

California University
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University President Geraldine M. Jones presents her 'State of the University' address Feb. 13 at the Spring 2018 Faculty-Staff Convocation.

Initiatives Move Cal U Forward

In her Feb. 13 convocation address to faculty and staff, President Geraldine M. Jones focused on a number of campus-wide initiatives that will have longstanding effects on the University. Work is already under way to define a new brand identity, renew Cal U's emphasis on customer service, create a self-study document for the Middle State Commission on Higher Education and create a new Campus Master Plan.

"The Cal U family of the past and present has built an institution that we all can take pride in," the President said. "We will continue to embrace and focus

on our strengths, which are many."

Cal U's search for a clear brand identity began in fall, the President explained, when the University engaged Carnegie Dartlet, a nationally recognized reputation management firm.

During the fall semester, Carnegie Dartlet consultants conducted 10 live workshops and one more online, collecting over 20,000 data points after hearing from more than 260 University members.

In addition, Carnegie Dartlet is leading workshops to evaluate the University's visual identity – its logos –

including the Vulcan athletics logo.

In the past, President Jones explained, Cal U worked with advertising firms that looked at the marketplace, then tried to reshape California's identity so it would fit a particular mold.

"Carnegie Dartlet works differently, because your responses are the heart of its process," she said. "Instead of dressing up our image, Carnegie Dartlet is helping us see our University clearly and authentically, so we can make the most of who we truly are."

The firm will share the results of its

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Political Expert Returns for Midterms

With midterm elections nearing, the American Democracy Project at Cal U takes an early look at what voters might experience.

Alan Abramowitz, the Alben W. Barkley professor of political science at Emory University, returns to campus to discuss "Will the Democrats Catch a Wave? The Outlook for the 2018 Midterm Elections."

The free event, open to the University community and to the public, will take place at 11 a.m. March 22 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

"The 2018 midterm election promises to be one of the most consequential in contemporary history," said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus director of the American Democracy Project and a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.

"There is no one better than Alan Abramowitz to explain the current political landscape and forecast the election results."

A popular speaker at Cal U, Abramowitz has written or co-written seven books and dozens of articles dealing with political parties, elections and voting behavior in the United States.

His most recent book, *The Great Alignment* (2018, Yale University Press), offers an in-depth analysis of America's political polarization and the forces that led to a Trump presidency.

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Dr. Alan Abramowitz will provide midterm election insights at 1 p.m. March 22 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

National Artist Joins 'Joyfest'

Nationally known gospel artist Lamar Campbell will be the featured performer when Cal U's Young and Gifted Gospel Choir hosts its annual Joyfest gospel concert.

The Heritage Gospel Choral of Pittsburgh and the Coatesville (Pa.) High School Choir will join Campbell and Cal U's gospel singers onstage at 7 p.m. March 24 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Admission to Joyfest 2018 is free. Tickets are not required, and the public is welcome to attend. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Campbell is the founder of Lamar Campbell & Spirit of Praise. The choir made its debut on Tyscot Records in 1995

with "Ready." Three years later the group moved to EMI Gospel, and six of its albums have made Billboard magazine's Gospel Albums chart.

Among Campbell's chart-making albums are "I Need Your Spirit," "When I Think About You," "Confessions of a Worshipper" and "Open the Sky."

Before he formed his large choir, Campbell was known as a songwriter for a number of groups, including GMWA Women of Worship.

"The (Cal U) choir is excited to have someone of Lamar Campbell's caliber coming to sing with us," said Dr. Randy Tillmatt, director of the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir and an assistant professor in the Department of Music and Theatre.

"His songs are known to produce a worship experience, and I am sure those who attend Joyfest will witness this."

Founded in the 1970s, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir is open to all Cal U students. Its repertoire includes traditional spirituals and African-American gospel music.

At Joyfest, choir members have the opportunity to learn from and perform with a gospel music professional.

