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Alumnus Will Address Top Scholars at Convocation

David D. Gustovich '83 will deliver the honors address when California University recognizes more than 1,300 of its most accomplished scholars at an Honors Convocation 2 p.m. April 2 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 a grade-point average of 3.25 or higher and 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. Each student will receive a personal greeting from interim University President Geraldine M. Jones, along with a certificate and a special Presidential Scholar pin.

President Jones will preside over the Convocation, and acting provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart will introduce the platform party. Dr. Kimberly Wozniak will serve as faculty mace-bearer. Dr. Marie Anne will be the herald. Three faculty recipients of the Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards for Excellence will be recognized at the convocation. Award winners are Dr. Thomas Mueller, for excellence in teaching; Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, for excellence in research; and Dr. Maria McClintock-Comeaux, for excellence in service. Each recipient will receive a medallion and an award, plus a scholarship to be awarded in his or her area of study.

The speaker

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

Gustovich is the founder of IQity Solutions, which provides cloud-based software solutions to help manufacturers manage their production operations more profitably through integrated scheduling, as well as operations, supply chain and quality management capabilities. The company recently was acquired by NetSuite Inc., a fast-growing cloud-based provider of enterprise-resource planning software. Based in San Mateo, Calif., NetSuite has more than 36,000 customers in 128 countries.

Prior to founding IQity Solutions in 2007, Gustovich was an owner and executive partner of an international consulting firm where he worked for 23 years with many Fortune 1000 companies.

He serves on the board of directors for the Business Growth Alliance and PathNorth CEO Leadership group, and is the author of numerous articles on the creation of sustainable business value through the use of structured business technology solutions.

A resident of Wexford, Pa., Gustovich earned a degree in business administration and management from Cal U.

For more information about Honors Convocation, visit www.calu.edu or e-mail Jodie.Rooney@rooney@calu.edu.



Gustovich



Dominic (left) and Anthony Carrola confer during a rehearsal for "Yet Another Funeral." Dominic composed the music and wrote the lyrics for the musical; his brother Anthony wrote the book.

Student's Original Musical Premieres in Steele Hall

Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre will present the theatrical debut of *Yet Another Funeral*, a musical created by graduating senior and commercial music technology major Dominic Carrola.

Carrola composed the music and wrote the lyrics for the full-length, Broadway-style musical. His younger brother, Anthony, wrote the book, and Mike Meketa, another graduating senior and commercial music technology major, is handling the orchestration.

Performances will be held in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre are 8 p.m. April 7-8, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 9.

Despite the funeral title, the musical is a contemporary romantic comedy featuring a dissatisfied-with-his-life hotel clerk, a down-on-

his-luck journalist and a mysterious stranger. Carrola says this thought-provoking variation on a boy-meets-girl story includes "a little dark comedy" and 21 original songs.

Dr. Michele Pagen directs the production, with musical direction by Dr. Yago Ibach.

Lead roles are played by students Kayla Grimm, Clayton Rush and Ryan Johnson.

Students working behind the scenes include assistant director Bethany Swan, production stage manager Kellie Colibep, and assistant stage managers Lisa Thompkins and Maya Tomlin.

Ryan Johnson is assistant costume designer, Nikki Davis is assistant lighting designer, and Mike Shaeffer is the graphics designer. Properties coordinator is Jessica Jacobs, and master electrician is DJ Miller.

It is rare for a fully produced musical to come to life on a university stage.

"This is a landmark production here at Cal U, and the experience for all of the students is beyond compare," Pagen said. "The performers, the composer, the management team and the tech support team will walk away with an experience that few people have."

"To explore and mount an original piece of theater is exciting, terrifying and exhilarating. Everyone has been very receptive to the process."

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.

Presidential Candidates Introduced

As part of the ongoing search for Cal U's next president, three candidates recently participated in meetings and open forums with various constituency groups on campus.

The candidates held forums with Cal U faculty, students, staff, alumni and invited community leaders, and held meetings with smaller groups of faculty, staff and administrators.

The three candidates identified by the search committee are Geraldine M. Jones, interim president of California University; Dr. Ralph Rogers, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at Nova Southeastern University in Florida; and Dr. Guiyou Huang, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty and professor of English at Norwich University in Vermont.

