

# California University JOURNAL

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## Grant Benefits Students, Rural Areas

A four-year, \$1.9 million grant-funded project will prepare Cal U students to serve rural communities in southwestern Pennsylvania as school counselors, mental health counselors and social work practitioners.

Dr. Elizabeth Gruber, a professor in the Counselor Education Department, and Dr. Sheri Boyle, chair of the Social Work Department, will lead the four-year project funded by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The grant includes \$300,000 annually, or \$1.2 million in all, to provide stipends for 30 Cal U graduate students as they complete the lengthy field placements required to earn a master's degree.

A 600-hour field placement, or internship, is required for students in Cal U's accredited counselor education program. The accredited social work program requires students to complete 660 hours in their advanced practicum.

The project focuses on medically underserved areas in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

Cal U draws its students primarily from this five-county region, the project directors note, and many of them struggle to afford the cost of an advanced degree.

"Our graduate students already are out working in rural settings, but their internships have been unpaid," Gruber said. "These stipends will benefit our students and relieve the additional financial burden of field

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Dr. Karen M. Whitney, interim chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, meets with student leaders and University President Geraldine M. Jones during her visit to the Cal U campus on Oct. 5.

## Interim State System Chancellor: Cal U is Distinctive

During a visit to Cal U on Oct. 5, the interim chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education praised the University for its commitment to students, and to meeting the evolving needs of the region and its workforce.

Dr. Karen M. Whitney, former president at Clarion University, began her new role as interim chancellor on

Sept. 12, after being selected by the Board of Governors in early August.

She succeeds Frank T. Brogan, who retired as chancellor on Sept. 1.

As the State System shifts to a more collaborative model, Whitney stressed her commitment to each individual school in the system.

"All 14 universities must continue," she emphasized. "They are all vibrant,

they are all distinctive, they are all important to the commonwealth and the communities they serve."

She praised Cal U for addressing the changing needs of students and the employers who eventually will hire them.

"California University has a distinctive, important history and

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## Homeland Security Conference Oct. 24

Tom Ridge, the first U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security and a former Pennsylvania governor, will deliver the keynote address at the 10th annual Conference on Homeland and International Security.

"A Community-Based Approach to Fighting Terror Crime" will be held from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Oct. 24 in the Convocation Center. The conference is organized by the Department of Criminal Justice.

Members of the public, including law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals, are invited to join Cal U students, faculty and staff at this free event.



Tom Ridge

For more information about the conference and to register, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

The University will award Ridge an honorary Doctor of Public Service before he presents his keynote talk, "Meeting 21st Century Threats with Local Law Enforcement."

The opening ceremony will start at 9 a.m., with Ridge's keynote address following the conferral of a Doctor of Public Service, *honoris causa*, by University President Geraldine M. Jones, at 11 a.m.

Ridge previously visited Cal U's campus during his first term as governor, in 1996, when he spoke to graduating students at the 149th Commencement.



Cal U theater majors Kayla Grimm, left, Garrett Smyth and Jessica Crosson use the new solar-powered charging table outside Manderino Library.

## Charge Up at Solar Table

Laptops, tablets and smartphones are an intrinsic part of college life — and all those devices need charging.

Now Cal U students can recharge their digital devices outdoors, using the sun's power.

A sustainable, solar-powered charging table has been installed along Third Street, near the entrance to Manderino Library.

The ConnectTable™ Hub offers seating beneath a solar array that provides enough off-grid energy to support 75-150 cellphone charges per day, even under cloudy skies.

Put simply, here's how it works: Four commercial-quality photovoltaic panels capture solar energy, which is converted to electrical power and stored in a battery housed within the table. The power flows to four 120-volt outlets and eight USB ports that accommodate laptops, tablets and phones.

Just bring your cord, plug in to the table and charge.

The all-weather charging table operates year-round on just two to three hours of direct sunlight per day. It's built to withstand winds

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## Fair Creates Opportunities for Students, Alumni

More than 400 Cal U students seeking internships, full-time or part-time employment networked with more than 80 companies, organizations and graduate school programs Oct. 3 at the "Blaze Your Path" Career Fair in the Convocation Center.