Campbell is a role model for Cal U students to emulate, Tillmatt said.

"I believe he epitomizes what a student can become after leaving this fine institution of higher learning."



Lamar Campbell

German Badge Tests March 22-23

Nearly 40 active-duty, reserve and National Guard members of the U.S. military will participate in testing for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge on March 22-23.

"This is the sixth year the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at Cal U has organized the testing.

"The badge represents honor and pride, and we are proud to again host such a unique and prestigious event," said Capt. Robert Prabh, director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"Cal U has a culture that embraces service members and veterans."

A decoration of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the badge is one of the few foreign awards that U.S. military members may wear on their uniform.

This prestigious award has been available since 1972 to U.S. service members who meet rigorous proficiency standards. All eligible members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard may compete for the award.

To earn the badge, candidates must meet benchmarks in swimming, running and other physical activities; qualify on the pistol range; pass a first-aid test; and complete a 7.5-mile road march while carrying a backpack weighing at least 33 pounds.



Cal U student Nicholas Miller (right) runs along the lead pack as part of the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge testing last year. This year's test of skill and endurance will be held March 22-23.

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge is awarded in gold, silver or bronze, depending on the results of the pistol qualification, the first-aid test and the road march.

Basic fitness tests take place

in Herron Hall and at Adamson Stadium. The marksmanship test will be held at the Westmoreland County Community College Public Safety Training Center in Smithton, Pa., and a road march will take place on the Yough

River Trail, beginning at Cedar Creek Park.

A ceremony recognizing participants who complete the badge requirements will be held 2:30 p.m. March 23 at the training center in Smithton.



Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society will host its annual Outdoor Bash and Wild Game Dinner at 6 p.m. March 24 at the Richesville Fire Department.

Wild Game on the Menu March 24

Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society will host its 21st annual Outdoor Bash and Wild Game Dinner at 6 p.m. March 24 at the Richesville (Pa.) Volunteer Fire Department. Doors open at 5 p.m.

In cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society and Local No. 1 of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the chapter will offer a variety of game dishes, such as deer, elk, bear, pheasant, rabbit, wild turkey, duck and goose, beaver, fish, turtle and alligator.

Outdoor gear, artwork and free passes to future wildlife-related activities will be raffled off and awarded as door prizes throughout the evening, while guests enjoy a "wild" array of foods.

Cost is \$20; tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door.

This fundraiser allows student

members of The Wildlife Society to participate in hands-on workshops and attend conferences, including the National Wildlife Society Conference, where they can network with wildlife biology professionals.

"This is a very important event for our Wildlife Society students, but it's also a great time for anyone who appreciates outdoor recreation and wildlife," said Dr. Carol Bocetti, club adviser and professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

"Those who attend are treated to wonderful food and enjoy the wildlife camaraderie."

To purchase tickets, email Bocetti at bocetti@cau.edu, or email Cal U Wildlife Society student officers Luke Gray (gray015@cau.edu) or Jake Newbill (new0709@cau.edu).

Major Initiatives Move Cal U Forward

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work with the entire Cal U community on March 27. But the University's "personality" won't come as a surprise, the President said.

"As an institution, we are resilient and proud. We are energetic, supportive and caring. And we are driven to make a difference."

In addition to redefining Cal U's brand identity, the University community can expect an even more intentional commitment to customer service — an initiative led by the Office of Human Resources.

"Efficient, consistent, customer service is an important part of the initial on-campus experience, and it plays a role in every interaction that follows," President Jones explained.

"And consider this: Everyone is a customer — even our fellow employees. When we cultivate a positive, respectful and inclusive atmosphere, we make our University a better place to work."

Cal U also is beginning a two-year self-study to explore how the University complies with the seven standards and 15 requirements affiliated with accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The process begins with Cal U examining its mission and strategic plan, and it culminates with recommendations from a peer-review team that will visit

campus in spring 2020.

