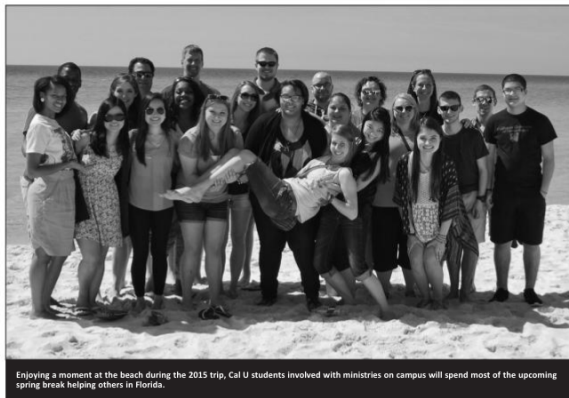


California University JOURNAL

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 3 FEB. 22, 2016

READ THE JOURNAL ONLINE: www.calu.edu/news/the-journal



Enjoying a moment at the beach during the 2015 trip, Cal U students involved with ministries on campus will spend most of the upcoming spring break helping others in Florida.

Students Choose Service During Spring Break

Two groups of Cal U students involved with ministries on campus are preparing to spend their spring break helping others.

Mission trips will take students to two Florida cities, Destin and Panama City, from March 5-11.

Six Cal U students will team up with four from Wayneburg University to join a Habitat for Humanity effort in Destin.

Students Kaitlyn Strosnider and Miranda Andrews have co-coordinated the Cal U alternative spring break trip with guidance from campus minister the Rev. Mike Zavage.

"We wanted to offer an opportunity for students on campus to do something a little more meaningful over spring break than just to hang out and party," said Strosnider, a senior majoring in secondary education and biology.

"A lot of students want to donate their time, energy and service to make a difference."

The trip is being organized through Cal ROCKS (Reaching Out for Catholic Kinship), a campus organization open to all students, regardless of denomination.

Strosnider also reached out to academic organizations including Alpha Lambda Delta and the Biology Club.

The group received financial support from parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in California and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Roscoe, Pa., where Strosnider spoke to parishioners.

During the mission trip, students will assist the Habitat for Humanity staff with hand labor ranging from repairing homes and mending fences to

— *Continued on page 3*

Outdoor Educators Offer Two Free Events

The University community and the general public may attend two free events in conjunction with the Wilderness Education Association's 2016 International Conference on Outdoor Leadership, hosted by Cal U Feb. 25-27 in the Convocation Center.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 26, the WEA will screen two award-winning films in Vulcan Theatre, inside the Natali Student Center.

- *An American Ascent* is a documentary about the first African-American team of mountain climbers to summit Denali, Alaska's highest peak. This film was screened in the White House in June.
- *Love Thy Nature* is an exploration of humankind's relationship with the natural world. The film is narrated by actor Liam Neeson.

At 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27, freelance journalist James Edward Mills, author of *The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors*, will deliver the conference's keynote address in the Morgan Hall auditorium.

Mills will use Expedition Denali as the starting point for a discussion of how minority populations see their place in wilderness environments. Mills describes minority explorers and sports enthusiasts whose accomplishments have helped to bridge the "adventure gap," encouraging others to participate in outdoor experiences that enrich their lives.

Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For more information visit www.calu.edu.

First Lady's Office is Internship Site

"To work at the state Capitol, in the governor's residence and with the first lady is a dream come true," says graduating senior Adisa Hargett-Robinson.

And wherever the future takes her, she's certain that her internship in Harrisburg will stand out on her resume.

Hargett-Robinson, an honors student with a political science major and a communication studies minor, is spending a 15-week internship in the Office of the First Lady in Harrisburg.

She is one of 16 students participating in The Harrisburg Semester, a program sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

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



Adisa Hargett-Robinson

of credits. Hargett-Robinson and her fellow THIS interns will attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

Hargett-Robinson began her internship by attending a news conference about Pennsylvania's new "It's on Us PA" initiative, which focuses on sexual assault on college campuses.

The first lady's office is involved, and Hargett-Robinson is helping to plan future events. She also helped to organize several Black History Month events and is coordinating a sleeper in the governor's residence for elementary school girls later this spring.