The search committee expects to recommend two

finalists to the Council of Trustees, who will then forward two names to the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

The search committee chair, attorney Jim Davis, and the chair of the Council of Trustees, Lawrence Maggi, will be invited to observe when the Board of Governors interviews the two finalists and conducts its deliberations.

The process for recommending a presidential appointment is outlined in State System Policy 1983-13-A, which describes the presidential search procedure and the selection process followed by the Board of Governors. RPA Inc., an executive search and consulting firm based in Williamsport, Pa., has been assisting Cal U in finding the best possible candidate for University President.

For more information visit www.calu.edu.

Conference Focuses on Sustainability

Do we have the right to burden our descendants with economic debt, social discord, resource depletion, ecological degradation and increased danger?

Dr. John Confer, an associate professor in the parks and recreation management program, believes not. And he made the case for a more practical, ecological and economically sound future during the University's 11th annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference.

The daylong event on March 16 focused on "Sustainable Communities: The Human Impact."

Confer's presentation looked at environmental issues, sustainability and local responses in the Mon River Valley.

"Sustainability is the capacity to endure, keep going. A good idea won't work if it does not make economic sense and fit the people, because people manage the Earth," he said.

Speaking to an audience largely composed of Cal U students, Confer urged his listeners to consume less, recycle more and recognize the importance of sustainable landscapes.

In particular, he discussed how stormwater run-off causes efforts to improve water quality in the Monongahela River.

"Five minutes after we throw something on the ground, including oil and anti-freeze (that drips) from cars, it's in the Mon River," he said.

"We spend thousands and thousands of dollars to clean the river, but at the same time are polluting it with the run-off."

He described the benefits of concrete that lets water seep through, and rain gardens that can replace traditional lawns, which require fertilizers and pesticides to flourish.

A single tree "can take a thousand pounds of dust every year out of the air," he said.

Confer asked the audience to change its approach to provide the coming generations with a better world.

"I love college students, because you always think



Dr. John Confer presents during the 11th annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference, which focused on "Sustainable Communities: The Human Impact."

tomorrow will be better, while as old fuddy-duddies tend to just see the gloom and doom," he joked.

"You can be part of the solution — and you should be."

Following his presentation, Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, director of the women's studies program at Cal U, urged students to join the Sustainability Club, which Confer and Dr. Sarah Meiss advise.

"In a variety of ways sustainability impacts all of us," she said.

Also speaking at the conference were Dr. Chaone Mallory, who teaches courses in environmental ethics,

environmental justice, green political theory and related topics at Villanova University; and Ann T. Rosenthal, an artist, activist, educator and writer from Pittsburgh.

Conference participants also viewed segments from the film series *A Path Appears*, broadcast last year on PBS television.

The conference concluded with an activism panel featuring Mallory, Rosenthal and panelists from the Water We Fighting For organization from Flint, Mich.

Presenting the collaborative conference were Cal U's women's studies program, Department of Social Work and Serene Leadership Institute.

Fish Fry Friday, Vulcan Style

Enjoying themselves while giving a helping hand, Cal U football players (from left) Ryan McCaskey, Austin Jacobs and Rashad Craig help to prepare sandwiches at a recent fish fry organized by the California Volunteer Fire Department. Head coach Gary Durre has encouraged members of the Vulcan football squad to perform community service throughout the spring semester.



Professor 'Up and Coming'

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages International Association Inc. has recognized Dr. Susan Morris-Rutledge, assistant professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership, as an emerging leader in her field.

Morris-Rutledge has been chosen to receive TESOL's "30 Up and Coming Award." More than 120 individuals were nominated for the honor, which recognizes excellence in research, teaching, publishing and leadership.

"To be recognized like this is overwhelming," said Morris-Rutledge, who will accept her award April 8 at TESOL's 50th anniversary celebration in Baltimore, Md.

"In the U.S., less than 1 percent of all teachers are actually taught to work with English language learners specifically. We are a tiny field of people, yet we are very necessary, given the explosion of the K-12 English-

as-a-second-language population in the past 10 years."

Morris-Rutledge tries to build awareness through language immersion empathy exercises, so that students become aware of what it is like not to understand the language of instruction.

She also tries to incorporate current articles, stories and personal experiences to engage and extend her students' understanding and desire to learn more.

"We are very proud to see Susan get this award," said Dr. Connie Monroe, chair of the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership.

"She is a professor who works to relate her specialized field relates to her students' future careers. This has led her to recognize conceptual relationships that others in her field have not always seen."

