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Geraldine M. Jones Named President

Cal U's presidential search concluded April 7 when the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education unanimously selected Geraldine M. Jones as the University's seventh president.

"Geraldine Jones has provided more than four decades of extraordinary service to California University of Pennsylvania," said Board of Governors Chair Guido M. Pichini.

"She has led the institution through extremely challenging times as acting, then interim, president. We are confident she will continue to provide the university — her alma mater — the same level of service and leadership she has in the past, and will guide it to even greater success in the future."

President Jones was named Cal U's acting president in May 2012 and became interim president in March 2013.

She was on hand for the Board's vote at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg.

"California University has been my lifetime passion," she said. "Since my first days on campus as a student, it has been a special place to me.



Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors Chair Guido M. Pichini (left), Cal U President Geraldine M. Jones and State System Chancellor Frank T. Brogan share a moment following the April 7 meeting at the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg.

"I have dedicated my professional career to the University, and look forward to continuing to work on its behalf and on behalf of the students,

faculty, and staff to do the best I can to help ensure Cal U's success long into the future."

The State System's chancellor, Frank

T. Brogan, noted President Jones' "student-focused" approach.

"She clearly is committed to seeing her students and her University succeed," Brogan said. "I look forward to continuing to work with her on behalf of California University and the State System."

Jones' selection comes at the conclusion of a nationwide search.

"The Board of Governors made an outstanding choice to retain Geraldine Jones as president," said James Davis, a member of the University's Council of Trustee and chair of the presidential search committee.

"She has done an excellent job in very trying times, and I'm confident she will continue to do the same for the University in the future."

Council Chair Larry Maggi echoed Davis's support for the Board's decision, saying President Jones "has done a good job as interim president."

"It has been a difficult time, considering what has gone on at the state level," Maggi said. "We're happy with the decision the Board of Governors made."

Political Professional to Address Graduates

Veteran political professional Vanessa DeSalvo Getz '93 will address graduate and undergraduate students at the University's 182th Commencement.

Master's degree candidates will receive their diplomas and be vested in their academic hoods at 7 p.m. May 6. Undergraduate Commencement will be held at 10 a.m. May 7. Both ceremonies will be held in the Convocation Center arena.

In all, more than 1,200 students are expected to graduate, including those who choose not to attend Commencement.

University President Geraldine M. Jones will confer the degrees and personally greet each graduate who walks across the stage. Graduates' families and friends are welcome to attend.



Vanessa DeSalvo Getz '93

at both ceremonies. She is the founder and president of Salvo

About the speaker

In keeping with Cal U's tradition of inviting distinguished alumni to address the graduates, Vanessa DeSalvo Getz, Class of 1993, will speak

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Intern Hopes to Uncover Romanian Graves This Summer

Junior Angela Novak can't wait to travel nearly 5,000 miles this summer and spend three weeks digging for mass graves at a remote city in Romania.

A dual major in criminal justice with a concentration in forensic science and forensic anthropology, Novak will be one of 18 students excavating the site in Sighisoara, a city in Romania's historic Transylvania region.

The trip — a three-credit internship for Novak — runs from May 22 through June 11.

Novak has participated in several area digs through Cal U's Field School. She learned about the Romanian opportunity from Dr. Cassandra Kuba, associate professor of anthropology in the Department of History, Politics and Society.

"A Medieval Deviant Mass Grave Excavation" has been organized by the Archaeological Techniques and Research Center (ArchaeoTek—Canada), which has been conducting archaeological research in Romania since 2001.

"In the labs (at Cal U) I've worked with real human bones, but I've never excavated real humans," said Novak, who will fly from Pittsburgh to Paris and then on to Budapest before taking a long bus ride to Sighisoara.

"I'm going to go through the real process. This is something that's substantial, not just practice."



Cal U junior Angela Novak will be one of 18 students excavating a site in Sighisoara, a city in Romania's historic Transylvania region, this summer.

Archaeologists who researched the site believe the mass graves contain plague victims. They have a general idea where the gravesties are located, but Novak said her group must pinpoint the location before they dig for bones.

