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University President Geraldine M. Jones presents her State of the University address Feb. 9 at the Spring 2017 Faculty-Staff Convocation.

University Asserts 'Distinctive Identity' in Science, Technology

In her Feb. 9 State of the University address, President Geraldine M. Jones announced that Cal U intends to emphasize its "strong and distinctive identity" by focusing on its longstanding special mission in science and technology.

"The prospect of a State System-wide strategic review gives us an opportunity to proactively define our direction as a university," the President said.

She urged employees to turn away from "business as usual" and embrace "professional, career-focused programs in the arts and sciences, technologies and education, which engage students in applied and active learning."

Cal U is not stepping away from its

historic mission in teacher education, the President stressed, and college graduates in every profession need a background in liberal arts. At the same time, the special mission established in 1974 "can guide our way forward," she said.

"We will never abandon our pursuit of academic excellence, or our commitment to our students and their future. But we will — we *must* — redefine Cal U for a new generation."

In the address to faculty and staff, President Jones also discussed the Strategic Enrollment Plan developed over the past year with consultants from Ruffalo Noel Levitz.

More than 60 administrators, faculty, staff and students have been involved in

developing the SEP report and related action plans, which include a list of high-demand academic programs that may be developed.

Several projects identified through the enrollment planning process already are under way, including a review of the campus-visit experience for future students and a move to earlier awarding of financial aid.

"An early promise of financial support now tells (potential) students, "We want you enough to invest in your future," the President said. "With a scholarship in hand, students and their families are more likely to finalize their

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Cal U Junior Interns in Harrisburg

Junior Cameron Eisenhauer is working for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Eisenhauer, a political science major, is one of 11 students participating this spring in The

Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program.

THIS gives students from each of the State System universities the opportunity to work in some aspect of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. Eisenhauer and his fellow THIS interns will attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

Eisenhauer, of Ephrata, Pa., works in the parole board's central office in Harrisburg.

He has been answering phone calls and writing letters to constituents who have concerns about inmates seeking parole. He also has listened to parole hearings and ridden along with a parole agent.

Eisenhauer's research project focuses on the mental health of parolees when they are released from prison, and how the parole board is working with them.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to gain real-world knowledge about the legislative and policy affairs that happen across the entire state," Eisenhauer said.

"As a political science major pursuing a career in public policy, I get to experience what the job entails and the work ethic I need to handle the day-to-day tasks."

"The Harrisburg Internship Semester is made for students like Cameron, as he hopes to work in the public sector after earning a graduate degree in public policy," said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus coordinator for the program and a professor in the Department of History, Politics, and Society.

"Cameron's enthusiasm for all things political is contagious."

For information about THIS, students may contact the program's Cal U faculty coordinator, Dr. Melanie Blumberg, at blumberg@calu.edu, or call the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg at 717-720-6089. Details are available at www.pashe.edu/this.



Cameron Eisenhauer

Black History Month Concludes

The University's Black History Month celebration concludes with three events.

• **Feb. 22:** The annual Soul Food Luncheon takes place from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Gold Rush Culinary Center in the Natali Student Center. Diners enjoy a menu created from recipes and stories contributed by members of the Cal U community.

• **Feb. 27:** A screening and panel discussion of the Netflix documentary *13th* begins at 5:30 p.m. in Eberly Hall, Room 110. The Psychology Department, along with the Frederick Douglass Institute, presents a screening of Ava DuVernay's acclaimed documentary about the criminal justice system in the United States since the abolition

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The annual Soul Food Luncheon takes place from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Gold Rush Culinary Center in the Natali Student Center.



Empowerment specialist Erika Rouzondou explains the importance of education in solving the problem of racism during her presentation, "The Good News About Racism," at the Convocation Center at Cal U.

Speaker Enlists Facts in Fight Against Racism

"The good news about racism." That was the provocative title that brought more than 75 students, plus a handful of faculty and staff, to the Convocation Center Jan. 31 for a talk by empowerment specialist Erika Rouzondou.