"She has the potential for several good strands of research in the future. Her research is not only unique, but it is also very practical in its focus."

Mon Valley 'Voices' Focus of Exhibit

The rich history of the Mon Valley will be on display in Manderson Library through April 10 as faculty, students, local libraries and historical societies participate in "Voices of the Mon Valley: Oral History and Local Resources."

Through a faculty professional development grant from Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, Cal U faculty from the library and the departments of history, social work and sociology were trained on topics such as gathering oral histories, paper storage and photo digitization.

Students and representatives from area historical societies and libraries also were invited to attend the training.

The exhibit features the fruits of that effort, as students present projects such as the oral histories of Mon Valley ethnic groups.

An ongoing digital storytelling project — a collaboration among University Honors Program students in Dr. Christina Fisanic's English classes, local historical societies and the Senator John Heinz History Center — also will be on display.

The Uniontown Public Library, Donora Historical Society and Smog Museum, Greater Monessen Historical Society, and California Area Historical Society are among the organizations participating in the exhibit.

"We hope this event will showcase local historical agencies and allow our students and faculty to become aware of all the great opportunities out there," said Dr. Laura Tuennerman, project director and professor of history.

The gallery will be closed March 28, April 1, and April 6. For gallery hours and more information, visit www.cedu.edu.

Quest Brings Robots to Convention Center

Science, engineering, technology and math took a "medical" turn when the Greater Pittsburgh Regional FIRST® Robotics Competition returned to the Convocation Center for the third consecutive year.

More than 1,000 high school students from five different states and Canada formed three-team alliances and sent their robots on a quest to penetrate their opponents' fortifications, fling "boulders" to weaken their defenses, and capture their castle towers.

In previous years, the student-built robots have been tasked with flinging balls in a soccer-like game or stacking plastic totes and recycling bins.

FIRST Stronghold, this year's competition, presented new challenges for the contestants. And it took audience participation to a new level, since fans at the March 10-12 competitions had several opportunities to choose which "defenses" the robots would have to overcome.

"This game is dramatically different from any other game we've had, and the variability of the field is a new element," said Greg Tarbell, a mentor for the Eric-based Creativity In Action (CIA) team.

"The audience-variable setup is very unpredictable, so the robot has to be very adaptable and prepared for a number of scenarios."

Matt Leth, a high school sophomore who served as a driver for the Col-X team from Hamilton, Ontario—a member of the winning alliance—believed the competition was more difficult this year, but also more enjoyable.

"We worked with plywood to make the (practice) field," he said. "Sometimes the wood would chip and parts would break, but I learned so much working with different tools and it was a lot of fun."



Team members of Col-X from Hamilton, Ontario, prepare their robot inside the Convocation Center during the Greater Pittsburgh Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.

Students had six weeks to build their robots from a common "kit of parts" and other elements collected by each individual team. FIRST competitors document the design and engineering process they use, and develop flags, logos and marketing campaigns to support their teams.

Teams receive awards not only for their on-field success, but for the design, engineering, business savvy and presentation skills they demonstrate to the team of judges.

This year's judges included Dr. Jennifer Wilburn, coordinator for Cal U's mechatronics engineering technology program; Dr. Brenton Wilburn, who also teaches in the mechatronics program; and Michael Amrhein, who recently retired from Cal U.

"This is not just engineering and STEM," said Cal U alumnae Jason Mols '14, a mentor for the AMP'D Robotics team from McKeesport Area High School.

"What's used here goes into every aspect of college, no matter what you're doing."

Derek Price another AMP'D Robotics mentor, added, "The students also experience great camaraderie, because it's a day-in, day-out process through six weeks of trying to design, build and get a robot ready for competition while also generating interest and support for the project."

Teamwork and camaraderie also play a big part in hosting the event, said Becky McMillen, executive director of University

Conference Services. In addition to coordinating with the FIRST Robotics event team, her staff makes space for admissions representatives to meet with high school students who may be interested in attending Cal U.

"FIRST has become almost like a family to us, and we welcome them back every year. This is a well-oiled machine—their operations and our operations have worked well together and things run very smoothly."

"It's three busy, long days, but the energy and excitement of the teams keep us on our toes."

After more than 80 rounds of preliminary, semifinal and final competition, teams from Webster, N.Y., Victor, N.Y., and Hamilton, Ontario, came out on top in the field.