"She pointed out that finding the remains of a home, bits of pottery or other artifacts can be telling. "Every little thing you find helps," she said.

Any bones the group uncovers will be inspected for signs of trauma. The archaeologists will attempt to determine if the trauma occurred well

before the person died or at the time of death.

Follow-up groups will examine their findings.

Novak, who is president of Cal U's Forensic Science Club, said she has enjoyed uncovering simulated skeletons that archaeology professor Dr. John Naas has buried at SAI Farm.

"But what I'm looking forward to is the actual dig," she said. "Finding a real human bone that's been there for hundreds of years would really be something. It's definitely cool."

Novak's travel costs will be covered. — Continued on page 4

Take Risks, Alumnus Tells Scholars

After praising Cal U's 2016 Presidential Scholars, alumnus David D. Gustovich '83 urged them to continue on the same path as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.

Gustovich, the founder of IQity Solutions, addressed the University's top scholars at the 2016 Honors Convocation, held April 2 at the Convocation Center. His comments followed remarks by Geraldine M. Jones, who was then the interim University President.

"You should be proud of what you've accomplished," he said.

"Later, I hope you'll reflect on the hard work, commitment, dedication and effort that it took to get you where you are today. Because that same dedication and effort will serve you well many years after you've left Cal U."

Gustovich's company, which recently was acquired by NetSuite Inc., 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.

"Our software is used by companies that make the things you and I eat and buy," Gustovich said. "But my journey started right here, just as yours did, at California University."

"As a freshman, I was not ready to learn—but fortunately for me, Cal U was ready for me. The teachers taught me how to focus on what's important.



Guest speaker David D. Gustovich '83 receives a gift and congratulations from University President Geraldine M. Jones during Cal U's 2016 Honors Convocation on April 2 at the Convocation Center.

What they also did was see potential in me that I didn't see in myself.

"When you are ready to learn, a teacher will come."

Gustovich urged the scholars to "continue being a rubber band."

"We are most successful when we are stretched," he said. "I encourage you to take controlled risks in what you do."

Although technology led to his success, Gustovich cautioned the

scholars on social media they present themselves on social media.

"Be careful," he warned, "because it is being used by many organizations to evaluate the character, behavior and beliefs of the people that they hire."

Before Gustovich's address,

President Jones congratulated the nearly 400 undergraduate and graduate students who were honored at the convocation.

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

"Your diligence and your work ethic have led you to this special gathering," President Jones said. "I encourage all of our students here today, our best and brightest, to welcome the roadblocks and setbacks, as well as the satisfying moments of success. Experience them all, good and bad, and you will grow in maturity, judgment and wisdom."

The President began her remarks by congratulating the three Presidential Distinguished Merit Award recipients—faculty members Dr. Thomas Mueller, honored for excellence in teaching; Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, recognized for service; and Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, honored for research.

Each received a medalion and an award, plus a scholarship to be awarded in his or her area of study.

At Gustovich's conclusion his speech, he told the Presidential Scholars that their investment in Cal U would pay dividends long after they graduate.

"Watch your thoughts, for they become your words," he advised.

"Watch your words, for they become your actions. Watch your actions, for they become your habits. Watch your habits, for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your reputation."

Faculty Receive FPDC Awards

The Faculty Professional Development Center has recognized three professors for excellence in teaching, research, use of technology, grants and contracts writing, and service learning.

Award recipients Dr. Paul Hettler, Dr. Leandro Jones and Dr. Robert Skwarecki will be recognized May 6 at the FPDC's annual Merit Award Luncheon, and at Commencement.

The FPDC merit award recipients are chosen by faculty committees. The awards are meant to assist faculty as they strive to develop their skills and expertise in order to provide high-quality education for Cal U students.

Dr. Paul Hettler, a professor and chair of the Department of Business and Economics, received the FPDC Service and Service Learning Merit Award.

In addition to serving as chair of the largest academic department on campus, he has been the coordinator of the Faculty Professional Development Center for three years and a member of the University-wide General Education Committee since his arrival at Cal U in 2005. He served as the committee chair from 2007-2015.