Associate provost Dr. Len Colelli is leading the self-study, and the President thanked the faculty, staff and students who have accepted roles on committees involved in the project.

Cal U has been a Middle States member since 1951. The last self-study was completed in 2010.

The University also has formed a board to oversee development of a new Campus Master Plan, which serves as a guide for construction and renovation programs on University property.

Developed over the next nine months, the plan also will determine the most efficient and effective use of classroom, laboratory and office space.

Included in the plan is the ongoing renovation of Coover Hall, an \$11 million project funded by the state Department of General Services. Classes are expected to resume in Coover in 2019.

With spring enrollment holding steady and new academic programs poised to begin, the President expressed confidence in the University's future.

"We are advancing our reputation for excellent teaching and quality programs. We are ready to be recognized as a truly student-centric University," she told the convocation audience.

"The decisions we make today will resonate for years to come. And you, our faculty and staff, are the engines that power our progress."

Spring Break Schedule

No classes will be held from March 12-17 as Cal U marks spring break for students. All University offices will be open during the break.

Classes resume March 19. Residence Halls will close at 8 p.m. Friday, March 9. They will re-open at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 18.



Cal U welcomes the public to four robotics events this spring. The competitions will include many students from local school districts.

Robots Return to Cal U

This spring, thousands of middle and high school students from western Pennsylvania and across the country will pack their toolkits and bring their custom-designed robots to campus.

Cal U welcomes the public to four robotics events this season. Admission to all events is free.

March 17: SeaPerch Underwater Robotics. About 200 students from the region's middle schools and high schools compete to build an underwater robotic rover and test its performance in the Hamer Hall pool. The project is organized in collaboration with the Navy Recruiting District, Pittsburgh.

March 22-24: FIRST® Robotics,

Greater Pittsburgh Regional Competition. In the Convocation

Center arena, more than 1,100 high school students compete at **FIRST® Power Up**, putting their 120-pound, custom-designed robots to the test in a challenge that recalls classic arcade games. Teams from China join U.S. competitors from Pennsylvania, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri and West Virginia.

April 12-14: BotsIQ, Southwestern Pennsylvania Finals. Teams from 85 regional schools and community organizations battle for dominance in gladiator-style matches in the Convocation Center arena. Sparks fly as the 15-pound 'bots clash, smash

and try to trash the competition. A free **STEAM Showcase** from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 14 spotlights science, technology, engineering, arts and math in the region; it includes a visit from the Intermediate Unit 1 Mobile Fab Lab.

May 18-19: National Robotics League. The action is fast and furious when about 70 high school teams from across the country, including some southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ competitors, send their robots into battle inside the Convocation Center arena.

Faculty or staff who wish to set up a display during the events at the Convocation Center may contact Becky McMillen, director of Conference Services, at mcmillen_b@calu.edu

See Art Up Close on D.C. Trip

Spots are available for the Department of Art and Language's 12th annual trip to Washington, D.C.

Jim Bové, associate professor of the Department of Art and Languages, organizes the one-day bus trip each semester. The excursion is open to all students, alumni, staff and faculty at Cal U.

"This trip gives our students and the University community the opportunity to experience one of the largest art collections in the entire world," Bové said.

The bus will drop students off at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, located on the National Mall. Maps will be provided.

The Smithsonian offers 11 museums and galleries on the Mall.

Vulcan Village residents can board the bus at 5:30 p.m. March 29 at the bus stop off Route 88. The bus will pick up students on the main campus and depart at 6 a.m. from Parking Lot 8, in front of the University Police station.

Arrival time at the museum is scheduled for 11 a.m. The bus will depart from the museum at 5:15 p.m. for an expected return to campus by 11 p.m. There will be one rest stop each way.

Cost is \$25 for those who are not members of the Art Club. Travelers pay for their own meals. Museum admission is free.

Reservations are limited to the first 80 seats. To register, sign up at the Department of Art and Languages, Vulcan Hall, Room 100.

