

California University JOURNAL

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 7 APRIL 20, 2015

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Hail to the Champs!

Cal U's 2015 NCAA Division III National Championship women's basketball team acknowledges the crowd during a March 31 parade and celebration. See story on page 4.

'Last Lecture' Closes Long Career

Calling it a "bittersweet" opportunity as she prepares to retire, Dr. Caryl Sheffield delivered a multimedia "last lecture" March 31.

An associate provost/associate vice president in the Office of Academic Affairs, Sheffield looked back on her personal journey, as well as her career, within the historical context of the ongoing quest for racial, gender and social equity, especially during the 1950s and '60s.

She spoke to an overflow audience in the north wing of the Convocation Center, accompanying her talk with slides and music that evoked key turning points in her life.

The granddaughter of a man who was lynched in southern Georgia in 1915, Sheffield described growing up with 20 siblings in a family that stressed the value of education. She attended the March on Washington in 1963, and took part in campus protests in the '70s.

"We marched in front of the library and President (George) Roadman's office in protest of unfair treatment of black students, for more minority faculty members, and against the draft and Vietnam War," Sheffield said.

"These activities awakened a militancy in me that's still there."



Dr. Caryl Sheffield delivers a multimedia "last lecture" to an overflow audience in the north wing of the Convocation Center.

Sheffield credited her mother for helping her stay in school, even when she became a single parent during her college years.

"Thankfully, my mother with her feminist sensibilities insisted she would help raise my daughter so that I could finish school," Sheffield said. "I count that as the most significant event in my life."

— Continued on page 4

Homeland Security Program Online

Cal U is expanding its lineup of 100% online degree programs with the addition of a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice: Homeland and International Security.

The program takes a comprehensive look at criminal justice, law, forensic science, criminology, cybercrimes, counterterrorism, and homeland and international security.

"Both the curriculum and the educational preparation of the faculty are unrivaled," said program coordinator Dr. Michael Hummel, chair of Cal U's Department of Criminal Justice.

The new program offers an online alternative to the campus-based B.S. in Criminal Justice, which has five concentrations: general criminal justice, criminology, law and justice, homeland and international security, and forensic science.

The online degree program is — Continued on page 2

BotsIQ Back with Record Numbers

A record number of robots will clash, slash and crash when Cal U hosts the 10th annual Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals April 24 and 25 in the Convocation Center.

"BotsIQ ... focuses on the engineering design and manufacturing process, not just the battling competition," says Bill Padmin, executive director of Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ.

"This interest in how things are made supports the future of high-tech manufacturing. These students make up a job-ready, trained workforce pipeline."

Seventy-eight teams from 60 high schools and career and technology centers will bring their custom-built, 15-pound robots to face off in gladiator-style bouts inside a shatterproof, polycarbonate "battle zone" inside the Convocation Center.

Some 1,000 students have worked for months to create innovative, remote-controlled robots that can take a beating and still perform. Judges look for aggression, control, damage and strategy

— but teams also are evaluated on their engineering skills, documentation, interviews and sportsmanship. Awards will be announced after the final rounds on April 25.

Dozens of industry partners work with the teams and support the competition.

To focus on manufacturing and workforce development, the BotsIQ event



Frazier High School's Victoria Dulla, Bryan Moore (seated), teacher Mike Steeber '08 and Nick Harvey work on their robot during the first day of action at last year's BotsIQ.

includes two free programs, also in the Convocation Center:

8-11:30 a.m. April 24 — **Meet the Skills Shortage Challenge: Strategies to Build Your Talent Supply Chain.** Focused on manufacturing companies, this program includes panel discussions and a keynote address on "Manufacturing's Future in Pennsylvania."

1-4 p.m. April 24 — **Put Your Military Skills to Work for You.** Aimed at returning veterans, discussions focus on jobs for former service members and training programs that transition military skills into manufacturing skills.

Keynote speaker is Bill Flanagan, of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Registration for the special programs is required; visit www.calu.edu or www.botsiqpa.org.

Admission to the event is free, and the public may attend. KDKA-TV will be on hand to film highlights for a 30-minute television show scheduled to air May 2.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the event; visit www.botsiqpa.org to register.

For more information, a list of competing schools, competition brackets and a complete schedule, visit www.calu.edu.



For the seventh consecutive year, men at Cal U will participate in the international program known as Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®.

Men 'Walk a Mile' April 23

For the seventh consecutive year men will don high-heeled shoes and parade clumsily across campus as Cal U participates in the international program known as Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®.

The annual march demonstrates support for victims of sexual violence, relationship violence and stalking. "Walking the walk helps us talk the talk, to open up lines of communication about violence," said Kay Kutz, victim advocate and coordinator of the Ends Violence Center on campus.