Hettler is involved with numerous other committees and advisory boards, including the Strike a Spark Task Force and advisory boards for the University Honors Program, American Democracy Project and Lambda Bridges, to name a few.

He currently is working to reinstate the University's chapter of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the economics honor society, and is building a service-learning project for that group. He also has supervised numerous honors theses and other Honors Program projects.

In other activities, Hettler has organized and chaired a special session on "Active Learning Strategies in Economics" annually since 2007 at the International Atlantic Economic Society's North American Conference. He served two terms as treasurer of California University's APSCUF

chapter, from 2008-2012.

Dr. Leandro Jones, an assistant professor in the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, received the FPDC Research Award.

He is the founder and director of undergraduate research groups in mathematics at California University of Pennsylvania and at Universidad Distrital Francisco Jose de Caldas and Universidad de Antioquia, both in Colombia.

All three groups produce publishable research, with the goal of introducing undergraduate students to a serious mathematical experience and preparing them for graduate school and academic careers in math disciplines.

Because of his strong research record, Jones has been invited to be a reviewer for several international, fully refereed and indexed research venues. In particular, he was a reviewer for a doctoral dissertation in pure mathematics.

Dr. Robert Skwarecki, a professor in the Department of Communication Disorders, received the FPDC Teaching and Learning Merit Award.

At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, Skwarecki uses his personal experience, knowledge of speech and language pathology, and hands-on lab projects to provide optimal learning experiences for his students.

He is recognized for his ability to deconstruct difficult concepts for students and bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice. He also exhibits a mastery of technology and an excellent rapport with students.

He serves as the faculty adviser for graduate research projects and for undergraduate Honors Program projects, as well.

A licensed Pennsylvania speech-language pathologist, Skwarecki has served as director of the Communication Disorders Laboratory since he arrived at Cal U in 2000. For the past 10 years he also has been chair of the Institutional Review Board.



Shown above is newly fired pottery just after Cal U students from the Student Pottery Association opened the door to the new gas kiln in the Cal U ceramic studio.

Pottery Sale Set

Cal U's spring Student Pottery Sale will be held from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. April 26 and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 27 and 28 in the Ceramics Studio, CER 100, near Vulcan Hall.

The sale features handcrafted gifts including mugs, bowls, pitchers, jars and vases of all sizes. Members of the Student Pottery Association create all the handmade items. The sale is open to the public, and complimentary refreshments will be served.

For more information contact the Department of Communications, Design and Culture at 724-938-4182 or Professor Richard "Duke" Miecznikowski at 724-938-4083 or miecznikowski@calu.edu.



For the fourth consecutive year students from area high schools and career centers brought their custom-built robots to the Convocation Center for gladiator-style competition at the Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals.

BotsIQ Builds STEM, Job Skills

As a generation of experienced workers retires, jobs are opening up in Pennsylvania's manufacturing industry. And the high school students who are building robots today may be filling those jobs tomorrow.

That message was repeated again and again April 8-9, when Cal U hosted the 2016 Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals.

A record 82 teams from more than 60 Pennsylvania high schools and career centers brought their custom-built robots to the Convocation Center for round after round of gladiator-style competition. Students also submitted detailed engineering and project plans, interviewed with industry leaders and marketed their teams as they competed for 10 awards.

Public officials including U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy and state Rep. Brandon Neuman were on hand to welcome the teams and remind them to focus on careers.

"With our region's diverse manufacturing economy, there are jobs for you right here in southwestern Pennsylvania," said Monessen native Kathy M. Manderino, secretary of the state Department of Labor and Industry.

Technology teacher Stanton Glamp '08, an adviser for BotsIQ at Greater Latrobe High School, said learning to work as a team is just as important as science, technology, engineering and math.

"Bots IQ ... pulls together students with different skill sets and ability levels," he said. "Often they don't even know one another, but they learn to work well

together, mesh their skills and become friends."

One of Glamp's students, junior Brandon McGannon, said the BotsIQ program expanded his skills base.