Many alumni also attended, including Paul Sheppick '15, '17, who earned a bachelor's degree in commercial music technology and an MBA.

He dropped off resumes with companies such as Mylan and Advanced Acoustics Concepts LLC. And he recalled attending a career fair during his undergraduate days.

"I believe I have many options with my two degrees, and coming here today has helped to open some doors," Sheppick said.

Freshman Julia Valencia, a biology major, attended her first career fair.

"I heard in several classes that attending this career fair was a good thing to do as you move up the class ranks," she said.

"I found a couple of good internship leads that are close to my home (in Fredericktown, Pa.) and also heard some good ideas from people here."

Lanieta Waqanivalu was writing a paper about the event for her Honors Composition I course taught by Dr. Mark Aune. She wants to pursue a career in the medical field.

"I like how the University gives students the opportunity to engage and get your name out there to employers right away," she said. "As a freshman, I



Cal U students listen as Robin Mungo, Pennsylvania State Police trooper and recruiter, shares information about a law enforcement career at the "Blaze Your Path" Career Fair in the Convocation Center on Oct. 3.

want to get started on the right foot and hopefully get some things lined up early."

Rhonda Gifford, director of Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center, agrees with that approach.

"We encourage freshmen through alumni to attend the career fair, and they have responded and gained experience and opportunities," she said. "Our employers tell us this fair is one

of the best, and we love having them networking with our students and alumni."

"We are looking for substitute teachers and classroom aides," said Melissa Santangelo, a recruiter for Source4Teachers. The educational staffing firm hires educators and places them in school districts. "There are several students who

education majors whom we've spoken with and collected their resumes."

Gifford encourages all students and alumni to visit the career center, in Suite 138 of the Natoli Student Union, where resume reviews are conducted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Students also may contact the center for career goal appointments or information on upcoming job fairs; call 724-938-4413.

### Global Outreach

Bessy Bommelick, director of international programming, and Dr. Mohamed Yamba, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, meet with prospective students at a U.S. Embassy/Department of Commerce higher education fair in Abuja, Nigeria. More than 1,000 students attended the fair reports international studies professor Dr. Sean Madden, who also made the journey to Africa. These students are the high school elite, and they want to study in the U.S., Madden says. "I believe we convinced a significant number of them that Cal U is a great option." The Cal U recruitment team also planned to attend recruitment events in Lagos, Nigeria, and in Accra, Ghana.



## Library Wants Conversation

Manderino Library celebrated Banned Books Week with a thought-provoking question on Twitter and Facebook and a library whiteboard: What offensive or inappropriate literature would you like to see removed from the library collection?

"The campaign was very successful, and we got a lot of passionate responses," said Monica Ruane Rogers, assistant professor in the Department of Library Services and research assessment and outcomes librarian.

"Many understood this was done as a celebration, while others were concerned we would be abandoning some literature — which obviously we were never intending to do.

"We were looking to personalize Banned Books Week and used the campaign as a catalyst to really start a

conversation about censorship.

"We certainly do not ban books or promote censorship in the library."

Endorsed by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week, held in late September, is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read.

Ruane Rogers added that there are a number of books in the library that are deemed controversial, and the library has encouraged debate and discussion about them.

"Censorship causes blindness, and we really are trying to open up everyone's lives to literature."

According to Ruane Rogers, nearly 800 people interacted with and viewed the social media campaign. More than 40 people responded with written replies at the library display.

"We wanted and expected people to be

angry about the idea of censorship, because if you're not fighting for your right to read, it can be taken away from you."

The library ran a similar campaign in recognition of the National Day on Writing, which was celebrated Oct. 19 and sponsored by the National Council of Teachers in English.

Next month, Manderino will have a display celebrating "Movember," an annual event in which men are

encouraged to grow moustaches to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer and suicide.

"We want people to think of our library as a leader on campus when it comes to ideas such as cultural inclusion, the liberal arts and, obviously, the freedom to read," Ruane Rogers said.

