

California University JOURNAL

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‘Do What’s Right,’ Speaker Tells Graduates

Jerrany Brionne Tanner’s first visit to Cal U was certainly a memorable one. The Global Online student from Tampa, Fla., was vested in an academic hood and awarded a master’s degree in exercise science. Tanner came to campus for Cal U’s 180th Commencement. Ceremonies held May 8 and May 9 at the Convocation Center marked an academic milestone for the Class of 2015.

“It was great to see the campus and just be here to celebrate this accomplishment,” she said before the evening ceremony for graduate students.

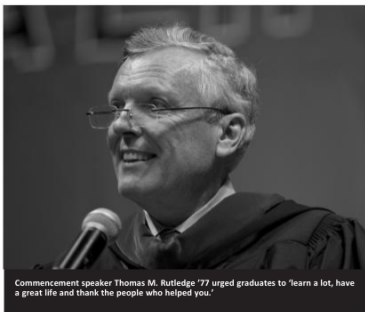
“The education was great because I was able to work (and) access to classes was simple... I feel I am very prepared for the next steps in my life.”

John Payarchin, who earned his bachelor’s degree in computer science while working two part-time jobs, was among the undergraduates who collected a diploma May 9.

The Dunbar, Pa., native now plans to pursue an online Professional Science Master’s degree in cybersecurity through Cal U.

“I believe this is a good mix of degrees and training, which will give me some excellent job opportunities,” Payarchin said. “I enjoyed the computer science faculty I had. They graded fairly and were helpful.”

In all, interim University



Commencement speaker Thomas M. Rutledge ‘77 urged graduates to ‘learn a lot, have a great life and thank the people who helped you.’

President Geraldine M. Jones conferred degrees upon more than 1,200 students, including those whose diplomas were awarded in their absence.

“I am proud of you, our graduates, for your hard work and the sacrifices you made to get to this point,” President Jones said. “Remember to help others. Ponder how you can lend a hand or make a difference.”

“No matter what career path you choose, those special moments you spend taking time to understand, help and mentor others will shape you into

an even greater human being.”

Thomas M. Rutledge ‘77 addressed the graduates at both ceremonies.

He is president and chief executive officer of Charter Communications Inc., a leading broadband communications company and among the largest cable operators in the United States.

Rutledge, the former chief operating officer of Cablevision and president of Time Warner Cable, said the world is experiencing a digital revolution.

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Cal U’s First Doctorate Approved by Trustees

At its June 3 meeting, the University’s Council of Trustees unanimously approved a proposal to offer a Doctor of Health Science degree with a concentration in Health Science and Exercise Leadership.

If approved by the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, this would be the first doctorate offered at Cal U and the first D.H.Sc. degree offered within the State System.

Acting Provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart said the new program will build on Cal U’s successful master’s degree program in Exercise Science. The doctoral program will be delivered through Cal U Global Online.

“This new program addresses workplace and education needs as the population ages and focus shifts from treating disease to promoting wellness and fitness,” the provost said.

Employment prospects for students with the degree are favorable, with an estimated 1.1 million new jobs being added in the field annually across the United States.

The program will leverage Cal U’s existing relationships with organizations such as the National Academy of Sports Medicine, the National Association of Speed and Explosion, and WellCoaches Corp.

Trustees also approved a proposal to purchase all six main-campus residence halls from the Student Association Inc. The

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Two ROTC Cadets Commissioned as Officers

Two ROTC cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. military at a ceremony May 7 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Cal U cadets Joseph Haas and Joshua Wolfe received the gold bars signifying their new rank at the Department of Military Science’s Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony.

Wolf will serve in the Army, and Haas in the Army National Guard.

Before taking the oath of office, the cadets heard welcoming remarks by interim University President Geraldine M. Jones.

“I feel confident that the strong leadership skills and exemplary conduct that have optimized your time as cadets will continue to flourish as you become officers,” President Jones told the cadets.

“We are impressed with all you have accomplished, thrilled to see you earn your commission, and prayerful that when your service is complete, you will



Second Lieutenant Joshua Wolfe (center) takes the oath of office from Capt. Joseph M. Ladisic during the Cal U ROTC commissioning ceremony.

find your way safely home.”

Guest speaker was Capt. Joseph M. Ladisic, a 14-year veteran of the

Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

He currently holds dual assignments as the Southwest Regional Officer

strength manager for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the commander of Bravo Company 1st Battalion 110th Infantry, based in Waynesburg, Pa.

Ladisic has served overseas as a civil affairs project manager with the provincial reconstruction team in Kunar, Afghanistan, and he helped to train both new second lieutenants.

“When you leave our unit or ROTC program, our names are sort of stamped on you and we hold that in very high regard,” he said. “You both have developed and matured very quickly.”

He encouraged Haas and Wolfe to be creative as they join an Army that is drawing down in size and wrestling with dwindling budgets.