"Last year I was just the driver, but I'm also sort of our chief mechanic now, too," he said. "Taking a CAD class has me intrigued with design work, and I'm now into transmitters, the receiver and radio equipment (that guide the remote-controlled robots)."

"This experience has given me a head start in things I never realized I'd be interested in before."

While pairs of robots faced off in two impact-resistant arenas, Yough High School junior Ashley McGhee worked on a robot's wiring.

"I have to make sure the (components) are calibrated to the controller so that the motors, especially the weapon motor, runs the right way," said McGhee, who studies machine trades at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center.

"I want to make sure the (components) are calibrated to the controller so that the motors, especially the weapon motor, runs the right way," said McGhee, who studies machine trades at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center.

She plans to further her education in robotics and electrical engineering. "My dad wants me to come here (to Cal U) for mechatronics, and it's something I want to do," she said. "But right now I need to make sure our 'bot runs smoothly."

Angela Sleith, a biology and robotics teacher, started Yough's BotsIQ team three years ago. She is earning her principal's certification at Cal U, but this trip to campus was all about her students and their futures.

"Today is a highlight for me," she said. "Just watching the students while kind of stepping back and letting them decide what they're good at is special."

The Yough team's second adviser, first-year industrial arts teacher Zach Szczerba '15, took students to visit the team's industry partner, Stellar Machine Inc.

"They really did not understand about manufacturing, and this opened a whole new world for them," he said. "There are so many internships and special program opportunities that these companies are offering to students."

Hempfield Area High School's team won the Grand Champion award for the best overall performance in competition, documentation and team interviews. Plum Senior High School's team was the definitive winner in the battles, winning the championship bout over Bedford High School.

But David Tilstone, president of the National Tooling and Machining Association, made it clear that job-ready high school and college graduates will be the real winners.

"There are 1,300 companies in the NTMA, and they want to hire each and every one of you," he told the competitors. "This event is an ideal way to get you started on a great manufacturing career."

Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ is a regional competition of the National Robotics League (NRL), an initiative of the National Tooling and Machining Association. Cal U will host the NRL national competition May 20-21 at the Convocation Center.

Political Strategist to Speak to Grads

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Strategies, a public and government affairs firm based in Pittsburgh.

Getz's career began in 1992 in the office of Pennsylvania's Speaker of the House. In 1993 she joined the Pennsylvania government relations firm Greenlee Partners as director of special projects, and she rejoined as managing director in 2007. Between 2000 and 2003 she served in top positions on the staffs that managed Bob Casey Jr.'s campaigns for state and federal offices, including his successful run for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Over the past 23 years Getz has been a strategist, information analyst and event planner for campaigns from school boards to the Supreme Court, and she has successfully raised funds for political candidates and charitable organizations throughout the nation. She also has helped to advance the interests of nonprofit organizations and major corporations.

An accomplished political professional, Getz has been named one of Pennsylvania's 24 "Most Politically Powerful Women." In 2006 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the Brownsville Area Schools Alumni Association, and in 2014 she received Cal U's W.S. Jackman Alumni Award of Distinction.

Getz is a native of Fayette County, where her father, the late Ron DeSalvo, was a Luzerne Township supervisor. She earned her bachelor's degree in business and marketing from California University of Pennsylvania in 1993. Today she resides in Rosslyn Farms, Pa., with her husband, Blake, and their sons, Chase and Max.

Both graduation ceremonies can be viewed live online at www.calu.edu. For more information, visit www.calu.edu/events/commencement.

Exhibition Celebrates Spring

"The Garden of Earthly Delights," a display of student artworks, continues from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through April 27 in the Vulcan Gallery, inside Vulcan Hall.

Students from Advanced Drawing and Painting courses installed and curated the exhibition, which is presented by the Department of Art and Languages.

The exhibition is free and open to the Cal U community, as well as the general public.



Paying Tribute

A guard watches over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, where on April 10 Cal U senior Robert Milhoan, an Iraq War veteran and member of the Veterans Club, and Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Maudsl, career counselor with the University's ROTC program, placed a wreath in memory of fallen service members. According to Robert Prah, director of Veterans Affairs at Cal U, this was the first time the University has participated in a public wreath laying at the cemetery, near Washington, D.C.