The event honored the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "whose message is timeless," said organizer Shelda Camarda-Webb, Cal U's director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education.

It also kicked off the University's celebration of Black History Month, which continues throughout February.

Racism and white supremacy have been part of the American experience since the nation's founding, Rouzondou told the audience. But that doesn't mean we can't confront racial injustice in personal and powerful ways.

"There are solutions to this problem, but sometimes it doesn't feel like it, because the problem is so enormous and pervasive," she said.

Rouzondou, of Baltimore, contends that racism is "rooted in ignorance and xenophobia, and sustained by historical and contemporary distortion of facts." It is those facts that need to be addressed, she said.

"White supremacy is a historical lie

"There are solutions to this problem, but sometimes it doesn't feel like it, because the problem is so enormous and pervasive."

— Empowerment specialist Erika Rouzondou

— the lie that white people are supreme. White supremacists are ignorant of the historical contributions of black people to the development of civilization. We have a presence, as any group does, in every part of civilization."

Factual education can help to correct the record, and it's a key part of Rouzondou's three-step approach to confronting racism and white supremacy.

First, "release dichotomy" by acknowledging "that nothing in the world is either/or, entirely good or entirely bad," she advised.

Then be open to new information, including facts that may not be emphasized in history lessons.

Finally, be willing to change, even when it makes you uncomfortable.

The history Rouzondou shared made an impression on freshmen Taylor Davis and Maya Wilson, who listened to descriptions of pre-classical

African kingdoms, the Egyptians, and the black heritage of famous historical figures.

"I have more information now than I did before," said Wilson, a communication studies major with a focus on public relations.

"I didn't realize a lot of this," added Davis, a business management major. "We were never taught this stuff. I like that it's not biased, just actual facts."

Rouzondou, a graduate of Howard University, has spent decades promoting personal empowerment and leading workshops and "awakening" sessions that aim to dispel destructive beliefs.

Her presentation was informative and allowed audience members to be introspective, Webb said. "It informed how we can continue to create dialogue about race on our campus. We can build on this to continue educating our students."

College students, especially, need to ground themselves in facts and develop techniques for challenging unjust beliefs, Rouzondou told the audience, "because you're about to create the next world."

"Find your courage," she said. "I found mine in history."

"If we work together strategically, we can end racism and white supremacy. That's the good news."

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of slavery. A panel discussion with faculty member Dr. Ruben Brock, a former FDI scholar, follows the film.

• **March 3:** Buses depart from in front of Mandarino Library at 5:30 a.m. for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. Registration is required; payment is due in advance. Cost is \$30 for students, \$60 for staff, faculty and guests. For more information, email Shelda Camarda-Webb at webb_s@calu.edu.

"We're fortunate to end our Black History Month

celebration with three outstanding events," said Camarda-Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education.

"The luncheon really has a personalized, Cal U flavor to it this year, and Dr. Brock leading the panel discussion of the film *13th* will be insightful."

She pointed out that the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in September, has been a popular destination for visitors to the nation's capital.

"It's the newest museum on the Washington Mall, and it's something special to see."

Campus BRIEFS

Website is Hub for Weather Alerts

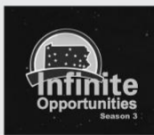
Now that wintry weather has arrived, students and employees should register for Emergency Text Alerts and keep an eye on the Cal U website.

Weather announcements will be made only if the University's regular operation is disrupted. The announcements will appear on the homepage "news" carousel at www.calu.edu, where information will be updated periodically as conditions change.

Text alerts may be issued for the most significant announcements, such as cancellations or delays. Text alert registration must be renewed annually; visit the "Quick Links" section of the website to register. Notice of cancellations or delays also may be available on local television stations and on the Cal U hotline, at 724-938-4507 or 800-422-5639.

Trustees Meet March 1

The California University Council of Trustees will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2017 at 7 p.m. March 1 in the President's conference room, Room 110 of Old Main.