“Creativity inspires interest, which creates motivation in your soldiers,” Ladisic said. “Even with limited resources there’s always a way, and you’ll figure it out.”

“Remember you are soldiers first. Study your craft, study history, earn

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Children entering grades 3-8 will visit campus June 22-26 and July 20-24 for SEEK, Cal U's annual Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids program.

SEEK Offers Two Sessions

SEEK, Cal U's annual Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids program, will offer two weeklong sessions for children entering grades 1-8.

Classes will be held June 22-26 and July 20-24. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. daily. Cost is \$135 per child for a full-week, full-day (morning or afternoon) program.

Participants are escorted between classes and supervised at lunchtime. Each child should bring a bag lunch; refrigeration is not available.

Since it was founded in 2000, the award-winning summer program has provided children with learning experiences that are entertaining, yet academically challenging.

The curriculum is tailored to specific age groups and encourages all participants to reach their maximum learning potential.

To review the 2015 SEEK brochure and register, visit www.calu.edu.

For more information, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 724-938-4407 or e-mail seek@calu.edu. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Summer of STEAM at Southpointe

Children in grades 3-8 can explore, create and innovate this summer at the Cal U Center for Innovation at Southpointe, in Canonsburg, Pa. Beginning June 17, the center's Summer of STEAM programs take a hands-on approach to science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics, with classes ranging from historical architecture to 3-D printing, space travel, robotics and entrepreneurial skills. "Innovator Wednesday" programs feature engaging, design-based STEAM activities that foster learning, problem-solving creativity and teamwork. Parents may register children for individual Innovator Wednesday programs or the complete series.



Students in grades 3-5 meet from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesdays from June 17-Aug. 19. Cost is \$20 per session, and a different topic is covered each week.

Students in grades 6-8 meet Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$25 per session; topics change weekly. Students bring their own lunch.

"Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs" in grades 3-8 also are welcome at the Cal U Center for Innovation, where a program hosted by Arts, Inc. meets from noon-4 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 7-Aug. 13. Each student creates a logo, website, press kit and branding materials for a business based on his or her passion. The young entrepreneurs write a company biography, resume and business plan, develop marketing and sales strategies, film testimonials, and practice networking to build their entrepreneurial skills. Cost is \$600 per student for the six-week program. Seating is limited.

To register for programs at the Cal U Center for Innovation at Southpointe, visit www.calu.edu/innovation. For details, contact Christopher Allen, community education manager, at allen@calu.edu or 724-938-2765.

Cadets Receive Gold Bars

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respect and bring intent to your soldiers."

Haas earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and received a National Guard commission into the Infantry branch. He will attend an Officer Basic training course in Fort Sill, Okla.

Wolfe, who earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, received an active duty commission into the Infantry branch. He will attend an Officer Basic training course at Fort Benning, Ga.

During the ceremony, family members pinned a gold bar to each cadet's uniform to signify his new rank. Following Army tradition, each new second lieutenant gave a silver dollar to an officer in exchange for his first salute.

Retiring Lt. Colonel Andrew Loeb, commander of the Three Rivers Battalion, concluded the ceremony.

"You're the new generation and my challenge for you is to continue to serve, remember where you came from, where you're going, and never stop learning."

GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- Dr. Jennifer Wilburn and Professor Joseph Schickel, of the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, have been awarded \$24,586 by the National Science Foundation for the first year of a three-year Advanced Technological Education project titled "Technicians in Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, and Supply Chain Technology (TEAMS)." The pair will serve as co-principal investigators for Cal U, which is collaborating on the project with the Community College of Allegheny County.

- Dr. Susan Ryan, of the Department of Earth Sciences, has received \$10,500 in additional funding to continue her work with Destination Gettysburg Pennsylvania. This will be used to continue the Adams County-wide intercept survey and perform data collection and reporting for the Gettysburg visitor intercept survey.

- Dr. Justin Hackett, of the Department of Psychology, has been awarded a State System of Higher Education FPDC annual grant of \$10,000. This award will support a project titled "Needs Assessment for the Child and Family Studies Institute."

- Dr. Denise Joseph, Dr. Samantha Procaccini and Dr. Nancy Carfino, of the Department of Communication Disorders, have been awarded a State System of Higher Education FPDC annual grant of \$5,408. This award

- will support their research on "The effect of the Supervision, Questioning, Feedback (SQF) Model on critical thinking skills in speech language pathology graduate students."

- Dr. Sarah Meiss, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded a State System FPDC annual grant of \$8,250. This award will support her research on "Creating a Community (Local) Based Food System in Southwestern PA Tri-County Area (Fayette, Greene and Washington Counties)."