Patriotic Service

Capt. Robert Prah (left), director of Veterans Affairs, and University President Geraldine M. Jones recognize two Cal U students — both senior airmen in the Pennsylvania National guard — who returned to campus after deployment with the U.S. military. The Presidential Medal for Patriotic Service was awarded April 12 to junior Seth D. Ellison, an industrial technology management major, and senior Rachael Hough, an Earth science major with a concentration in meteorology. Both students were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tech Ed Students Win Honors

Cal U technology education students returned from the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association's national competitive events with two first-place and one third-place award, as well as two individual citations.

Teams from Cal U bested 14 other ITEEA teams to take first place in the Educational Display and Manufacturing competitions. They received a plaque and a \$750 scholarship for each win.

A Cal U team also placed third in the Teaching Lesson competition.

Senior honors student and Pennsylvania National Guardsman Daniel Hart received the ITEEA Donald Maley Undergraduate Outstanding Student Citation. This award recognizes excellence in undergraduate-level scholarship and leadership potential.

Lori Dadro received the Maley Spirit of Excellence Outstanding Graduate Student Citation, given for excellence in graduate-level scholarship and displaying leadership potential in technology and engineering education.

Cal U will continue to provide leadership for TECEA. Alex Peterson, president of the campus TEAC chapter, will be TECEA's national president for the upcoming academic year. He steps into the role held by graduating Cal U senior Juliana Lapek.

In all, 18 Cal U students traveled to National Harbor, Md., for the TECEA



Cal U technology education students Lori Dadro and Daniel Hart proudly display their awards at the International Technology and Engineering Education Association's 2016 annual conference at National Harbor, Md.

contests, held this spring in conjunction with the International Technology and Engineering Education Association's 2016 annual conference. Teams from 14 other universities competed in eight events.

Faculty advisers Dr. Laura Hummel and Dr. Mark Nowak accompanied the group from Cal U. Both gave presentations and coordinated competitions at the event.

Hummel received the ITEEA

Children's Council (ITEEA-CC) Mary Margaret Scobey Award, recognizing those who demonstrate outstanding dedication to elementary school science, technology, engineering and mathematics through activities conducted on behalf of elementary students and teachers.

She will serve on the ITEEA Board of Directors from 2016-2018, representing the Children's Council's officers and members.

Intern Hopes to Uncover Graves

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in part, by a \$1,000 Scenier Study Abroad Scholarship that she was awarded through Alpha Lambda Delta, a national honor society.

Over the past six years, ALD members at Cal U have been awarded nearly \$29,000 in national and local ALD scholarships.

Sydney Marks, a graduating senior majoring in mathematics with a minor in finance and a statistics concentration, received a \$3,000 Trow Scholarship from ALD for the 2015-16 academic year.

"I am so happy that Angela was awarded this scholarship to help support her Romania internship," said Dr. Karen Amrhein, co-advisor to the Cal U ALD chapter.

"She is a very active member and well deserving of the award."

Although she will be working 40-hour weeks at the excavation site, Novak is looking forward to seeing Romania. Two highlights on her tentative weekend agenda are visits to Bran Castle, a fortress linked to the Dracula legend, and to Salina Turda, an underground salt mine.

Novak aspires to continuing her studies at the original "body farm," the University of Tennessee's Anthropological Research Facility.

"Obviously this trip will add to my resume, but it's going to be such a personal growing experience, too," she said.

"I hope to share this experience at conferences, because a lot of people don't even think about going out there to do internships like this, and they should."

Hargraves Will Continue to Serve on FPDC

Faculty in the College of Education and Human Services have re-elected Dr. Scott Hargraves, of the Department of Health Science, to serve a four-year term on the Faculty Professional Development Committee, beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year.

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

Each year a faculty member is elected as a representative from one of the three undergraduate colleges (or the non-teaching faculty) to serve a four-year term on the FPD Committee.

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