"This is a great internship," said Hargett-Robinson, a graduate of York Catholic High School. "Already this has been such an active and hands-on experience." Hargett-Robinson was an orientation leader on

campus, and event planning is on her list of post-graduate career options. She's also considering a career in political journalism or writing.

"If I go into event planning, this internship will be invaluable," she said. "But no matter what I decide, this experience itself is so beneficial. It will definitely help to strengthen my professional skills, as well as my writing."

More than 600 students from State System universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989. Interns have worked with dozens of state agencies, as well as in the offices of the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the attorney general.

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 717-730-6089. Details are available at www.pashe.edu/this.



Name Those Bones

Cash Eisel, a second-grade student at Madonna Catholic Regional School in Monongahela, Pa., helps classmates identify bones during a career day in the Department of Health Science. First-, second- and third-grade students from the school learned about exercise and other topics during a visit coordinated by Dr. Jodi Dusi, of the physical therapist assistant program, and Barbara Letourneau, assistant coach for the Vulcan volleyball team.

Foundation Announces 2015 Officers and Award Winners

The Foundation for California University elected officers Dec. 14 and presented its annual awards to two individuals and one corporation.

Elected were William R. Flinn '68, president; Dr. Harry E. Serene '65, vice president; Dr. Annette M. Kaletka '55, secretary; and Armand E. Balsano '74, treasurer.

The board added five new members: Theresa M. Gass '75, Jesse G. Heredia '04, Michael J. Napolitano '68, Frederick (Fritz) A. Retsch '62 and Dr. Donald J. Thompson.

The 2015 recipient of the Job Johnson Award for leadership and community service is Dr. Angela Covert '56.

Recipient of the Dixonians Award for service to the University is Dr. Burrell A. Brown '69, who received the award posthumously.

The Society of 1852 Award for philanthropy was presented to the Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust.

Awards and winners

Job Johnson was among the founders of what eventually became California University. The award named in his honor recognizes alumni who have received recognition outside the University for excellence, innovation, community service or other notable achievements.

As an independent education consultant, Covert has shared her expertise with The Atlantic Philanthropies (USA) Inc., The Teachers for a New Era Project at the University of Washington, Seattle, an education program at Carnegie Corporation of New York; and the New



Accepting the Foundation for California University's Dixonians Award inside the Kara Alumni House from Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones and board president Steven P. Stout '85 in memory of Dr. Burrell A. Brown '69 are his wife, Anita, and sons, Julian and Martin.

Teacher Center, where she is vice chair of the board of directors. From 2009-2011 she was a senior fellow with City Year, a national AmeriCorps program that engages youth in community service.

The Dixonians 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. This award honors individuals who unselfishly serve the University.

Brown, a labor lawyer and former longtime counsel to the Pennsylvania NAACP, joined the faculty at Cal U in 1989 and later served as chair of the Department of Business and Economics. Brown, who founded the Pittsburgh chapter of the Black MBAs, was an active member and past president of the faculty union at Cal U. He also served as vice

president of the Association of State College and University Faculties, where he helped to negotiate four contracts.

He and his wife, Anita, have two sons, Julian and Martin.

The Society of 1852 Award recognizes distinguished contributions to the enhancement and excellence of California University.

The 2015 recipient, The Dr. and Mrs. Arthur William Phillips Charitable Trust, is dedicated to providing Pennsylvania's young people with a university education. A generous benefactor to Cal U, the trust has established an endowed fund at the Foundation that provides scholarships to Cal U students from the Oil City area and the region that includes Venango, Mercer, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Crawford, Clarion, Butler and Jefferson counties.

Students Judge History Day Entries

Cal U student volunteers will help to judge a local History Day competition Feb. 26 at Belle Vernon Area Middle School.

Middle school students from Trinity School District also will attend the event, whose theme "Exploration, Encounter and Exchange in History" mirrors that of the National History Day contest.

One of the Cal U students helping judge is Jamie Bogol, a graduate student in the Master of Arts Teaching program.

"I really enjoy helping students learn and I also have a passion for history," she said. "A program such as National History Day gets students involved and helps them understand that what's happened in the past also affects what is happening in the present and our future."