## Power Up at Solar Table

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of 90 miles per hour. The solar array provides shade, the seating is made from recycled milk jugs, and the table is wheelchair accessible.

"Our students have asked for sustainable solutions, and we're listening," said Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance at Cal U.

"There is a lot of foot traffic near the library, so it's a convenient location for a charging station. And I think students will enjoy having a place to plug in, sit down and spend time together outdoors."

The charging table is made by a Pennsylvania company — Carrier Class Green Infrastructure, of Willow Grove.

University President Geraldine M. Jones is proud that Cal U is the first school in the state to offer a solar charging station to its students, employees and guests, and she envisions students gathering to work on group projects outdoors.

"Everything we want to do focuses on our students, but this benefits our faculty as well," she said. "These charging stations also reflect our commitment to science and technology."

The President added that students now can enjoy fresh air, help the environment and even meet others while charging their devices.

## Cal U Making Agricultural Mark

Cal U has become a partner in providing and growing local produce through sustainable agricultural practices.

This spring, Dr. Sara Meiss, an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, organized a Community Supported Agriculture distribution and a small farmers market on campus.

CSA allows consumers to subscribe to the harvest of a farm or group of farms. Cal U has organized a CSA through Stone Church Acres, a family-owned sustainable farm in Finleyville, Pa.

Subscribers pick up their "shares," or baskets of fruits, vegetables and herbs, from Meiss and a student helper.

"These CSAs guarantee someone food and give small farms capital without the added expense of a middle entity," Meiss said. "Anybody in the community can join the Stone Acres CSA and pick up their dividends (food baskets) right here on campus."

Subscribers include Cal U faculty members Dr. John Nass and Dr. Louise Nicholson, as well as Dr. Beth Baxter '85, past president of California Rotary.

"What Sarah and Cal U have done is wonderful," said Baxter, who retired as Cal U's director of marketing in 2007.

"This was sorely needed in California borough, where so many people do not drive. Now it's so convenient for people to come right on campus to get local and sustainable food products, which are just fabulous."

This summer, Cal U's Horticulture and Sustainability Club ran a farmers market on Wednesdays during the popular Sycamore Bistro picnics outside Herron Hall. This semester the club hopes to have the market available from 3-6 p.m. Thursdays in the Frich Hall lobby.

Stone Acres donates produce, and Cal U also purchases a variety of local foods wholesale from the Republic (Pa.) Food Enterprise Center, which offers packed food and a variety of syrups, granolas, mustards and jellies. Also available is produce grown by students at SAI Farm.

Cal U is the educational partner for the RFECC, which distributes local



Dr. Sara Meiss, an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, prepares a Community Supported Agriculture package in the lobby of Frich Hall.

produce, stimulates agricultural production, and develops retail outlets in the region.

"Just as with the CSA, the whole idea for the farmers market is to have local access for local products," said Meiss.

"While club members and biology majors primarily tend to the garden (at SAI Farm), we welcome any student and will help them learn to grow anything."

"Anything that grows successfully will be offered at the farmers market." All proceeds benefit the Horticulture and Sustainability Club.

Junior Joe Carter, club president, says he has always enjoyed growing and buying local food but has learned much more from Meiss and helping with the garden at SAI Farm and the farmers market.

"It's about giving opportunity for others to help support local food systems, as well as supporting them yourself," said Carter, who is majoring in environmental sciences.

"For me it's very motivating to work closely with Dr. Meiss, who is so dedicated to making our campus and community a better place."

This summer, RFECC received a

\$1.75 million grant from Appalachian Regional Commission, which will be used for education and outreach, the formation of a regional ad council, an aquaponics system to sustain fish for market, and more.

Meiss will serve on a farm policy and agriculture business council and develop an educational curriculum used to help RFECC's workforce and economic initiatives.

"As they reinvest in what should create good jobs for the future, RFECC is going to have many internship opportunities for students in a variety of majors to serve the many agricultural, business and marketing strategy needs for small companies and farms," Meiss explained.