Cal U Appears on PCN March 5

Cal U will be part of the March 5 episode of *Infinite Opportunities*, the half-hour public affairs show by and about Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

The weekly program airs at 9:30 a.m. Sundays and repeats at 6 p.m. Saturday. It features students, faculty, staff and initiatives at State System universities, including Cal U.

The March 5 episode will explore the performing arts. Participating in a panel discussion will be Dr. Yugo Itach, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre, and Jacob Urbanek, a graduating senior in Cal U's commercial music technology program.

Cal U will be part of three other episodes during the show's third season, on March 26, April 9 and April 16.

A link to episodes of *Infinite Opportunities* from seasons 1 and 2, as well as past episodes from season 3, can be found at www.pasche.edu.

Students Continue Giving Back

A California family who lost their home to fire last month will benefit from the generosity and community spirit of Cal U students.

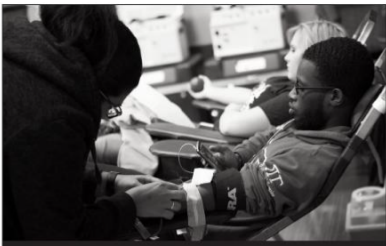
Donations of gently used clothing, nonperishable foods and household items collected on the Day of Giving will be offered first to the Ruby family, whose home was destroyed Jan. 10. Delta Zeta sorority sister Lacey Koster, a Cal U student, is related to the family.

Cal U's annual Day of Giving honors the spirit of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose commemorative holiday falls near the end of winter break.

"We thought this year we'd change things up by focusing more on the giving aspect," Diane Hasbrouck, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, said of the event, which had been known as the Day of Service.

"Everyone is so busy at the start of the semester, but our students want to recognize this historic time of the year. We wanted to show them that there are multiple ways to volunteer."

Organized by the volunteer center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, the Day of Giving on Feb. 1 included a Blood Drive held in conjunction with Central Blood Bank. Students also collected, documented



Adama Traore, a senior computer information systems major, and Alexis Blake, a freshman fisheries and wildlife biology major, donate blood during the Day of Giving.

and organized donations of gently used clothing and shoes, new toiletry items, old eyeglasses and unwanted cell phones.

More than 60 participating students received credit on their official Activities Transcript.

In all, students and employees donated 500 pieces of clothing and 190 food items, along with 190 additional items such as accessories, books and electronics. The Central Blood Bank

collected 39 units of blood, which will benefit 117 individuals.

Donations that the Ruby family doesn't need were taken to the Cal U Cupboard, a student food pantry based in the Natali Student Center, the Lions Club in Washington, Pa., Washington City Mission, and the Washington Food Bank's new thrift store.

Much of the donated clothing came from a School Spirit Swap organized last

semester by the Student Government Association. The charities received T-shirts from other schools that were swapped for Cal U gear at New Student Orientation, Student Appreciation Week events and Homecoming.

"I love doing things like this," said junior Shaina Halsey, president of student government. "It's important any time to give something to people in need."

Sophomore Lindsey Rush, an English major who works at the volunteer center, recorded the donations.

"All the people involved in volunteering are just really nice, and it makes you want to do more," she said.

Tyler Wynne '15, a graduate student in school counseling, brought in a large pile of clothing.

"I have never missed helping at the MLK event here," said Wynne, who earned his bachelor's degree in history.

"When I found out they needed clothing, I went through everything I had, because over time everyone collects too much stuff, especially clothes. So I could try up a bit and give something to help others, which is just cool."

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

FAFSA Night Feb. 28

The Office of Financial Aid again is offering free, personalized assistance for families of college-bound students who are completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, known as FAFSA.

The University's second FAFSA Night begins at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 in Conference Room 10 in the Convocation Center.

Families are urged to bring all of the documents required to complete the application process. Cal U experts will help them complete the application, which is an essential step for students seeking financial aid at colleges nationwide.

In addition to step-by-step assistance, families will get tips on making higher education more affordable, hear about the benefits of filing the FAFSA early, and learn about the U.S. Department of Education's verification process.

