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Attorney to Address Scholars

Attorney Cara Davis '00 will deliver the honors address when Cal U recognizes more than 1,400 of its most accomplished scholars at Honors Convocation, 2 p.m. April 1 in the Convocation Center.

The University recognizes academic excellence on the part of master's, bachelor's and associate degree-seeking students by honoring Presidential Scholars at this annual event.

In addition to meeting other requirements, Presidential Scholars carry an undergraduate grade-point average of 3.25 or higher; graduate students must have a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

Both full- and part-time students are eligible for the award.

The names of qualifying students will be announced individually. Each student will receive a personal greeting from University President Geraldine M. Jones, along with a certificate and a special Presidential Scholar pin.

President Jones will preside over the Convocation, and provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart will introduce the platform party. Dr. Sheri Boyle will serve as faculty mace-bearer. Dr. M.G. Aune will be the herald.

Two faculty recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards for Excellence will be recognized at the convocation. Award winners are Dr. Cassandra L. Kuba, for excellence in teaching; and Dr. John Nass, for excellence in service. Each recipient will receive a medalion and an award, plus a scholarship to be awarded in his or her area of study.

About the speaker

In keeping with tradition, a distinguished graduate will address the scholars.

Davis is the principal attorney of the Davis Legal Group, a law firm she formed in 2010. She provides legal advice to oil- and gas-industry clients who are relocating to southwestern Pennsylvania from other parts of the country.

In 2011 Davis expanded the firm into Ohio and West Virginia. Her practice continues to grow with the delivery of legal services to institutional hedge funds and global land management companies.

Davis is passionate about educating others, both locally and regionally, about the intricacies and nuances of the oil and gas industry.



Attorney Cara Davis '00 will be the guest speaker at Honors Convocation at 2 p.m. April 1 in the Convocation Center.

She is an instructor in Cal U's Department of Professional Studies, where she teaches about legal topics in the online land management certificate program.

A lifelong resident of southwestern Pennsylvania, Davis earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Cal U in 2000. In 2003 she graduated from the Duquesne University School of Law.

Davis and her husband, Brian Teslovich '95, live in Belle Vernon with their three children, Hannah, Eli and Elizabeth.

Cal U Inks Agreement with FBI Academy Associates

California University of Pennsylvania has become an academic alliance partner of the FBI National Academy Associates (FBNAA), joining a select group of just 15 colleges and universities across the United States.

Through this alliance, some of the nation's top law enforcement officers will be able to transfer college credits directly into the 100% online Master of Science in Legal Studies, where they can specialize in criminal justice, homeland security, or law and public policy.

The FBNAA's membership consists of state and local law enforcement officers who have completed an intensive 10-week leadership training program at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va.

Admission to the FBI National Academy is highly selective. In order to attend, officers must be nominated by their state or local agencies and approved for training by the FBI special agents-in-charge whose field offices have jurisdiction in the regions where they serve.

"FBI National Academy graduates are highly qualified law enforcement leaders who have been selected for their outstanding accomplishments in their law enforcement agencies," says associate professor Dr. Jeff Magers, a former police officer and FBI National Academy graduate who teaches in the Department of Professional Studies.

"Graduates are typically oriented toward obtaining additional training and education."

FBI National Academy students receive college credit from the University of Virginia for the rigorous coursework completed at the academy. Upon graduation, these law enforcement leaders are eligible to join the FBNAA.

"In becoming an academic alliance

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Rock Madness

Cal U students (from left) Sam Stewart, Jerry Kozz and Jake Newbill put together a puzzle revealing the new name of the Heron Recreation and Fitness Center's rock-climbing wall. Vulcan's Peak was christened during the Rock Madness event held at the fitness center earlier this month.



Mentors Go to Middle School

Three Cal U students on different career paths make the same journey each week to mentor middle-school students.

Sophomores Amanda Andrews, Lindsey Rush and Leighann Wharton work in Cal U's Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning.

Through an agreement with the Washington Family Center, each of them spends one day a week at Charleroi

Middle School, where they assist with the WFC's LEARN (Linking, Educating and Renewing Neighborhoods) after-school program.

Funded by the 21st Century Community Learning Center and part of Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, the program offers mentoring opportunities for older students and adults.

Mentors assist LEARN teachers and

help students with various skills. They assist with homework, guide hands-on activities and strengthen students' math, reading, and computer skills.