"It not only is a visible representation to our campus community that there are courageous men who care about these issues, but it's also an opportunity for men to honor

people in their lives who have been impacted by violence."

The march will begin at 11 a.m. April 23 in front of the Natali Student Center. The first 75 men who register will be given high-heeled shoes to wear. Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided to all walkers.

Although the march is strictly for men, all members of the campus community are encouraged to turn out and show their support.

Walk a Mile is sponsored by the End Violence Center. Last spring nearly 180 men walked across campus to raise awareness about sexual violence and men's role in preventing it.

For more information, contact the End V Center at 724-938-5707 or email the center at gvcenter@calu.edu.

Conference Looks at Gaming's Local Ties

With support from the Washington County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Cal U presented its second annual conference addressing the prevention and treatment of problem gambling.

This year's conference, on April 2, focused not only on issues surrounding gambling addiction, but also on the economic impact of legalized gaming in western Pennsylvania.

There are four casinos within a 40-mile radius of the Cal U campus, noted Dr. Susan Ryan, program coordinator for the Geography, Tourism Studies concentration in the Department of Earth Sciences.

To meet accreditation requirements set by the World Tourism Organization, the University added course GEO 277, Casinos and Gaming Entertainment, to the tourism studies curriculum.

"We have a responsibility to reflect what surrounds our institution," Ryan explained. "Casinos and their gaming floors are just one form of gambling as entertainment. It includes so much more than slot machines and table games."

Pennsylvania legalized casino-based gaming in 2004.

"We are in a period of social acceptance ... and gambling has been good, economically, for the tourism industry," she said.

But she cautioned, "Some theorists believe there could be a government mandated stop to legalized gambling."

Dr. John Massella, an assistant professor and clinician in Cal U's Counseling Center, opened the conference by discussing problem gambling and its connection to other addictions.

"Gambling, drinking, then over-eating are combinations that have been going on forever," he said. "Someone may have an addiction that stands out as primary, but if it's not able to be activated, (he or she) will move on to other types of addictions."

Massella said that problem gambling affects the entire family. Even more than the loss of money, the loss of trust can be especially hurtful to family members — and that trust is difficult to regain.

Following the keynote presentation, prevention specialists Tammy Taylor and Timothy Phillips joined Cal U's Dr. Emily Sweitzer, Rueben Brock and Robert Mehallik to lead breakout sessions that examined gambling prevention, cultural differences in gambling behaviors, and the connection between gambling and crime.

The conference coordinator was Donna George, alcohol and other drug coordinator for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

"To me, gambling is a manmade problem, but I'm glad to see this conference recognize and examine this as an addiction, like drugs or alcohol," said senior Justin Dutcher, a social work major from Cheswick, Pa. "This was interesting."

From June 8-Aug. 15 Dr. John Massella will teach an online course (CED 783) on problem and pathological gambling. Eligible participants can receive 45 continuing education credits (CEUs) for completing the 10-week, graduate-level course. For details, e-mail massella@calu.edu.

Campus BRIEFS

Fredrick to Serve on FPDC

The faculty in the Eberly College of Science and Technology has elected Dr. Kyle Fredrick, of the Department of Earth Sciences, to serve a four-year term on the Faculty Professional Development Committee, beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year.

He will present the FPDC with any faculty development concerns from faculty in his College.

Dr. David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, is the alternate who will serve if Fredrick is unable to complete his term.

Student Newspaper Lauded

The *Cal Times* student newspaper won seven Mark of Excellence Awards for student journalism at the annual Society of Professional Journalist's Region 4 conference March 21 at Ohio University.

Region 4 Mark of Excellence awards recognize the best in college journalism at schools in Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Awards are given for print, radio, television and online collegiate journalism.

Of the 436 entries in this year's regional competition, the *Cal Times* won the highest number of awards in the Small Schools division. All entries in this competition were published in 2014.

Two of the *Cal Times* entries were first-place winners in

Region 4 and will advance to the national SPJ competition in September. Five of the entries were finalists.

First-place honors went to Gene Axton '14 for his photo illustration "The Power of Steam," and graduating senior Josh Herman for feature writing ("When life gets rough, any help welcomed").

Other finalists were Taylor Brown for feature and general column writing, Matt Kaminsky for general news photography, and Matt Hagy for sports writing.

EdR Names a 'Star'

Justin Schiefelbein, assistant director of upper campus housing at Vulcan Village, has received the 2015 EdR Star Award.

EdR™, which manages the Vulcan Village apartment complex, is one of the nation's largest developers, owners and managers of collegiate housing communities.

The Star Awards are given for "above and beyond the call of duty" performance. The program recognizes a variety of factors such as exceptional performance, commitment to the EdR team and its customers, loyalty, dedication, and accomplishments.

"It is wonderful that Justin been recognized for the outstanding service he brings not only to EdR but also to our University and, most importantly, our students," said Dr. Nancy Pinardi, interim vice president for Student Affairs.

