is just 1 percent lower than the spring 2014 headcount, a "much smaller dip than in the previous two years."

Yet there remains a pressing need to increase the number of qualified students who commit to entering Cal U this fall. Formal recruitment efforts such as the Recommend a Vulcan program, which soon will include undergraduates, must be supplemented by one-to-one outreach by faculty and staff members, the President stressed.

"All in all, we have nearly 900 employees here at Cal U. If every employee recruited just one student who

ultimately enrolled, our headcount would grow by about 11 percent — and our University budget would expand by more than \$7 million.

"If we all pitch in, small efforts can add up to a big return."

More than two-thirds of the University's revenue comes from tuition and fees, the President noted.

"In other words, the strength of our budget depends on attracting and retaining well-qualified students. The size of our workforce is directly related to the number of students enrolled. And you — our faculty and staff — are likely to have more fulfilling and meaningful careers when Cal U attracts greater numbers of

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University Hosts Peer Educators

More than 100 peer educators from universities in three states are expected to attend the BACCHUS Area 11 Regional Conference, "Igniting the Future of Peer Education," Feb. 28 in the south wing of the Cal U Convocation Center.

BACCHUS is a university- and community-based network of more than 8,000 student leaders and advisers who work with over 4 million peers on more than 330 campuses nationwide.

Options@CalU peer educators are certified through BACCHUS, which stands for Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students. The nonprofit organization now is a division of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Through grants from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, Options@CalU peer educators provide interactive programming and education to reduce underage and dangerous drinking and other high-risk behaviors, especially among first-year students.

BACCHUS Area 11 consists of member schools from Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, but the conference is open to any peer educator from any school.

Through Friday, cost to attend is \$60 per member, or \$90 for non-members. A late registration fee will be added after Feb. 20.

Coordinating the event at California University are Bob Mehalik, Cal U's alcohol and other drug (AOD) education specialist, and Donna George, AOD coalition coordinator for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. Peer educators from Cal U also will assist with the event.

"It's an honor to host the regional conference," George said.

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Events Celebrate Black History Month

A series of free events have been scheduled to mark Black History Month.

Psychology professor Rueben Brock, this year's Frederick Douglass Institute Visiting Scholar and author of "A Young Man's Wisdom," moderates a discussion of issues and trends in the black community at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Keystone Hall, Room 205.

Panelists for "What's Going On: The State of Black America" are:

- D. Watkins, an award-winning writer whose work has been published in *The Huffington Post*, *Aeon*, *The City Paper* and *Salon*. A recurring guest on National Public Radio, he is a professor at Coppin State University.

- Emmai Alaquiva, an Emmy Award-winning producer and CEO of Ya Momz House Inc., a full-service multimedia company. He is a director for CBS



Carlton Heywood



Drew Law

Sports Network and the executive director of the Hip Hop On L.O.C.K. youth arts education program.

- Marisa Bartley, executive director of the PNC YMCA in Pittsburgh and an executive board member for the National Urban League Young Professionals.

- Malcolm Thomas, program director for the Reaching Back male mentoring and manhood development program at the Neighborhood Learning Alliance in Pittsburgh.

On Thursday, spoken word poet Drew Law hosts an afternoon poetry slam workshop at 1 p.m. in the Natali Student Center's Student Organization Suite 101, then gives an evening performance in the Natali Food Court at 9 p.m.

The original host of the groundbreaking Graffiti DC slam series, Law is a teaching artist for Split This Rock, an organization that uses written and spoken word as an agent for social change, and Poetry NOW, a nonprofit group that creates spoken word curricula for high schools and government entities in northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.

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Students Honor King with Day of Service

Putting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s philosophy into practice, nearly 70 students took part in Cal U's 12th annual Day of Service on Jan. 27.

Volunteers from various campus clubs and organizations tackled service projects that assisted more than a dozen nonprofit organizations.

The national Day of Service is held annually on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

For the third consecutive year, the University's extended winter break shifted the event to the second week of the semester.

"Even though the semester is already under way, our students want to do service work and help the community," said Diane Williams, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, which coordinated the activities.