For details, email bove@calu.edu.

Graduate School Open Houses Set

California University's School of Graduate Studies and Research will hold open house events on March 21 and June 13.

Both will take place from 6-8 p.m. in the Kara Alumni House, on campus.

The graduate school offers both face-to-face classes and master's degree programs delivered 100% online.

At the open house, future students can meet with faculty, financial aid staff, students and alumni to learn how a Cal U graduate program can help to enhance resumes and advance careers.

Guests also can tour the campus, learn about graduate assistantships and apply at no charge.

Cal U offers more than 95 graduate programs, including more than 60 delivered online. Certificate and licensure programs are available in a variety of disciplines.

Doctoral programs are offered in criminal justice and health science and exercise leadership.

"The open houses are an ideal way for prospective students to get a personalized glimpse of the many advanced learning opportunities that Cal U offers," said Dr. William Biddington, acting dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

"Cal U's traditional master's degree programs and the array of degree and certificate programs offered through Global Online, may be the ticket to a better job, a bigger paycheck or a leadership position in one's chosen field. "Earning a degree can be affordable in terms of both time and money."

The open house sessions are free, but online registration is required. For details and to register, visit www.calu.edu/openhouse.

For more information about the School of Graduate Studies and Research, call 724-938-4187 or email gradschool@calu.edu.



Soul Food Celebration

Senior Jazmin Richardson, a business administration major, holds a plate of ribs with a side of greens at the Soul Food Luncheon, held Feb. 19 at the Gold Rush Culinary Center. AVI Dining and Catering Services sponsored the traditional meal, which was part of the University's Black History Month celebration in February. Many of the menu items were created from recipes and stories contributed by members of the Cal U community.

Expert Returns for Midterms

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Abramowitz is one of the nation's leading election forecasters, whose "Time for Change" model has correctly predicted the popular vote winner in every presidential election since 1988, including the 2016 election.

He last spoke at Cal U in November 2016, when he joined a panel of political experts in an election analysis forum just one week after the 2016 presidential election.

His talk gives the Cal U community an opportunity to hear unique political perspectives

from a national expert, Blumberg said.

"Alan Abramowitz will not only be informative and entertaining, but his insight, quick wit and broad-based expertise get people talking and thinking."

The American Democratic Project (ADP) is a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens.

Co-sponsors of this ADP event at California University are the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs and the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.

Athlete's Journey Leads to Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: Cal U will hold its 23rd annual Athletic Hall of Fame dinner at 6 p.m. April 21 in the Performance Center, inside the Natoli Student Center. For reservations, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418. In the coming weeks, the Journal will profile each of the three inductees.

The airline lost Inga Chilingaryan-Babakhanyan's luggage on her first trip from Armenia to Cal U. But once she settled in, she quickly found a winning academic and athletic formula in southwestern Pennsylvania.

A native of Yerevan, Armenia, Babakhanyan was a three-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-American selection for Cal U's women's tennis program from 2005-2006 through 2007-2008.

After attending California State University Northridge for a year at age 16, Babakhanyan returned home to Armenia for two years. Always adventurous and wanting to experience the East Coast, she seized the opportunity when former Vulcans tennis coach Pablo Montana offered her a scholarship.

"I had no idea where I was going to go, but something inside of me just felt like this was going to be the right school to finish my education, play tennis and hopefully finish the school," she said. "Pablo told me about all of the good

academic programs Cal U offered, and said that when I joined the team we are going to take off and I would do amazing things."

Not only did she become Cal U's first of nine women's tennis All-Americans, Babakhanyan was also the 2006 and 2007 PSAC-West Women's Tennis Athlete of the Year and the 2008 ITA Senior Regional Player of the Year.

She helped the Vulcans win their first two of an unprecedented 10 straight PSAC team championships, from 2007-2016, along with two NCAA Division II East Regional titles and a national quarterfinal appearance.