College-bound students are welcome at FAFSA Night, or parents/guardians may attend on their own. Optional tours of the Cal U campus begin at 6 p.m.

FAFSA Night at Cal U is free, but registration is required. To sign up for free, personalized assistance and see a list of documents to bring along to FAFSA Night, visit www.calu.edu/FAFSAnight.

Science, Technology Focus

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college decision and enroll at our University."

President Jones also updated the faculty and staff on a number of collaborative efforts designed to improve enrollment.

Among them are the Provost's Recruitment Initiatives Mobilization Effort (PRIME), which makes funding available to help departments and academic programs implement student recruitment activities.

Twenty-three programs submitted proposals approved for PRIME funding, including Dr. Christian Fisanick's plan for a Harry Potter Conference and Festival that promises to attract more than 2,500 high school students to campus March 31-April 1.

The president said she is encouraged by the growing spirit of collaboration on campus. However, she cautioned that significant challenges remain, including

the need for additional cost-saving measures to balance the University's budget.

On a positive note, the President said she is encouraged by early reports on fall enrollment, which show improvement in completed applications, acceptances and deposits for incoming freshmen.

The challenge, she said, will be to "close the deal" and convince those students to finalize their college decisions and enroll at Cal U.

"Positive interactions with faculty, staff, current students and successful alumni can be the deciding factor."

In the weeks ahead, those key stakeholders should play a part in implementing the University's renewed emphasis on its special mission in science and technology.

"We have the tools to be successful, if we can muster the will to use them," President Jones said. "Let's move forward together."



Cal U Dance Ensemble members (from left) Megan Gobert, Taylor Frost, Laura Cook, Marissa Butera and Mackenzie Moore prepare for an Evening of Creativity.

Creativity Blooms in Blaney Theater

The Department of Music and Theatre opens its spring season with "An Evening of Creativity" featuring a one-act play and two dances selected and performed by Cal U students.

Performances are scheduled at 7 p.m. Feb. 23-24, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Blaney Theater in Steele Hall.

The show opens with a 20-minute one-act play, *Post-It® (Notes on a Marriage)*, written by actor, writer and comedian Paul Dooley and his wife, dramatist and screenwriter Winnie Holzman.

Emily Smith '14, a graduate student in school counseling, directs the play about a contemporary long-term relationship.

"This one-act really spoke to me through the emotions and nuances that were presented in the relationship between the two characters," said Smith, who was an undergraduate theater major

and now works as a graduate assistant in the department.

"I thought it would be important to display all the ups and downs of a relationship. It's also really unique in the way it is performed."

The "Evening of Creativity" also features "Finding Your Way," a student-choreographed piece by the Cal U Dance Ensemble, and "Behind Closed Doors," a dance choreographed by faculty member Diane Buffington.

Junior Kitty Hoffman, a theater major, is the production's stage manager while seniors Jeffrey Higgins and John Boldt handle sound and designing.

"An Evening of Creativity" is open to the public. Ticket price 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 Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.



Cal U fans are encouraged to cheer on the Vulcan basketball teams during the 'red out' doubleheader vs. IUP at the Convocation Center on Feb. 25.

Vulcans Look to 'Red Out' Season Finales

On Saturday, Feb. 25, Cal U will welcome back alumni and look for a "red out" in the stands as the men's and women's basketball teams play IUP in a PSAC doubleheader.

This will be the regular season finale for both the women's and men's teams at the Convocation Center. The women's game begins at 3 p.m., followed by the men's game at 5.

Any Cal U alumna (and as many as three family members) may attend free of charge. For a free voucher, register in advance at www.calu.edu/alumni-basketball before noon on Feb. 24.

The emailed voucher can be entered into a raffle for prizes at the Alumni Association table in the Convocation Center lobby.

Tickets will be available at the door for fans who do not register in advance.

Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students from other schools. Cal U students are admitted free with a valid CalCard.

Four senior players — Miki Glenn, Lana Doran, Precious Martin and Brittany Nelson — will be recognized before the women's game.