The volunteers worked on projects to benefit Washington Family Center, Golden Living Center, Meals on Wheels, Center in the Woods, American Red Cross, Fayette Friends of Animals, St. Jude, and other local, regional and national agencies and organizations.

Junior Taylor Brookings, a communication studies major, and sophomore Chelsea Gump, a mathematics major, created thank-you cards for the American Red Cross to distribute during National Volunteer Week in April.

Brookings, the vice president of Alpha Kappa Alpha and president of the Cal U Dance Team, said the cards were for "special people who give of their time" to Red Cross volunteers.

"This whole (Day of Service) effort is for a good cause," she said.

"It's important to give back and help out whenever you can. You also get to meet new people and do something worthwhile."

Gump, a member of the Vulcan Village Living and



Cal U students Chelsea Gump (left) and Taylor Brookings create thank-you cards for the American Red Cross during the 12th annual Day of Service on Jan. 27.

Learning Community, said she enjoys the service projects that Hasbrouck and the Center for Volunteer Programs arrange throughout the academic year.

"This is a nice break from schoolwork, to do

something that you know other people will appreciate."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities or the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, contact Diane Hasbrouck at hasbrouck_d@calu.edu or 724-938-4794.

Security Conference Examines Gaps in Justice System

Academics and professionals with expertise in law enforcement and crisis management will share their insights at the eighth annual Conference on Homeland and International Security, scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Feb. 27 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

The theme for this year's conference is "Assessing the Security Gaps in Our Criminal Justice System." Sign-in begins at 8 a.m. Admission is free, and the public may attend.

After opening remarks by interim University President Geraldine M. Jones at 9 a.m., Dr. Michael L. Hummel, chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, will present "Managing Decisions in a Crisis Situation and the Integration of Deadly Force." Hummel is a retired military police officer, with 23 years of service in various leadership positions.

At 10 a.m., Dr. Aref Al-Khattar, also of the Department of Criminal Justice, will discuss "Law Enforcement and Culture." Al-



Cal U faculty members Drs. Michael L. Hummel and Aref Al-Khattar will give presentations at the eighth annual Conference on Homeland and International Security on Feb. 27 in Steele Hall.

Khattar is a retired law enforcement officer with 17 years of experience in Jordan.

At 10:45 a.m. David Hickton, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, will examine "Building Police and Community Relations." The co-founder of Burns, White & Hickton LLC, he became the district's 57th U.S. Attorney in August 2010.

Charles Drago, retired police

chief and president of Drago Professional Consultants, will deliver the keynote address, "Strategies to Reduce Officer Involved Shootings."

Past conferences have attracted a mix of law enforcement and security professionals, educators and students.

"This is a public and private partnership of police and citizens coming together to discuss issues of concern, and to seek new methods of supporting each other as a whole community," said Hummel.

"We have a responsibility as professionals and citizens to address and tackle the tough issues head-on, and as a team."

The conference is being organized by the Department of Criminal Justice, in collaboration with the Mon Valley NAACP and the NAACP State Conference Criminal Justice Committee. The event is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Burrell A. Brown.

For more information, visit www.calu.edu, or e-mail hummel@calu.edu or Ross Martin at mar850@calu.edu.

'Proof' Opens Theater Season

The Department of Theatre and Dance will open its 2015 spring season with "Proof," a drama by American playwright David Auburn.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Feb. 26-27, with shows at 2 and 8 p.m. Feb. 28. All performances are in the Gerald and Carolyn Hines Theatre in Steele Hall.

This Pulitzer prize- and Tony Award-winning play centers on Catherine, the daughter of mathematician who was both brilliant and mentally unbalanced. In the wake of her father's death, Catherine faces her estranged sister, a former graduate student searching for her father's work for a groundbreaking mathematical proof — and the possibility that she has inherited both her father's abilities and his mental illness.

The performance contains subject matter that may not be suitable for young children.

The cast includes Theatre and Dance majors Maddie Dudley (Catherine), DJ Miller (Hal) and Mike Rogers (Robert), as well as business and economics major Emily Marmol (Claire). The show is directed by Dr. Michael Slavin, a professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Junior Nikki Davis is the production stage manager.

Cost is \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay 50 cents, plus a \$5 deposit that is refunded at the show.

For ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Box Office at 724-938-5943.

Events Planned to Celebrate Black History Month

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Carlton Heywood presents "A Brief Conversation About the History of HBGLOs (Historically Black Greek Letter Organizations) and Activity in Western Pennsylvania" at 7 p.m. Feb. 23 in Morgan Hall Auditorium, Room 222.

Heywood, who spoke at Cal U's 2013 Black History Month celebration, is a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity and a teacher/librarian in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Through Feb. 28 on the first floor of Manderino Library there is a photo exhibit showcasing notable artists, athletes, business professionals and

humanitarians, each with a connection to western Pennsylvania. The exhibit is titled "Significant African Americans with Pittsburgh-Area Roots."

Sponsors of this year's Black History Month programs include: Multicultural Student Programs, the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, the Frederick Douglas

Institute, the Student Activities Board and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

These Black History Month programs are free and open to the entire campus community, as well as the general public. For more information about these events, and links to biographies of the speakers, visit www.calu.edu.

Susanna King, a junior majoring in graphic design, prepares for "Back to the Drawing Boards," a juried award show Feb. 19-20 in Vulcan Hall.



Artists Go 'Back to Drawing Boards'

Artworks by current and former students will be displayed on all three floors of Vulcan Hall during "Back to the Drawing Boards," a juried award show on Thursday and Friday.

The gallery's first show of the 2015 season presented by Associated Artists, a student organization that has developed cooperative programs with amateur and collegiate art groups in Washington, Fayette and Allegheny counties.

An opening reception will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday in Vulcan Hall. Artworks ranging from jewelry, pottery and paintings to drawings, prints and installation pieces will remain on display through 4 p.m. Friday.

The reception is free to the University community and the general public. Two bands, Devin Moses and The Saved and Proper

People, are scheduled to perform. Their appearance is sponsored by Green Mountain Energy and provided through Ziggy Sawdust Productions. There will also be an on-microphone opportunity.

Senior Shannon Drudy, a fine arts major and president of Associated Artists at Cal U, said the show displays the passion of many talented students.

"The main purpose of this show is to open the Vulcan Hall Student Gallery for the semester," Drudy said. "This is the third opening exhibition for this gallery. I have directed, and I couldn't be more excited to be working with so many talented artists and faculty to make this show possible."

For more information, contact Drudy at drs424@calu.edu or club advisor Todd Piskham at tpiskham@calu.edu

Students Prepare for History Day

Young historians are preparing for regional competition at the eighth annual California University of Pennsylvania Primary Sources History Day Competition.

The competition is set for 9:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Convocation Center's north conference wing.

Sponsored by the University's Teaching with Primary Sources program, in collaboration with the Department of History and Political Science, the event is modeled after the National History Day™ competition.

The Teaching with Primary Sources program at Cal U is funded by a grant from the Library of Congress.

This year's contest theme mirrors the National History Day theme, "Leadership and Legacy in History." Participants in junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions will compete in both individual and group projects.

Cal U faculty members, students, Heinz History Center representatives and other community volunteers will judge exhibits, documentaries, websites, performances and historical research papers.

Cal U student judges may include this service learning activity in their electronic LiveText portfolio, used by education majors to document their academic and professional development, leadership and extracurricular accomplishments.

All competitors receive certificates, and prizes will be awarded. More than 70 students from the Belle Vernon Area, Trinity, Fort Cherry, and Sewickley Academy will participate.

The regional competition, known as NHD Pitt, will be held March 14-15 at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Schools in Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties will be represented.

State competition, which will include the top three finishers from the regional competitions, will take place May 12-13 in Millersville, Pa., with the top two advancing to the national competition in Maryland from June 14-18.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Brna at the TPS office, 724-938-6023, or e-mail brna@calu.edu.

Engagement Urged

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bright, engaged students."

The President went on to outline enrollment initiatives such as the growing Winter College session and an expanding menu of academic programs in high-demand fields.

This year's Winter College offered 40 undergraduate and graduate courses — 70 sections in all, up from 37 sections last year. In all, more than 1,300 students took online courses during the winter session, an enrollment increase of 72 percent compared to last year's winter headcount.