Andrews, a secondary education major who plans to teach math, has been working with students in grades 6-8 since fall 2015.

"I plan on student teaching, and being able to tutor these students, especially in math, really helps," she said.

"Watching their skills improve over these past two years has been rewarding."

Rush is an English major who aspires to be a writer.

"The connections you make with the kids makes this so much fun," she said.

"They are old enough to know what they are talking about, but at the same time young enough where they will say something [surprising]. They're a riot."

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Enrollment Topic for Trustees

At its first quarterly meeting of 2017, the University's Council of Trustees heard optimistic updates about Cal U's efforts to bolster enrollment.

University President Geraldine M. Jones informed the Trustees that after a year of data collection and analysis, the implementation phase of Cal U's Strategic Enrollment Plan (SEP) launched on Feb. 9.

More than 60 administrators, faculty, staff and students were involved in developing the 70-page SEP report, which lays out plans to better identify, attract and retain qualified students.

Some of the 10 "action plans" for increasing enrollment are under way. The University is optimizing the scholarship awards process to recruit new students; increasing its marketing efforts, especially within the five-county region; enhancing the campus visit experience for future students; and developing new academic programs in high-demand fields.

"We have taken the first steps, and I am optimistic that our SEP initiatives are going to pay off," President Jones said. "This is a proactive, strategic plan driven by facts rather than past practices."

The full report and supporting data are available to the campus community, which also receives a regular e-newsletter from project lead Dr. Stan Komack, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

Cal U's spring 2017 headcount declined about 1 percent compared to spring 2016, but the President and

provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart concurred that enrollment figures for the fall semester look promising.

Freshman applications and acceptances have improved by 13 percent or more compared to the same time last year, and the number of potential students making deposits has increased even more dramatically.

"We are really encouraged by these early numbers as we move into the implementation phase of the strategic enrollment plan," Barnhart said.

In other business:

- Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, received approval from the trustees for a number of action items, including an updated five-year capital spending plan that prioritizes construction of a new science building to replace Rich and New Science halls.

The capital spending plan, which must be approved annually, sets the new building's cost at more than \$37 million in State System funds. The plan also calls for renovation and expansion of Keystone Hall.

In addition, trustees approved a student fee of \$27 per semester to cover the operation and maintenance of Herron Recreation and Fitness Center. The Student Center fee was increased by \$42 per semester, and the base price for meal plans was increased by 2 percent to 3.25 percent, depending on the plan.

The fitness center and student center are auxiliary facilities. Thorn explained, and under a Board of Governors policy, they are required to be self-supporting. This is the first time that a fee has been

charged for the fitness center since its renovation and expansion in 2008. The student center and meal plan increases are the first in two years.

• Dr. Nancy Piniardi, vice president for Student Affairs, reported on a \$30,000 grant received through Gov. Tom Wolf's "It's On Us" campaign, which focuses on reducing sexual assault.

Nancy Skobel, associate dean for Student Affairs and director of the Women's Center and the END Violence Center, said the project encourages bystanders to step in to protect others and prevent sexual violence. The grant also covers training for police and others who interact with victims.

• In his report on Cal U's marketing efforts, Barnhart noted that the University again is advertising on television. The "World Is Waiting" campaign highlights academic programs and encourages future students to apply or attend open house events. The ads will air through April on WPGI, KDCA and WTAE during primetime, news and sports programming.

• Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office has raised nearly \$2.2 million in donations and pledges in the fiscal year that began July 1, 2016. This total includes \$1.66 million in cash donations.

He also reminded the trustees about the June 12 Cal U Golf Outing at Uniontown Country Club. The 36th annual event supports athletic scholarships.

The Council of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on June 7.



As part of Women's History Month, Dr. Jo Ann Jankoski, an associate professor at Penn State-Fayette, the Eberly Campus, will discuss human trafficking at 9:30 a.m. March 28 in Duda Hall, Room 113.

Talk Examines Human Trafficking

Cal U continues its Women's History Month focus on social justice with a talk about human trafficking by Dr. Jo Ann Jankoski, an associate professor at Penn State-Fayette, the Eberly Campus.

The free event begins at 9:30 a.m. March 28, in Eberly Hall, Room 110. The talk is open to the public.

Jankoski teaches the Department of Health and Human Development. A member of the Uniontown Auxiliary Police, she also is active in the Fayette County Disaster Crisis Outreach and Referral Team and Suicide Task Force; Domestic Violence Services of Fayette County; Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services; the American Red Cross; and the Crime Victims Center.