They will join winners from other regional and district contests at the FIRST Robotics national championship April 27-30 in St. Louis, Mo.

Other Greater Pittsburgh award winners also earned a slot at the national championship. And Cal U will make a \$5,000 scholarship, renewable for four years, available to one FIRST Robotics competitor.

Patricia DePra, FIRST Robotics' regional director for western and central Pennsylvania, believes that every competing student ends up winning.

"You have the knowledge that just by being here, you accomplished something that thousands of people didn't think could be done," she said.

"You've done what many people would not even try, because it's too hard, and that's something no one can ever take away. It will be with you for the rest of your life."

"You've done it; you're here."

Campus BRIEFS

Documentary Screened

The Office of Social Equity will present free screenings of *The Hunting Ground*, an award-winning documentary that takes a candid look at the issue of sexual assault on campus, March 29 in Vulcan Theater, inside the Natali Student Center. A one-hour version will be shown at 11 a.m., and the full-length (102-minute) version at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and the public may attend.

Political Expert Returns

As the presidential primary season moves into high gear, the American Democracy Project at Cal U takes a look at the issues and rhetoric driving the candidates' campaigns.

Alan Abramowitz, a professor of political science at Emory University, returns to campus to discuss "Beyond Trump's Insults and Clinton's E-mails: How Polarization and Negative Partisanship Are Shaping the 2016 Election."

The free event takes place at 11 a.m. March 31 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

Students, Families Visit

On April 9 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 Steele Hall, and the event runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information or to register, visit www.calu.edu.

Trainer Wraps Up Commercial

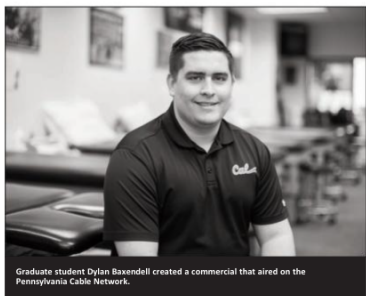
Graduate student Dylan Baxendell merged his career and his hobby when the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society (PATS) put out a call for a commercial.

To mark National Athletic Training Month, PATS asked athletic training students across the state to submit 30-second video advertisements that would highlight and promote the profession.

The three commercials judged best in the state were aired March 12 on PCN, the Pennsylvania Cable Network, during the PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships. Baxendell, who is on track to receive his master's degree in athletic training in May, produced the commercial with classmates Micah Dion, Lionel Rice and Katy Jo Waltz.

The video opens with Dion explaining how athletic trainers are health care professionals who work in collaboration with physicians to provide preventive services, emergency care, clinical diagnosis, treatment of injuries and medical conditions. They also receive comprehensive training in concussion management, he explains.

The second half of the video shows footage of Cal U athletic training students, including Waltz and Rice, testing for concussion symptoms in Hamer Hall's athletic training room. As they work, Baxendell's voice-over adds more information.



Graduate student Dylan Baxendell created a commercial that aired on the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

Baxendell gained experience with video and music technology as an undergraduate, when he worked after classes at Apple and Best Buy stores. But producing this 30-second spot was a new challenge, he said.

"With such a short time limit, all four of us really had to come up with ideas together and figure out how to lay it out to get across all that we wanted to say. It's easier, if more time-consuming, to make a 5-minute video."

Baxendell produced the PATS video as a class project for his

Contemporary Issues in Athletic Training course. The Pleasant Hills, Pa. resident is a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the Cal U track teams; he also has worked with the Vulcan women's tennis and cross country squads.

"I suppose my hobbies and passions are in two completely different realms, but I've fortunately been able to use them both together," he said.

"A lot of people watched the wrestling championships and saw the commercial, which was neat."

DeSouza: Hall of Fame's First Women's Golfer

Editor's Note: Cal U will hold its 21st annual Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon at 5:30 p.m. April 22 in the Performance Center, inside the Natall Student Center. For reservations, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418.

Women's golfer Simone De Souza knew very little English when she came to Cal U in 2005 from Trujillo, Peru.

Four years later she completed her collegiate career as a three-time NCAA Division II All-American and earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in management and a minor in economics.

She was recognized as a PSAC Scholar-Athlete during the 2008-2009 academic year and was named to the Cal U Athletic Director's Honor Roll six times.