Recently launched programs in statistics, land management and natural resource management and policy, as well as an online MBA with a focus on entrepreneurship, are "gaining traction and bringing new students to our doors," President Jones said.

This semester the University is marketing five more programs designed to prepare students for careers in high-demand fields. In addition to a first-of-its-kind B.A. in Sociology: Deviance, applications are being accepted for graduate-level programs in conflict

resolution, Applied Behavior Analysis, cybersecurity and applied mathematics.

"This work is absolutely essential if Cal U hopes to attract high-caliber students, especially those who have their eye on the 21st-century job market," President Jones said.

Before the President's remarks, both acting provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart and Barbara Hess, president of the faculty union, took note of the recent death of Dr. Burrell Brown, chair of the Department of Business and Economics and a past president of the university's APSCUF chapter.

One of the existing APSCUF scholarships will be renamed in his memory, Hess said.

President Jones concluded her talk by urging employees to "become part of the solution" by engaging more directly with students.

"In short, be one of those special people our students will remember when they think back on their college years. I call on each of you to get involved and invest your energy in making this University — our University — the best it can possibly be."

Open House Programs Begin

Cal U has scheduled three Academic Open House programs during the spring semester. The events introduce prospective students to Cal U or give students who already have been accepted a chance to explore the campus. Programs are scheduled from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. today, Saturday, March 21; and Saturday, April 18. Registration for each event begins at 8 a.m. in Steele Hall.

Students and families who attend will learn more about Cal U's programs of study, housing and student life. They also can talk with Cal U students, meet faculty members, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village.

For more information or to register, visit www.calu.edu. Prospective students may contact the Welcome Center at 724-938-1626 or e-mail Carrie.Foxitt@perrin@calu.edu.



Event coordinators Bob Mehalik and Donna George review plans for the BACCCHUS Area 11 Regional Conference, which will take place in the south wing of the Cal U Convocation Center on Feb. 24.

Peer Educators Meet

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"I believe BACCCHUS sees us as a very active member, with a contributing chapter that's doing a lot of good prevention programming. They think very highly of the caliber of peer educators we are training."

In November, Cal U peer educators Tabby Chandler and Jocelyn Zetter gave presentations at the BACCCHUS National Conference in Orlando, Fla.

Ten new peer educators will take their BACCCHUS certification exam just one week before the regional conference.

Veteran peer educators will assist Mehalik in training the newest members of the group.

Among the conference speakers will be Wendy Kriksak, BACCCHUS coordinator for Pennsylvania and director of counseling at DeSales

University in Center Valley, Pa.

In addition to a full schedule of conference speakers and breakout sessions, Mehalik and Cal U's Student Activities Board have lined up a series of on-campus activities for participants.

"Being a peer educator ... can be very heavy and stressful," Mehalik said. "We want this conference to help boost morale and build camaraderie. It's a place where lots of like-minded students can get together and plan for the future of BACCCHUS."

"This not only gives them a chance to catch their breath, learn new things and come up with new ideas to take back to their campus, but also to recharge their batteries and have a little fun."

For more information or to register for the conference, contact Bob Mehalik at 724-938-4775 or e-mail mehalik@calu.edu.

Game 'Etched' in Soccer Standout's Memory

Editor's Note: Cal U will hold its 20th annual Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon at 12:30 p.m. Saturday in the south conference wing of the Cal U Convocation Center. For reservations, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418.

As he looks ahead to this weekend's Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon, 2015 inductee Roger Gordon '97 reflects on sweet revenge.

Gordon was a freshman in 1993 when he helped the Vulcans soccer team go 13-3-2 for the regular season, setting a school record. Among those games was one Gordon will never forget — a 2-1 victory over nationally ranked Lock Haven.

The Bald Eagles had handed the Vulcans 10-1 defeat in the previous year. But in their 1993 meeting, Gordon's go-ahead goal swept Cal U to victory, and the team qualified for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Final Four for the first time in program history.

More than two decades later, "I still have that game etched in my memory," Gordon said.

"Lock Haven was a real powerhouse, and I think we really woke up the conference. After that game we were not a surprise. Other teams knew we could play, and they were out for us."

His coach, Dennis Laskey, also remembers Gordon's game-winning goal and Cal U's first-ever win over Lock Haven.