In 2009 she was honored for her civic endeavors by the state House of Representatives. She also has received the Community Activist Award from the National Alliance of the Mentally III and the Department of Public Welfare, and the Humanitarian Award from the Fayette County Branch of the NAACP.

Cal U student Bethany Wombucker, a graduate assistant in the women's studies program, arranged Jankoski's appearance.

Wombucker graduated from Penn State-Fayette in August with concurrent degrees in human development/family studies and psychology. She has taken a number of courses with Jankoski, who inspired her to volunteer in the community.

"She's so active and really knows how to motivate people," said Wombucker, who is pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Cal U.

"Dr. Jankoski is probably the reason I am in graduate school. Her passion, energy and knowledge will make a positive impact here."

Women's History Month 2017 activities are sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost, the women's studies program, the Department of Social Work and the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute.

Mentors Go To Middle School

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Wharton, an anthropology major, brought her Cal U studies to the middle school.

"I enjoyed bringing in a plastic cast of a skeleton to teach them about human bones," she said.

"I have ideas in the back of my head for doing more things with anthropology outside later this spring, when it is warmer."

Cal U is in its third year with the WCF's after-school program in Charleroi.

"The mentors from Cal U have been so helpful," said program director Jenelle Sawicki, a supervisor at WCF. "We do a lot of small-group work, and the Cal U students get right in there and make an impact."

"It's been a beneficial, valuable experience for all involved."

Since Cal U became involved, the after-school program has grown into more than a tutoring session. With guidance from Tim Miller, the WCF's education specialist, the program has adopted a STEAM-based curriculum — science, technology, engineering and math, together with art.

"He has really strengthened and broadened the program," Andrews said. "He offers a variety of activities the kids can choose from. They can sharpen their skills with the activities they prefer."

Miller, a 1997 Cal U graduate, said the response to the STEAM-based curriculum had been fantastic. After a day of listening and learning in classes, the middle school students enjoy the hands-on activities and "engineering



Cal U sophomore Amanda Andrews works with Zack Austin, 13, on a STEAM project at Charleroi Middle School as part of an after-school volunteer program.

thought processes" Miller provides.

He speaks highly of the Cal U students and the role they play.

"They are a huge help to me," he said. "Not only are they an extra set of eyes for me, but they've been bringing in other activities on their own. They are not asked to do that, but they tend to go above and beyond the call of duty, which just adds to the kids' experience."

Cal U's students are quite popular with the children, Miller added.

"The kids just think our college mentors are the coolest things in the world. They really look up to them, and the college students have lived up to that. They're really very good role models."

Cal U students who register through OrgSync are welcome to accompany

Andrews, Rush or Wharton to Charleroi to earn volunteer hours for their Activities Transcripts.

"Our partnership with the Washington Family Center and involvement with the after-school program has provided our students with an ideal way to make a significant difference in the community," said Diane Hatbrosck, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning.

All three Cal U students hope to return to Charleroi and the after-school program next fall if their schedules allow.

"I am not going to school for teaching, but ... working with these kids gives you day such variety," Rush said. "It is just so enjoyable."

Free Counseling Sessions Offered for Vets

Cal U is offering free services to military veterans and their families through the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Area residents who have served in any branch of the military are eligible to attend counseling sessions. Their dependents and family members also may receive counseling. University enrollment is not required to receive these services.

Appointments are available from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursdays on these dates: March 30; April 6, 13, 20 and 28; and May 4.

Licensed clinical social worker Abbie Lieberum, from the McKeesport Vet Center, part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, meets with clients on the third floor of Mandarino Library, near Cal U's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Pay-by-meter parking is available nearby in Lot 17, behind the Natali Student Union.

Services include individual and marriage counseling, readjustment



Cal U is offering free services to military veterans and their families through the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

counseling, and counseling for drug and alcohol issues, bereavement, and military sexual trauma.

Counseling also is available, as

needed, for Cal U veterans and community members with loved ones who have been deployed.

"We have developed a relationship

with the Vet Center in McKeesport that will provide service to the more than 200,000 veterans who live in southwestern Pennsylvania," says Capt. Robert Prah, director of Military and Veterans Affairs at Cal U.

"We are fortunate to have a partnership between Cal U and the Vet Center."