New Homeland Security Program Online

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designed for highly motivated students who are seeking careers in justice-related fields or preparing for advanced studies in law school or graduate school. Applicants should have either an associate degree in criminal justice or a minimum of 30 college credits in general education and

criminal justice-related courses.

Online classes start in the fall and spring semesters, beginning this fall. Full-time students who enter with an associate degree or equivalent credits can complete the 60-credit program in just 16 months.

Applications are being accepted now. For details about the online program, e-mail homelandsecurity@calu.edu.

Talks Touch on Social Media, 'Wicked' Problems

The American Democracy Project at Cal U is sponsoring two presentations this week addressing timely social issues.

Mark Weaver, a nationally acclaimed campaign and communications consultant, discusses the role of social media in today's political arena at 11 a.m. April 21. His presentation is titled "Yik Yak, Saper PACs: Social Media Tools Used in Politics."

A communications adviser with decades of experience in political and issue campaigns, Weaver also has worked extensively with public and private sector clients on crisis communications and media relations.

At 11 a.m. April 23 Cal U will begin a new series of campus conversations about "wicked problems" — social or cultural

problems such as poverty, sustainability and equality that are difficult, if not impossible, to solve.

The initial panel presentation will introduce the concept. Moderating the panel will be Dr. Alfonso

Vergaray, of the Department of History and Political Science. Panelists are faculty members Dr. Mary O'Connor (Nursing), Dr. Ambrose Price (History and Political Science), Dr. Gregory Spicer (Communication Studies), and Dr. Michelle

Torrano (Childhood Education). Both free presentations will be held in Eberly Science and Technology Center, Room 110. The public may attend.

Co-sponsors are the Office of Academic Affairs/Office of the Provost, the College of Liberal Arts; and the Department of History and Political Science.



Faculty member Dr. Christina Toras will receive a 2015 Energy Leadership Award from the Pittsburgh Business Times next month.

Professor Honored as 'Energy Leader'

Faculty member Dr. Christina Toras will receive a 2015 Energy Leadership Award from the Pittsburgh Business Times.

The awards honor western Pennsylvania people and companies who are considered "pioneers" in the region's energy sector.

A licensed attorney, Toras is program coordinator for the bachelor's degree and certificate programs in Jurisprudence: Land Management, which prepares students for careers in the oil and gas industry. She is chair of Cal U's Department of Professional Studies and teaches in the graduate and undergraduate legal studies programs, as well as the new master's degree program in conflict resolution.

The awards will be presented May 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpoint. A supplement honoring the winners will be part of the Business Times' May 15 edition.

Annual Fishing Festival Set for April 25



The Pike Run Fishing Festival is free and open to children ages 15 and younger.

Cal U and the California community again will collaborate to present the 20th annual Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival, set for 7 a.m.-3 p.m. April 25 at Rotary Park, off Route 88 (Third Street) in California.

The free event is open to boys and girls ages 15 and younger. A parent, guardian or other responsible adult must accompany children ages 13 and under.

Participants may bring their own fishing gear, or they can borrow equipment from a Cal U student volunteer as part of the state Fish and Boat Commission's Borrow-A-Rod-and-Reel program.

Expert fishing guides will be on hand to answer questions or help young anglers learn how to catch trout.

The Pike Run Fishing Festival Committee will stock the stream with nearly 600 rainbow, brook, brown and golden trout, some as long as 24 inches. As it has done in the past, the committee will provide entertainment and food for the event.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. and closes at noon. Along with excellent fishing, participants can look forward to family-friendly games, raffles, fishing contests

and many other activities. Vendors will sell bait, tackle, food and beverages at the park.

The festival closes with a weigh-in, prizes and the awarding of trophies.

Youngsters are encouraged to help stock the stream at 2 p.m. Friday.

Dr. John Confer, faculty adviser for the event, said this successful collaboration between the University and the community has attracted 160 to 200 youth participants in each of the past eight years.

Held annually in April — National Children and Nature Awareness Month — the festival also celebrates Earth Day. It is organized by Cal U's Department of Earth Sciences and its parks and recreation management program, the Student Government Association, and the Cal U Eco-Learning Community, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, California Rotary, the Borough of California and the California Borough Recreation Authority.

For more information, contact Dr. John Confer at 724-938-4211, confer@calu.edu; visit the Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival website at <http://workforce.calu.edu/confer/PREFYF/>; or search for "Annual Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival" on Facebook.com.

Musical Concludes Spring Theater Season

Cal U's Department of Theatre and Dance closes its 2015 spring season with four performances of the musical "Urinetown" Thursday through Saturday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, "Urinetown" is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy,

corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theater itself.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, with shows at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday.

Cost 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 Box Office at 724-938-5943.