"That has to rank up there as one of our all-time goals. There's no question that victory was the turning point in the program," said Laskey, a member of the Mid-Mon Valley Hall of Fame who retired from Cal U after the 2012 season.

"We were continuously good after that. That win and being able to land a quality player such as Roger for our program helped us to recruit a lot of other good players and set the tone for the future."

Gordon finished his freshman season with 13 goals and 32 points, tying the school's single-season individual



Star forward Roger Gordon '97, '99 will be the fourth men's soccer player to be inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

scoring record.

After two more years of effective play, the forward added another 32 points in his senior season, with a career-high 14 goals.

Cal U soccer's first four-time all-conference selection, Gordon twice was named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America Regional All-American team.

He finished collegiate play as Cal U's career leader in goals (47) and points (110). Those marks, along with his 16 assists, still place him among the school's career leaders.

"Individually I did well, although I did not think I would have the big numbers," said Gordon. "I didn't play for points or anything. When we were up big in games, the starters did not stay in, because that's not who we were."

Even beyond his point total, Gordon made a difference for the team.

"He had speed, power, was strong on the ball — a great athlete with a tremendous passion for the game who could score and set up goals," Laskey said. "Roger was the consummate student-athlete for the collegiate level, the kind that anyone would want to recruit."

"We were fortunate to get a player of that caliber."

Originally from Clarendon, Jamaica, Gordon starred at soccer power Clarendon High School before his family relocated to Scarborough, Ontario, for his senior year.

At Cal U, Gordon earned a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree in special education and teaching certification in secondary education.

From 2000-2004 he played and coached with Owens Sound United in Ontario's York Region Soccer League. The team was league runner-up twice.

For the past 10 years Gordon has been a history teacher at Henry Street High School in Whitby, Ontario, where he has coached boys and girls soccer teams for the past five years. Under his guidance, the Hawks' girls team has made two appearances in the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship.

He is quick to credit Cal U and the sport of his passion for paving his success.

"I always ask myself what I would be doing if I had not gone to Cal," Gordon said. "My soccer ability was a gift from God, but the education I received there is why I was able to become a teacher, which I enjoy. I also really enjoy coaching soccer."

Roger and his wife, former Cal U volleyball standout Sherry Ann Bowen '90, reside in Oshawa, Ontario. The couple has four children.



Graduate student and all-conference linebacker Spencer Lynn is the second football player in program history to earn Capital One Academic All-American honors.

Linebacker Named First-Team Academic All-American

Graduate student Spencer Lynn is at the top of his game on the football field and in the classroom.

A 6-foot-2-inch, 230-pound linebacker, Lynn was named a Capital One First-Team Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

The sixth football player in school history to be named an Academic All-American, Lynn is only the second student-athlete the program to receive first-team honors.

To be eligible for Academic All-American consideration, a student-athlete must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.30 or higher on a scale of 4.00 and have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at his or her institution.

Lynn, who is pursuing a Master of Business Administration, holds a 4.00

cumulative GPA in the MBA program. He graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a 3.65 undergraduate GPA.

He has earned PSAC Scholar-Athlete status in each of the past four years and has been a member of the Cal U Athletic Director's Honor Roll in each of his eight semesters at the University.

After his senior season on the football field, Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference head football coaches awarded him first-team, all-conference honors.

Lynn led the Vulcans with 87 tackles and helped the Vulcans rank sixth in rushing defense in the NCAA Division II, allowing a per-game average of just 83.7 rushing yards.

He finished his career ranked seventh in school history, with 240 tackles.

After the season Lynn was selected to play in the All-American Bowl, which took place Dec. 22, in Arlington, Texas. He helped his team win 22-21 and was selected Defensive Player of the Game after making eight tackles.

"Obviously, we are very proud of Spencer Lynn becoming our football program's second-ever First-Team Academic All-American," said Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's director of athletics.

"He is a leader on the football field and, more importantly, an outstanding student who is an exemplary role model for current and future players to emulate."

"There's no doubt that Spencer's excellent time management skills, which helped him earn two degrees here while playing football, also will help him enjoy a successful career and be a significant member of society."

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