For more information about the free program at Cal U, or to request an appointment, call the University's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 724-938-4076 or email veterans@calu.edu.

Veterans, dependents and family members also may request special appointments by contacting Abbie Lieberum at the McKeesport Vet Center, 412-678-7704.

"The services the Vet Center provide is not only important to our Cal U students' success both on and off campus, but also to our community veterans, service members and their families," added Prah.



Friday Fish Fry

Blaze, Cal U's mascot, and members of the Vulcan football team help to prepare sandwiches at a recent fish fry organized by the California Volunteer Fire Department. Taking a break from their kitchen duties are (from left) football players DeVonte Suter and Luke Hirschbach; Blaze; California firefighter Tim Flynn; Cal U's director of bands, Dr. Frank Stetar; and football players Mike Keir and Luke Smorey. Gary Dunn, head football coach for the Vulcans, has encouraged his team members to perform community service throughout the year.

Conference Looks at Addictions

With support from the Washington County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Cal U will present a free conference addressing prevention and treatment strategies for addictive disorders.

The April 7 program is designed for novice and seasoned professionals, as well as anyone with an interest in the topic.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Sessions are planned from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. in the south wing of the Convocation Center.

Previous conferences supported by the commission centered primarily on gambling because of the number of casinos in the area.

"We've widened the scope this year," said conference co-organizer Donna George, the AOD (alcohol and other drugs) Coalition coordinator for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

"The (commission) wants to include information on other addictions ... because just about everyone has a friend or family member who struggles with addiction."

Assistant professor Dr. John Massella, a licensed clinician who practices at the Cal U Counseling Center, will open the event with an overview of addictive disorders.

Jody Bechtold, director of clinical partnerships at Quartet Health, will close the morning session with a presentation on screening for gambling and other addictions.

"This conference will give excellent insight into not only addictive disorders and behavior, but also treatment, approaches and outcomes," said co-organizer Rachael Michaels, AOD specialist at Cal U.

Afternoon breakout sessions will cover a variety of topics:

- Sex and Internet addiction, with Dr. Dave Delmonico, of Duquesne University's Counselor Education Department.
 - Multicultural considerations, with Dr. Rueben Brock, of Cal U's Department of Psychology.
 - v and Robert Mehalk, director of Cal U's Office for Students with Disabilities.
 - Addictive disorders and crime, with Dr. Emily Sweitzer, of Cal U's Department of History, Politics and Society.
 - Screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for adolescents, with Dr. Thao Pham and Dr. Rosalie Smiley, of Cal U's Department of Social Work.
- Seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. Online registration is required through [OgSync](http://ogsync.com), at <https://ogsync.com/61531/forms/241111>.

Cal U Inks Agreement With FBI Alliance

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partner, we are able to obtain increased access to FBINA members to attract them to come to Cal U and complete their graduate education," Magers explained.

"This partnership will greatly enhance our recruitment of law enforcement leaders seeking to earn a graduate degree in legal studies at Cal U."

As an academic alliance partner, Cal U will accept as many as 12 graduate credit hours from eligible FBINA members who enroll in the M.S. in Legal Studies program.

Cal U's 100% online legal studies program allows students to complete advanced coursework in three areas of concentration — criminal justice, homeland security, or law and public policy — from anywhere in the world.

The online master's degree program is taught by faculty from Cal U's Department of Professional Studies, which fostered the agreement with the FBINA. Active members of the U.S. military, members of the National Guard and Reserves, as well as military veterans, also may be eligible for Cal U's military tuition discount program.

To learn more about the M.S. in Legal Studies at California University of Pennsylvania, contact Dr. Christina Tava, chair of the Professional Studies Department, at tava@calu.edu.

'Requiem' Rescheduled

The University Choir and Cal U Orchestra's performance of Dan Fogel's *Requiem for the Living* has been rescheduled.

The new performance date is 7 p.m. April 11 in Old Main Chapel.

The California Singers, the University's string ensemble and other instrumentalists also will appear.

The free performance is open to the University community and to the public.

'Hairy' Costume Design Wins Award

Theater major Annabel Lorence hopes her costume design skills will someday take her from Steele Hall to a career in professional theater.

A third-place award in the costume design competition at SETC, the Southeastern Theatre Conference, affirms that her abilities align with her passion.

Earlier this month, Lorence joined seven other Cal U students and four faculty members from the Department of Music and Theatre at SETC's 66th annual conference, in Lexington, Ky.