Cal U's Department of Theatre and Dance closes its spring season with four performances of the musical "Urinetown" Thursday through Saturday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.



Following the parade, head coach Jess Strom speaks to fans and well-wishers in the Convocation Center lobby.

Champs Cheered at Parade

“Go Vulcans!” With those two words interim University President Geraldine M. Jones opened a spirited celebration honoring the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship women’s basketball team.

“I am so proud of this amazing and impressive group of women,” President Jones said to the students, employees, alumni and community members who filled the Convocation Center lobby on March 31. “You’ve done a remarkable job.”

Washington County Commissioner Lawrence Maggi, chair of Cal U’s Council of Trustees, presented head coach Jess Strom and the national champions with a plaque on behalf of the county.

“You’ve been through many trials and tribulations this season,” said Maggi, who brought his young granddaughter to meet the team.

“You are true champions and role models. You’ve brought great honor to Washington County and your university.”

Strom thanked the campus community and “everyone for showing us love along the way.”

That sentiment was echoed by senior guard Kaitlyn Fratz, who was selected the Outstanding Player of the NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament. “We appreciate all the support. It helped us keep going,

“You are true champions and role models. You’ve brought great honor to Washington County and your university.”

— Lawrence Maggi, Washington County Commissioner and chair of Cal U’s Council of Trustees

and there’s no better way to go out than on top.”

Recalling teammate Shanice Clark, who died unexpectedly midway through the season, Fratz added, “We did it all for (No.) 44.”

A parade up Third Street preceded the celebration, and Vulcan pride was evident among those who lined the street.

“I felt at the start of the tournament that they were a team of destiny,” said Jameel Gavin, a junior sport management major from Erie, Pa. “The three seniors (Fratz, Emma Mahady and Irina Kukoli) refused to have their season end. And what a breath of fresh air they’ve been.”

Strom’s grandmother, Pat Popoleo, of Rostraver, Pa., watched the parade from the Convocation Center courtyard. She said she’s been following her granddaughter’s career since the former Division I standout started playing AAU basketball.

“Obviously I’m very proud, but what I like best is how she’s always

been on a very even keel. She’s not one of those coaches that’s wagging her finger and yelling at her players.”

Alumni also turned out for the celebration, including former softball standout Nan Gresko ’89. In fact, she traveled to South Dakota to watch this year’s team win the national title. She also followed the women’s basketball team in 2004, when the Vulcans played in Missouri to win the program’s only other national title.

“This is awesome,” said Gresko, who has operated the shot clock at Cal U home basketball games for the past 25 years. “I’m a softball player, but love these girls like they’re my own children.”

The team was also honored to receive the fourth annual Russell Athletic “Together We R” Team Award at the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association Awards Show in Tampa, Fla.

The national award honors programs that have succeeded in the face of adversity while exemplifying a strong commitment to togetherness, courage, unparalleled work ethic and heart. Winners must personally the “Together We R” belief that teams are stronger than individuals.

Like all successful coaches, Strom concluded the celebration by looking ahead. As the crowd cheered, she said, “Let’s get another one next year!”

Career Closes with ‘Last Lecture’

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After teaching in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Sheffield joined the faculty at California University in 1991. She was chair of the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education from 2002-2012.

Sheffield recalled that when she began teaching at her alma mater, she was the only African-American female teaching at the school. “I wanted to give back what had been given to me,” she said.

In 2000 Sheffield spent six months as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of the West Indies Institute of Education in Kingston, Jamaica.

“My role was traveling across the island assisting efforts to integrate technology into the teacher education curriculum,” she recalled.

“This once-in-a-lifetime experience provided the opportunity to observe some of the challenges associated with expanding educational opportunities in developing countries.”

Sheffield has been active with the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U and with the President’s Commission for the Status of Women, among other professional endeavors.

“The FDI recently honored her by establishing the Dr. Caryl Sheffield Faculty Excellence Award, to be presented to faculty who exemplify excellence in teaching and mentoring.”

“Often now we are bogged down with paperwork, but that’s not why we do what we do,” she said.

“There are few things more rewarding than seeing that light bulb go on in a student’s eyes when they have come to understand a difficult concept or when they make it a point — sometimes years later — to let you know how much they learned from your course. That is good stuff.”

Dr. Marta McClintock, director of the Women’s Studies program, conceived the idea of asking Sheffield to deliver the address. She modeled it on lectures given by outgoing or distinguished professors at other institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones, a longtime colleague and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sister, called Sheffield “a very special human being who has touched so many lives here” and wished her well in retirement.

“Simply put, Cal U was the fertile ground that allowed me to blossom into the professional that I am today, achieving beyond my own imagination,” Sheffield said.

“Thank you, California University, for giving me so much and for allowing me to give back to you in return.”

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

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