De Souza will return to her alma mater next month to become the first women's golfer to be inducted into Cal U's Athletic Hall of Fame.

"This is a huge honor for me and one of the most important accomplishments in my golf career," De Souza said. "It feels good to know that you are part of history somewhere. I can't wait to come back for the banquet and see how Cal U has grown and improved."

"I'm truly a proud Vulcan!"

De Souza finished 10th at the NCAA Division II Women's Golf Championships in 2007 and 15th in 2008, but she shone especially bright in her senior season, when she finished fourth overall.

De Souza was named the 2008-2009 PSAC Women's Player of the Year, with a team-best scoring average of 76.3 through 13 events. She recorded 11 top-20 individual tournament finishes that year, including first-place honors at the Grand Valley (Mich.) State and Cal State San Marcos invitational and the PSAC individual championship tournament.

In all she led the Vulcans to five invitational team titles and the program's



Three-time NCAA All-American Simone De Souza will become the first women's golfer to be inducted into Cal U's Athletic Hall of Fame.

first of five conference championships that fall.

Despite her many individual accolades, De Souza takes great pride in the team accomplishments.

"My teammates are all amazing people and the best part of it for me," she said. "We worked hard to give our best on the course, learned from each other and enjoyed competing."

Women's golf coach Merrilyn Gibbs believes De Souza's determination and success in the classroom were every bit as impressive as what she did on the golf course.

"She just worked really hard in the classroom, as she did with golf," said Gibbs.

She added that De Souza always

treated her teammates with respect and would help them with her shot knowledge during practices.

"She was just a joy to work with, and obviously extraordinarily talented," Gibbs said. "Her golf skill is incredible. She hits the ball very long. Simone is creative, has very good course management and knows ... when to step back from making risky plays."

De Souza had kind words for Gibbs, too.

"Coach Gibbs truly believed in me and our team. She taught me how to be a goal-oriented person. She always pushed us hard at practice and showed us her passion for the team."

After earning her college degree, De Souza spent two years on the Symetra Tour, the LPGA's official developmental

tour. She continued her professional career by playing on the Canadian Tour for a year.

Today, De Souza remains a competitive amateur golfer. She placed a strong 10th at the 2015 South American Amateur Women's Championships and helped the Peru Mixed Team finish fourth among 16 national teams at the 2015 Pan American Games.

Since May 2013 De Souza has worked for the Peruvian Golf Federation while playing on the national team. She now makes her home in Lima, Peru, and Cal U holds a special place in her heart.

"I went to Cal to give my best," De Souza said. "The opportunity I received to study and play golf through a scholarship was a dream come true."

Huegel Wins Second Scholar-Award

Graduating senior Morgan Huegel recently became the first Cal U student-athlete to receive the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Champion Scholar Award in two different sports.

In 2013 he received the award for cross country. Last month, during the 2016 PSAC Indoor Track and Field Championships at Edinboro University, he accepted the award for men's indoor track.

Initiated during the 2011-2012 academic year, the Champion Scholar Award is presented at each of the PSAC's 23 team championship finals. It honors the student at each contest with the highest cumulative grade-point average.

The selection criteria for the awards

is identical to that of the NCAA Elite 89 awards, which honor the student-athlete with the top GPA at each of the championship finals sites of the 89 NCAA championships across divisions I, II and III.

A native of Cranberry, Pa., Huegel is majoring in mathematics with a concentration in secondary education. Before coming to Cal U he scored a perfect 800 on the math portion of his SAT, and he now has a perfect cumulative GPA of 4.00.

He is one of nine Cal U recipients of the Champion Scholar Award. He joins women's volleyball setter Abbey Freund '14 and women's indoor track and field standout Erin Kling '13, a three-time winner, as the school's only multiple winners of this award.

This winter Huegel earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) indoor all-region honors for the second time in his career.

And he set a school record in the 800-meter run Feb. 20 by rounding the track at the Kent State Tune-Up in 1 minute, 53.27 seconds.

"Morgan is simply brilliant," said Daniel Caulfield, head coach for men's and women's cross country and track and field.

"He gathers and processes information at a level that most people cannot comprehend. As a result, he is an extremely fast learner and a pleasure to coach."

"And as proven by his new school record, he's pretty fast, also!"



Morgan Huegel recently became the first Cal U student-athlete to receive the PSAC Champion Scholar Award in two different sports.

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