Ross Farmer '91, a social studies teacher at Belle Vernon Middle School, adapted the program from previous competitions organized on campus by Dr. Michael Brna, director of the University's Teaching with Primary Sources program.

Cal U students will consider exhibits, documentaries, websites, performances and historical research papers.

"We are very pleased that Cal U students, by serving as judges, are helping our students sharpen the type of skills they will need in college prep classes in high school," Farmer said.

"Working through Cal U's Teaching with Primary Sources program has led our students directly to regional and national success."

Farmer, who was named Pennsylvania's State History Teacher of the Year in 2015, said that he and several colleagues "have significantly benefited through the training we've received at Cal U."

The Teaching with Primary Sources program is funded through the Library of Congress. It trains K-12 and pre-service teachers to use Library of Congress materials for classroom instruction.

Those skills are front and center at History Day competitions.

Students at Belle Vernon will be preparing for the regional History Day, known as NHD Pitt, March 5-6 at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Schools in Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties will be represented.

Winners will move on to state and national competitions.

Registration Begins for Summer College

Registration opens Feb. 22 for Summer College at Cal U. Students who attend any college or university, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, may choose from among more than 200 credit courses at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Both on-campus and online courses are offered during the 2016

summer term.

Current Cal U students do not have to apply for Summer College, but they must register for classes online.

To learn more about Summer College, visit www.calu.edu, keyword "Summer College," e-mail summer@calu.edu, or call 724-938-4407.



National Artist Joins 'Joyfest'

National recording artist Anita Wilson will be the featured performer when Cal U's Young and Gifted Gospel Choir hosts the Joyfest 2016 gospel concert at 7 p.m. March 19 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Wilson has been nominated for Grammy, Stellar and Dove music awards.

Her debut album *Worship Soul* was recognized by the New York Times as one of the top 10 albums of 2012. Her second studio album, *Pinage Worship*, also has received critical acclaim.

Cal U's Young and Gifted Gospel Choir will perform at the annual Joyfest concert, along with the Lift Every Voice Gospel

Choir from Clarion University, the University of Pittsburgh Gospel Choir, and the Family and Friends Choir of Pittsburgh.

Founded in the 1970s, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir is one of several Cal U vocal groups that perform regularly on campus and in the community. Open to all Cal U students, the choir's repertoire includes traditional spirituals and African-American gospel music.

Joyfest offers the choir a chance to perform familiar songs at a new level.

"Working with a national gospel artist gives the students an opportunity to experience a level of professionalism that they probably would not have had otherwise," said Dr. Randy Tillmuth, the choir's director and an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Music.

"To see how an artist interacts and approach her craft, and also getting (her) to sing alongside them ... is a wonderful learning experience."

The Joyfest 2016 gospel concert is free, and the public is welcome to attend. Reservations are not required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.calu.edu.

Anita Wilson will be the featured performer during the Joyfest 2016 gospel concert at 7 p.m. March 19 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Garden Writer Shares Tips

Western Pennsylvania gardeners and can get a jump on the season with tips from Kerry Ann Mendez, author of *The Right Size Garden*, when she holds a lecture and book signing beginning at 9 a.m. March 4 in the south wing of the Convocation Center.

The talk is presented by Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of Fayette County, whose trained volunteers provide sound information to home gardeners.

Mendez, the owner of Perennially Yours, is dedicated to teaching the art of low-maintenance perennial gardening and landscaping.

As a garden consultant, designer, author and lecturer, she focuses on time-saving gardening techniques, workhorse plants and sustainable practices.

Her work has appeared in numerous magazines, including *Horticulture*, *Fine Gardening*, *Garden Gate* and *Better Homes and Gardens' Garden Ideas & Outdoor Living*.

A frequent speaker on gardening



Kerry Ann Mendez, author of *'The Right Size Garden,'* will hold a lecture and book signing beginning at 9 a.m. March 4 in the south wing of the Convocation Center

topics, Mendez also has been a guest on HGTV.

Check-in for audience members begins at 9 a.m. Books will be available

for purchase, and Mendez will sign them after her 10 a.m. talk.

Admission is \$25; look for a link to online registration at www.calu.edu.