The event brings more than 4,000 SETC members together for four days of workshops, talks, performance festivals, auditions, college recruiting sessions and job interviews.

This was Lorence's first theater conference, and the first time a Cal U student has competed at SETC.

She was among more than 30 competitors in the costume design category.

"Annabel's strong showing ... certainly raises the awareness of Cal U's program," said Dr. Michele Pagen, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre.

Each costume design competitor was given a 30 by 30-inch space to display his or her work. Lorence filled her space with research photos, design renderings and photos of her costumes onstage in



Graduating senior Annabel Lorence took third place in the costume design competition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

Cal U's fall production of *Wiley and the Hairy Man*.

Actual costume pieces — a hat and a hairy hand and foot — also were presented to the judges.

Lorence was one of seven competitors called back for adjudication and on-the-spot feedback.

Among the four judges was costume designer Alejo Vietti, whose Broadway

credits include *Holiday Inn*, *The New Irving Berlin Musical*, *Beautiful*, *The Carol King Musical*, and *Alligance*, for which he received a Drama Desk Award nomination.

"It was a packed room, and to be honest, it was pretty nerve-wracking to interact with a professional who has made his career in what I hope to do," Lorence said.

"Alejo was a very tough, strict critic."

After the competition, Lorence interviewed with a number of graduate-level theater programs.

"It was really wonderful to meet many people who are also studying various aspects of theater," she said. "I learned new skills and techniques from workshops, along with making a lot of good contacts."

Although she hasn't finalized her graduate school plans, Lorence says costume design will be her focus. Design classes with instructor Sabrina Hykes-Davis and hands-on experience as a work-study student for Joni Farquhar, Cal U's costume shop coordinator, helped to cement her decision.

"The education and training I received here prepared me to be on par with some of the best designers at the undergraduate level," said Lorence.

"From what I saw in Kentucky ... my designs were at least at the same caliber. I'm excited to be moving forward."

Farquhar has high hopes for Lorence, who started working in the Steele Hall costume shop in fall 2015, during a production of *The Sausification of Romeo and Juliet*.

"Annabel is very driven, and when she develops an idea, she explores it," said Farquhar. "She always looks for the best way a costume can be portrayed. She is very creative."



Cal U students (from left) Trevor Kiser, Annabel Lorence, Amelita Winkler, Sidney Popielarski, Nick Franczak, Joshua Myers, Mark Barrett and Kayla Grimm rehearse for "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

'Spelling Bee' a Winner

The Department of Music and Theatre continues its spring season with the award-winning musical comedy *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

Performances are scheduled at 7 p.m. March 30-31, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 1 in the Blaney Theater in Steele Hall.

The tale of six quirky adolescents finding joy, heartache and purpose in competing at the regional spelling bee features a touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a vibrant score by William Finn.

Directing the play is Dr. Michele Pagen, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre. *Spelling Bee* is the ideal musical for a small cast and the 150-seat "black box" venue, she said.

"This show's humor is sometimes naughty,

sometimes sharp, but never offensive."

Junior Alexis Hawk is the production's stage manager. Assistant stage manager is Betty Kline, a future Cal U student who is a senior at Waynesburg High School.

Two Cal U sophomores are handling backstage duties: Eddie Kuntz is the sound designer and Aayana Sikeri is designing costumes.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee 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.

Campus BRIEFS

Students, Families Visit April 8

On April 8, Cal U welcomes students and their families to the final Academic Open House of the spring semester. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Lounge inside the Natoli Student Center.

The program, held from 10 a.m. 3 p.m., is designed to introduce prospective students to Cal U and to give students already accepted a chance to explore the campus.

For more information or to register online, visit www.calu.edu. Prospective students may contact the Office of Admissions at 724-938-4404 or email admissions@calu.edu.

Cal U Appears Again on PCN

Cal U will be part of the April 2 and April 9 episodes of *Infinite Opportunities*, the 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. Saturdays. It features students, faculty staff and initiatives at State System universities, including Cal U.

The April 2 episode will explore health and science. Participating in a panel discussion will be Dr. Jennifer Wilburn, an assistant professor who teaches in the mechatronics engineering technology program.

"Putting Knowledge into Practice" will be the theme of the April 9 episode, whose panelists include Rhonda Gifford, director of Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center. A video segment will highlight the center's work.

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.pashe.edu.

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