Babakhanyan finished with an 85-9 singles career mark. Her doubles career record was 80-10.

During her three years, Cal U compiled a 71-14 cumulative record, including a 5-45 mark over her junior and senior seasons.

A Dean's List student, she earned her bachelor's degree from Cal U in fine arts in 2006 and then master's degrees in health science and business management in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

"I didn't have anything but my hand luggage for several weeks," Babakhanyan said, laughing as she recalled that initial flight to Pittsburgh. "I had never experienced the small-town setting before, but within a week I fell in love with Cal U, the school and the people."

Today, Babakhanyan is a private tennis coach and a real estate agent at



Three-time All-American Inga Chilingaryan-Babakhanyan will become the third women's tennis player to be inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

JohnHart Real Estate, headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif. She and her husband, Mike, also an agent with JohnHart, live in Burbank, Calif. The couple has two children: Alexander, 3, and Bella, 1. Montana calls Babakhanyan "the cornerstone" of the winning tennis program.

"Her accomplishments on the court are well documented, but Inga's success in the corporate world while raising a family shows what a talented, quality person she is. She's the consummate student-athlete."

Babakhanyan credits Cal U with helping her to achieve a successful career.

"Those were definitely some of the best years of my life. Cal U taught me all of my independence, how to set goals and work hard to accomplish what you want to in life."

Babakhanyan becomes the third women's tennis player to earn Cal U Hall of Fame honors.

"To be honest, it was a very emotional moment for me when I was notified," she said. "At first I could not process it, because it's been 10 years ago since I played. But then I must say it brought a tear to my eye, and all those Cal U moments flashed before my eyes. "This is amazing."

Cross-Country Teams Grade Well

Cal U's cross-country teams have been honored for their academic prowess by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

The women's program was listed as a USTFCCA All-Academic Team for the ninth consecutive year.

The women achieved a 3.76 cumulative team grade-point average in the fall — the fourth-highest score among the 157 NCAA Division II women's teams recognized by the USTFCCA.

The men's team earned All-Academic status for a 11th consecutive year with a 3.09 cumulative GPA. The association recognized 119 NCAA Division II men's teams.

In order to qualify for the honor, a team must post a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher and score at the NCAA regional championships.

"Obviously we are proud of our teams," said Daniel Caulfield, Cal U's cross-country and track and field coach. "But it's expected that student-athletes here at Cal U have an immense desire to learn, as well as to improve and excel in competition."



Junior Jaclyn Reinbold's 4.0 grade-point average during the Fall 2017 semester helped the Vulcans rank fourth among Division II women's cross-country teams.

In all, six women runners received All-Academic status — seniors Julie Friend and Summer Hill, juniors Alyson Pierce and Jaclyn Reinbold, sophomore Shae Grinnell, and first-year Megan Bateman.

On the men's team, sophomore Joe Ulliano earned individual USTFCCA All-Academic

accolades for the first time in his career.

To be eligible for the individual award, a student-athlete must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 and finish among the top 30 percent at the NCAA regional championships or within the top half of the competitors at the NCAA National Championships.

Campus BRIEFS

Students, Families Visit March 24

On March 24, Cal U will welcome students and their families to the second Open House of the spring semester. Registration begins at 8 a.m. on the third floor of the Natoli Student Center.

The program is designed to introduce prospective undergraduates to Cal U and to give students already accepted a chance to explore and experience campus. Students and families will learn about programs of study, financial aid and scholarship opportunities, housing, and student life. They can talk with students and admissions counselors, meet faculty members, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village. The last scheduled spring open house will be held April 28.

Find more information online at calu.edu/visit, or register online at calu.edu/lp/spring-open-house. Prospective students may contact the Office of Admissions at 724-938-4404 or email admissions@calu.edu.

Trustees Meet March 7

The California University Council of Trustees will hold its first quarterly meeting of 2018 at 7 p.m. March 7 in the President's conference room, Old Main, Room 110.

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