Campus BRIEFS

Spring Break Schedule Changes

No classes will be held from March 7-12 as Cal U marks spring break for students. All University offices will be open during the break. Classes resume March 14.

Residence Halls will close at 8 p.m. Friday, March 4. They re-open at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 13.

Trustees Meet March 2

The Council of Trustees for California University of Pennsylvania will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2016 at 7 p.m. March 2 in the Grand Hall of Old Main. The meeting is open to the public.

OSD Semester 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, G-35.

Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. To contact OSD, call 724-938-5781 or e-mail 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.

Students Choose Service During Break

— Continued from page 1

doing yard work and gardening.

"It's not just about students going there to fix homes. We're also listening and helping people," Stromsieder added. "Sometimes you might meet a single mother with five kids who just needs someone to talk to and lean on."

"This is also an opportunity that makes college kids thankful for what they have."

For the third consecutive year, members of New Life Christian Fellowship will serve their fellow college students through the Beach Reach mission in Panama City.

Led by campus minister Kim Wilson, Cal U students will join hundreds of students from other universities to offer free pancakes during the day and safe transportation at night to the thousands of young adults who vacation at Panama City each spring.

LifeWay, a nonprofit organization that conducts mission work and other ministries around the world, organizes the outreach effort.

"It's very rewarding and makes quite an impact on our students — so much so that they were talking about this year's trip on the way home from last year's," Wilson said.

Senior Sarah Barger, a gerontology major, called the journey "my favorite mission trip" because the group shares both their faith and a common purpose.

"We're a big family, and everyone can feel comfortable because they know at their best times and their worst times we have each other's back," she said.

The fellowship has held several fundraisers to support the 13 members heading south, including a spaghetti dinner at Faith Community Church Lakeside, in McMurray, Pa., which is a New Life sponsor.

New Life also raised funds through a spaghetti dinner fundraiser and SAT's Holiday Pop-Up Shop event.

"It's an all-around great trip that provides a wonderful opportunity to spread awareness and the good name of California University," Wilson said.

Cal ROCKS meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. in Rooms 206-206 of the Natall Student Center. For more information, e-mail cavog@calu.edu.

New Life Christian Fellowship meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays Room 319 of the Natall Student Center. For more information, e-mail newlifecal@gmail.com.

Hall of Fame Adds Six

Six individuals will comprise Cal U's 21st Athletic Hall of Fame class.

The 2016 inductees are Gary Butler '08 (football), Chris Clark '08, '09 (track and field, cross country), Simone DeSouza '09 (women's golf), Joanna Nist-Haupt '10 (women's volleyball), Brooque Williams '10 (women's basketball) and the late Eugene Hester (coach and administrator).

These former Vulcan standouts will be inducted officially at the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame dinner, set for 5:30 p.m. April 22 in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center.

In addition to being honored at the dinner, the inductees will be recognized the following day during the Vulcan football program's annual Spring Game at Adamson Stadium. They will also be profiled in upcoming editions of the *Journal*.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame dinner are \$30 each, or \$10 for children age 10 and younger. The public may attend. For reservations, contact Staci Tselow in the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418 or tselow@calu.edu. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to establish a Hall of Fame athletic scholarship.



Brooque Williams will be the 19th women's basketball player to earn Athletic Hall of Fame honors.

Hall of Fame Inductee Clark Recalled as Scholar, Athlete

Chris Clark '08, '09 came to Cal U hoping to improve as a distance runner. He left as a five-time All-American with two academic degrees.

This spring, Clark will be the eighth male runner inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame. "It doesn't seem like I've been out of school that long," Clark said. "It is a great honor to be joining such a distinguished group."

Clark earned four All-American honors in track and field, and one in cross country, as a Vulcan runner from 2007-2009.

In 2008 he earned indoor NCAA All-American honors in the 1,500-meter run. He took the 2008-2009 PSAC Outdoor Track Athlete of the Year title after winning the PSAC championship in the 10,000-meter run.

In national competition, he finished eighth in both the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs at the 2009 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

In cross country, Clark finished fourth at the 2008 NCAA Division II Regionals after winning the PSAC and NCAA Division II Regional titles.