About 15 student-volunteers from the sustainability club already assisted RFECC, who arranged to provide the food available at the Farm Aid 2017 event Sept. 16 in Burgettstown, Pa.

"We are off to a good start but are just in the early stages of developing partnerships with community agencies," Meiss said. "We will continue to look for opportunities and get our students involved with the agriculture industry in the region."

## Campus BRIEFS

### Lunchtime History

Students from the University Honors Program will present their recent experiences exploring Mon Valley history at 11 a.m. Oct. 26 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

Dr. Christina Fisanick, of the English Department, and Robert Stakeley, affiliate program coordinator at the Heinz History Center, also will be on hand to discuss their collaborative work.

The program is sponsored by the Northern Appalachian Network. Audience members are invited to bring their lunch.

### Native American History Month

The public may attend a free presentation by Christopher B. Chaney, of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, at 11 a.m. Nov. 2 in Duda Hall, Room 202.

Presented by Cal U's Native American Studies Institute, the talk, "Tribal Sovereignty and Federal Indian Law," takes place during Native American Heritage Month.

Chaney lives in West Virginia and is an attorney for the FBI. He served as a tribal prosecutor, handling crimes for the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Southern Ute Tribe. He also prosecuted federal crimes for the Navajo Nation and the Umatilla & Ouzay Ute Tribe.

For two years, Chaney was in charge of law enforcement and corrections programs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

For more information, contact Dr. Clarence Cooper at [confer\\_c@calu.edu](mailto:confer_c@calu.edu).

## Grant Benefits Rural Areas

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placements, such as lost income, childcare and transportation costs."

The five-county region's high poverty rate and the prevalence of alcohol and opioid abuse, among other factors, have created a need for more behavioral and mental health care practitioners to work with residents at all stages of life.

"We hope that our students will continue to work here when they graduate," Gruber said.

In addition to preparing future counselors and social workers, the grant supports training for Cal U students and their field-placement supervisors, University faculty and community-based professionals. It will create new field placement sites, support development of new coursework focused on this vulnerable population, and help to recruit new students for Cal U's school counseling, mental health counseling and social work programs, expanding the pool of quality behavioral health professionals for the region's workforce.

The HBSA program's first cohort will consist of current Cal U students chosen



during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters.

In subsequent years, those interested in working with the target population will be selected through an application process.

## Interim Chancellor: Cal U Distinctive

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purpose," Whitney said. "Its heritage is in teaching, with a distinctive mission now in science and technology."

"That's important, because there is a constant momentum of change and a need to keep up with what's relevant."

Whitney added that Cal U is a beautiful campus with exceptional facilities.

"It's a beautiful setting, which is important because it enables students to be ready to learn," she said. "If someone does not feel secure or welcome, they're not going to be ready to learn and engage with their professors when they walk into that classroom."

"I think Cal U is extremely committed to that kind of campus experience. ... At the same time, California is also a leader in online education."

Whitney and University President

Geraldine M. Jones both met with some of Cal U's student leaders.

"It's exciting to hear the students talk about the hopes they have for themselves," Whitney said. "They all plan on being productive citizens who want to remain in Pennsylvania."

"They clearly love the faculty and staff (at Cal U). They feel an extraordinary sense of care, support, engagement and voice on their campus."

She turned to President Jones and added, "After meeting them, I can tell they are ready to take on the world."

President Jones expressed gratitude for Whitney's collegial relationship, which is rooted in their shared experience as university presidents.

"With Dr. Whitney, the students always come first," President Jones said. "With her knowledge and passion, she has a clear focus on what she wants to accomplish. We can count on her to speak candidly and keep the system moving forward."



At left, Kaitlyn Miller, a senior graphic design major, looks at T-shirts screen printed by Cal U's graphic design club, Studio 224, at the College of Liberal Arts Fall Festival inside Manderino Library. Above, alumnus Stephen V. Russell shows his collection of political memorabilia in the gallery on the third floor of Manderino Library.