The men's team has no seniors, but Cal U will honor players from the 1966-1967 team, which won the first PSAC-West title in program history.

"Cal vs. IUP is always a special rivalry, and we want our alumni and fans to come out, wear their red and support our hard-working teams," said Leslie Flenor, Cal U's director of Alumni Relations.

"This will be an exciting day."

For more information, email alumni@calu.edu or contact Leslie Flenor or Stacy Tidwell at 724-938-4418.

Honoree Scores With Cal U Academics, Softball

Editor's Note: Cal U will hold its 22nd annual Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon at 5 p.m. April 22 in the Performance Center, inside the Nantz Student Center. For reservations, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418.

As a four-year starting catcher and second baseman for the Vulcans, versatile Jennifer Dozy-Frantz '08 enjoyed remarkable success on the softball diamond from 2003-2006.

More than a decade later, her Cal U education is still paying off handsomely.

The 2005 PSAC-West Athlete of the Year, Frantz earned first-team all-conference honors four times, twice as a catcher and twice at second base. She was also a three-time all-region selection and a two-time academic all-district honoree.

Frantz earned an associate degree as a physical therapist assistant at Cal U and a bachelor's degree in sport management, with a concentration in wellness and fitness, through Cal U Global Online.

Today, Frantz is the therapy program manager at Caroline Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, in Denton, Md., where she oversees physical, occupational and speech therapy.

She and her husband, Justin, live in her hometown of Trappe, Md. They have three children: daughter Isabella, 4, and sons Aiden, 6, and Nathaniel, 1.

"I started in athletic training education, and it was great that they accepted players, but I changed to PTFA so I could be at home, raising a family and having more of a normal work schedule rather than weekends and nights with (athletic) teams," Frantz explained.

"When I was in classes, the professors



Jennifer Dozy-Frantz '08, a four-year starting catcher and second baseman, is the 17th softball player to earn Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame honors.

would welcome your questions or stay after class to work with you. I thought the programs at Cal U did a great job of preparing us for what was to come in the workforce."

While her professional career flourishes, Frantz can reflect on her playing career: She will be the 17th softball player to receive Cal U's highest individual athletic honor.

"I know a lot of the softball players in the Hall of Fame are from the national championship teams, so this is a big honor for me to be part of this group," she said.

In 2005 Frantz achieved one of the

best individual seasons in program history and was ranked among the NCAA Division II leaders in six offensive categories.

Her .979 slugging percentage and .446 batting average ranked third and sixth, respectively, in the nation. She also produced 14 home runs (7th), 49 RBI (10th), 17 doubles (10th), and 47 runs scored (14th).

In 2006 Frantz batted a team-high .373, including 13 doubles, and earned another all-conference nod at second base.

Frantz's .387 career batting average and 41 career doubles still rank fifth and

sixth in the school record book.

She is listed in six single-season categories from her 2005 season, and her slugging percentage that season still ranks as second best in PSAC history.

Cal U softball compiled a 109-52 cumulative win-loss record and a 56-24 divisional mark during Frantz's playing career, with two PSAC-West championships and three NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional appearances.

Rick Bertagnoli, Cal U softball's head coach for 24 years, said playing those two positions is an unusual combination — and a testament to Frantz' athleticism and unselfishness.

"Her willingness to do whatever the team needed showed what a total team player she was," Bertagnoli said. "She just went out there and, obviously, played at a very high level."

As a scholastic shortstop, Frantz helped Easton High School win Class 2A state championships during her sophomore and senior seasons.

"I came to Cal U's softball camp when I was in high school. You could just feel it was a special program," Frantz said.

"Every day they did the same thing, in-and-out, to prepare. Everything was methodical, well thought out. I liked that structure."

Her Hall of Fame honor has her wondering if a family tradition of playing ball will continue.

"I started playing probably at age 6, so it was good for me to take a break and start a family," she said. "But now my son is 6, and I've been explaining this honor to him — and the difference between softball and baseball."

"I think it's time for him to starting playing, too."

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