The 2009 United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Athlete of the Year, he still holds the school indoor records for the 3,000-meter (8:19.48) and 5,000-meter (13:58.53) events, which he set in 2008 and 2009, respectively.



Chris Clark will be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame this spring.

His time in the 5,000 remains a PSAC indoor record.

Clark transferred to Cal U from Clark University, where he also ran for head coach Daniel Caulfield.

"It was a big deal when I transferred, and it wasn't made primarily about athletics," he said.

"However, I was running really well for Coach Caulfield at Clark. He told me how good I could be, so when I came to Cal U I just wanted to see how fast I could get. I really never thought of the success or the awards."

Clark earned his bachelor's degree and teaching certification in

secondary education/biology, and a master's degree in exercise science with a concentration in wellness and fitness.

Today Clark is a science teacher at Atholton High School in Columbia, Md., part of the Howard County Public School System.

"I definitely felt very well prepared to be an educator," said Clark, who is head coach for Atholton's boys cross country and track and field teams.

"Not only did my training at Cal U help, but I also made professional connections there, which directly helped me to get my teaching job."

Clark said he still calls on Caulfield for coaching advice.

"I lost my dad when I was 15 years old, and Coach Caulfield is the closest thing I've had as a father. He sees the big picture and wants the best for an athlete as a person. He's still a mentor for me."

In turn, Caulfield invites Clark and his team to campus each summer for the Cal U Cross Country Camp. Clark is a guest speaker and his team takes part in the training camp.

"I'm just proud of him, because he obviously had talent and the intelligence to put it all together," Caulfield said.

"I've never seen anyone who works harder than him, which I believe is a defining characteristic. Chris is a fantastic all-around individual."

Black History Month Concludes

The University's Black History Month celebration concludes with two upcoming events. Both are free and open to the public.

Feb. 23: Panel discussion, "Academic Reflections on Race and Color," at 11 a.m. in Eberly Hall, Room 110. Panelists are Dr. Komal Dhillion, of the departments of Religion & Culture and Communication at Virginia Tech; Dr. Ruben Brock, of Cal U's Department of Psychology; and Dr. Gabby M.H. Yearwood, of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pittsburgh. Discussant is Dr. Amelus Price, of the Department of History and Political Science.

Feb. 24: African-American Arts Festival from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center. The event will feature local artists, performers and vendors.

A performance from 5:6 p.m. by the Pittsburgh company of the Balafon West African Dance Ensemble will cap off the Black History Month celebration.

Formed in 1997 by West Africa native Kadiatou Conte-Forte and her students and colleagues, Balafon artists blend the natural elegance of traditional West African dance and music with amazing athleticism.

Black History Month events on campus are free and open to the public. Most events are sponsored by the Cal U Office of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education; some are co-sponsored by the Black Student Union.

'Deathtrap' Promises Suspense

The newly merged Department of Music and Theatre will open its 2016 spring theater season with *Deathtrap*, a comedy-thriller by the late American playwright, novelist and songwriter Ira Levin.

The play will be performed in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Feb. 25-26, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 27.

The suspenseful, two-act drama is a play-within-a-play that leaves audience members second-guessing themselves until the curtain comes down. The original production had a four-year run on Broadway and was nominated for a Tony Award.

Cal U's production of *Deathtrap* is directed by senior Mikey Rogers, a theater major.

"Senior thesis productions have become quite the favorite in our department," said theater professor Dr. Michele Pagen. "The students awarded this position do such a great job, and our entire department is excited for opening night."

Other students behind the scenes are production stage manager Grant Prodan, and assistant Brenden Lesinski. Costume coordinator is Annabel Lorence, with scenic design by Sabrina Hyles-Davis and lighting design by Deb Peeler. Brendan Smith is the properties designer.

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.

The California Journal is published by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Geraldine M. Jones
Interim University President

Dr. Bruce Barnhart
Acting Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Office of Communications and Public Relations

Robert Thorn
Vice President for Administration and Finance

Dr. Nancy Pinardi
Vice President for Student Affairs

250 University Avenue

Christine Kindl
Editor

Bruce Wald, Wendy Mackall, Jeff Bender
Writers

724-938-4195 wald@calu.edu

INTEGRITY · CIVILITY · RESPONSIBILITY