## Liberal Arts Festival Educates, Entertains

The College of Liberal Arts showcased the entertaining, the cultural, the intellectual and more at its Fall Festival on Oct. 5.

Academic activities include a presentation about Egypt from Emad Hakim, the University's second visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the Arabic program; a Chinese writing workshop; and student research presentations.

The festival also featured performances by Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre, the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, a *coppelia* groups, and African, salsa and Latino bands.

Students from area high schools spent the day on campus, as well.

Emily Francis, a sophomore majoring in computer science, helped with face-painting demonstrations as part of her theatrical makeup course.

"There are so many things to see from so many different cultures — and a lot of food!" she said. "It was so cool seeing visiting high school students learning how to belly dance!"

### Political Memorabilia

As part of the festival, alumnus Stephen V. Russell '70 discussed "American Presidents: Celebrating Red, White and Blue." His collection of political memorabilia was on display through Homecoming week in the gallery on the third floor of Manderino Library.

Russell is a historian, educator and consultant for ESPN Sports, Turner Classic Movies and Hofstra University's nationally recognized presidential conference. His collection of JFK memorabilia is one of the largest in the world.

He believes that the polarization that is often talked about today began during the Kennedy administration, noting that JFK dealt with political fringe groups and issues related to personal liberties and freedom.

"John F. Kennedy confronted those issues in his speeches. He did not call those folks out by name, but he referred to those groups as 'fanatics,'" Russell said. "What happened then is really well in play now."

Russell — who started collecting political memorabilia when he was in fifth grade — said he was thrilled to be part of the festival.

"This program about diversity, different cultures and respecting people's viewpoints, John F. Kennedy promoted that idea 100 percent," Russell said. "He always said we have to win the people's hearts and minds, and you're never going to win anything by war."

### Bullying Has No Borders

Mobile devices put the world at your fingertips, as well as the power to harm others.

That powerful message was an underlying theme of "Bullying Has No Borders," a panel presentation that featured Judge Theresa Dellick and other court officials from Mahoning County, Ohio.

"Bullying is aggressive. It's unwanted. It's repeated, or has the potential to be repeated. And it has an imbalance of power," said Karen Guerrieri, a clinical counselor for Mahoning County Court.

Jim DeLuca, the court's clinical counselor director, pointed out that there are more than 2 billion people on



Theresa Dellick, judge of the Mahoning County (Ohio) Juvenile Court, makes a point to the audience during a panel presentation, "Bullying Has No Borders," as part of the College of Liberal Arts Fall Festival.

Facebook, and two of every seven people in the world are online.

"You must be very mindful of what you post, because once you send it out, it does not go away," said Sharon Fisher, the court's probation and sex offense specialist.

"Sexting (can be a type of) bullying, and unfortunately many of our young people don't understand that."

DeLuca added, "We have the possibility to make and create anything we want on video. Once it's on video, it can be spread and disseminated to anyone, anywhere, any time and any place. Imagine the possibility of destroying someone's private life."

Mahoning County prosecutor Anissa Modarelli also discussed laws related to hazing.

Throughout the presentation, the court

officials showed video clips depicting real-world people affected by bullying. They included the mother of a teen-age daughter who committed suicide after her nude photo was posted, and an 18-year-old man who was convicted as a sex offender for sending an electronic photo of his high school girlfriend.

"Your facial expressions during these clips were intriguing," Dellick told the audience.

"There are always questions and different viewpoints with this, but there are serious consequences for many when bad decisions are made."

Co-organizers of the Fall Festival were Andrew Conrich and Monica Ruane Rogers. The panel discussion was sponsored by the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.

## Registration Open for Cal U Winter College

Students who attend any college, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, may register now for the 100 percent online classes offered during the break between the fall and spring semesters.

Cal U's five-week 2017-2018 Winter College runs from Dec. 18 through Jan. 19.

The winter term offers 29 undergraduate and 24 graduate courses. A complete list is available at [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu), along with information about tuition

and fees, financial aid, library services and technology support.

Online registration is also available. Look for a link on the home page or search for "Winter College."

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