- Dr. Keat Murray, of the Department of English, has been awarded a State System FPDC annual grant of \$8,100. This award will support a project titled "Recovering and Revitalizing Haudenosaunee Names: Digital Repatriation of Indigenous Knowledge in William Martin Beauchamp's Papers on Personal Iroquois Names."

- Dr. Clover Wright, of the Department of Childhood Education, has been awarded \$5,380 from the WVCA/Southwest Regional Key. This funding will be used for an Early Childhood Science and Nature Mini-Conference held at Cal U.

- Dr. Kimberly Vanderlian, of the Department of English, has been awarded a State System FPDC annual grant of \$5,184. This award will support her research into how "Directed Reading of Literature Improves Brain Functioning

- and Test Scores in Local High School Students."

- Dr. David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded a grant of \$4,968 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This award will support his project titled "Assessing Unassessed Waters in Southwestern Pennsylvania," which includes eastern brook trout sampling in Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

- Dr. Welfeng Chen, of the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, has been awarded a State System FPDC annual grant of \$4,100. This award will support a project titled "A Novel Authentication Framework to Protect Smartphones."

- Dr. Dawn Moeller, of the Counseling Center, has been awarded a State System FPDC annual grant of \$2,716. This award will support a project titled "Piloting a new 'Hive Experience' program on a college campus: Does assigning a residence hall friendship group and fostering group cohesiveness result in better adaptation to college?"

- Frances Fayish, nurse practitioner at the Cal U Wellness Center, has been awarded a \$1,500 Health Awareness Initiative grant from the Pennsylvania Faculty Health and Welfare Fund. This funding will be used to support the annual health fair, set for Sept. 28.

Tech Ed Students Win TEECA Honors



Preparing for a competition at the TEECA Conference are (from left) Jason Sharik, Matt Rimbey and Devin Fintrot.

Cal U technology education students returned from the Technology and Engineering Education Collegiate Association's national competitive events with three first-place and two third-place awards.

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

Cal U teams placed third in the Robotics and Teaching Lesson competitions.

Student Frank Guyer, TEECA's 2014-2015 national president, received four awards. They included the TEECA Award of Distinction, the association's highest honor, and the College Student Leadership Award.

Cal U will continue to provide leadership for TEECA. Juliana Lapak, president of the campus TEECA chapter, will be TEECA's national president for the upcoming academic year, and rising sophomore Alex Peterson was installed as president-elect.

In all, 19 Cal U students traveled to Milwaukee, Wis., for the TEECA contests, held this spring in conjunction with the International Technology and Engineering Education Association's 2015 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.

Trustees Approve Cal U's First Doctorate

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purchase, which also requires approval from the Board of Governors, would be funded with State System bonds.

Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, said the purchase could enable Cal U to lower room rates and make student housing more affordable. It also would give the University the flexibility to change housing configurations to better meet student demands.

"This will enhance recruitment and retention efforts while sustaining positive cash flow," he said.

The transition to University ownership would be seamless, Thorn added, because Cal U has provided management and oversight of housing operations since the residence halls were constructed between 2004 and 2008.

A new Shared Governance Plan also received the Trustees' approval. As interim University President Geraldine M. Jones outlined in her report, a task force was formed to develop the plan after the University Forum was abolished in 2013.

Led by history professor Dr. Craig Smith, the task force solicited feedback from the entire campus community as it drafted the plan.

While praising the group for its efforts, President Jones emphasized the plan's guiding principles.

"These call for substantial dialogue before decisions are reached, the need for constituent groups to participate in this process and the ability for these groups to influence decision-making," she said.

"The guiding principles also make clear that the University administration retains the authority to make final decisions."

Smith expressed his gratitude in public comments made during the session.

"It's a dynamic, versatile system that's very different from the old (University Forum)," he said. "We must now consider how to successfully implement and evaluate it moving forward."

The President also updated Trustees about ongoing efforts to address The Compliance Group's review of the football program, which included 32 specific recommendations for bringing the football program into better alignment with the University's expectations and



Building on its successful master's degree program in exercise science, Cal U plans to offer a Doctor of Health Science degree. It would be the first doctorate offered at the University and the first D.H.Sc. degree offered within the State System.

ideals.

Some recommendations are being implemented throughout the Athletics Department, not just for the football program, "simply because they make sense."

"We are taking a more proactive stance to ensure that our student-athletes, coaches and others are aware of the expectations we have," President Jones said.

In other business:

- Barnhart reported that summer enrollment has increased by more than 6 percent compared to last year. More than 3,600 students are taking summer courses, the majority of them online. Students also are using the summer months to complete internships and fieldwork experiences.

- Dr. Nancy Pinard, interim vice president for Student Affairs, reported on initiatives to meet the needs of commuters and non-traditional students, who comprise 74 percent of Cal U's student population.

In addition, the University is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Security initiative to

open a food pantry on campus. Some students who volunteer at local food banks may themselves be eligible for aid, she noted.

- Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations, described ongoing efforts to enhance the University's reputation by placing positive news stories where they might reach prospective students.

The Convocation Center continues to bring in revenue, attract potential students and their families, and create a positive "buzz" about Cal U. Between March and May 2015, the facility hosted 54 events, bringing more than 34,000 visitors to campus.

- Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that more than \$2.5 million in donations and pledges has been raised during the current fiscal year, including almost \$1.5 million in cash donations.

The Council of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on Sept. 16.

Equality Is One 'Wicked Problem'

Whether you're talking about race, economics, health care or education, equality is an ideal that has been difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

It was also the first subject

discussed when the American Democracy Project at Cal U introduced a series of campus conversations about "wicked" or intractable problems April 23 in Eberly Hall.

The American Democracy Project

plans to continue the series during the fall semester.

"People need to realize these problems exist," said sophomore Kirra Lent, a childhood education major. "Maybe we can be part of the solution some day."





Softball Success!

Cal U's softball team added to its rich legacy this spring with a trip to the NCAA National Semifinals. The Vulcans repeated as PSAC champions and then won the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional and Super Regional titles before advancing to the NCAA National Championship Tournament in Oklahoma City. Cal U finished the 2015 season with a 43-13 overall record. Juniors Alex Saegl, pitcher, and Lindsay Reicoff, first base, were both named National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Americans for the second time in their careers. Cal U softball has competed in the NCAA Division II post-season 26 times in the past 26 years.

'Do What's Right,' Speaker Tells Grads

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"The thing I love the most is to see what people can learn," Rutledge said. "Everything changes through the time of a normal life span — technology, software, science, processes, but not people."

"If you're smart, you know you have a lot to learn."

What is most gratifying, he added, are the personal relationships that come from working responsibly with others.

"On occasions like this, a lot of people would say to follow your bliss. I say, do what's right. Being responsible feels better than being blissful."

"As your capabilities grow in time, so will your responsibilities. So learn a lot, have a great life and thank the people who helped you."

Before undergraduates received their diplomas, Ryan Fisher, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented President Jones with a check for more than \$22,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

More than \$15,000 has been raised for an endowed scholarship since the first senior class donation was delivered at the spring 2010 Commencement.

"Those of us who worked on and contributed to the 2015 Senior Class Gift Drive certainly embrace the idea of a lifelong relationship

with Cal U," Fisher said.

President Jones acknowledged Natalie Jean Hilbert and Fuad Abdul Kader for earning bachelor's degrees while attaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average with at least 90 credit hours at Cal U.

Twenty other students earned two separate degrees simultaneously.

Before the graduates filed out of the Convocation Center, President Jones reminded the Class of 2015

that their work as University graduates is just beginning.

"You have important work ahead of you — the work of continuing to build a meaningful life and grow as a contributing member of this global society we live in," she said. "It is up to you as educated, knowledgeable, purposeful and caring human beings to help change lives, reshape communities, and make the world a better place."



Molly Malady celebrates California University of Pennsylvania's 180th Commencement during the procession to the Convocation Center. Malady, who earned her bachelor's degree in theatre, is from Charlevoix, Pa.

Forensic Scientist Discusses Famous Cases

Over the past 40 years, forensic scientist Dr. Henry C. Lee has investigated more than 8,000 criminal, civil and historical cases in 46 countries, including 14 of USA Today's "Top 25 Headlines That Shaped History."

Chief emeritus of the Connecticut State Police and founder of the Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science at the University of New Haven, Conn., Lee discussed his career and talked about several of his high-profile cases April 20 at the Convocation Center.

He reflected on cases such as the John F. Kennedy assassination and the recent trial of Miguel Torres, who at one time was listed among the FBI's most-wanted fugitives. Torres, who fled first to the Dominican Republic and then to Italy, this winter was found guilty of his wife's 2005 murder in Berks County, Pa.

"Cases involving a police shooting are the most difficult," Lee said while commenting on last year's shooting death of Michael Brown, a young black man who was killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Mo.

"You are put in a no-win situation where either the community will hate you or the police will question what side you're on. In earlier days law enforcement and the community worked together, but now they are separate. It's not an easy job."

Lee's talk was co-sponsored by the Criminal Justice Club and the Forensic Science Club. There are plenty of career opportunities in the field, he told the students in attendance. Dozens of federal agencies are looking to hire criminal justice majors with strong computer backgrounds, he said.

"It's a wonderful field, but if you look at it (merely) as a job, you'll be miserable. It's a profession."

Lee's first degree, in police science, was awarded by China's Central Police College, and he touched on an important difference between police officers and forensic scientists.

"Instinct and subjectivity on the streets can help a policeman determine the good or bad guys, but as a scientist you must put away subjectivity and let the experiment ... tell you," he said.

Much forensic evidence is transient, he said, but advances in technology mean that scientists are getting results in areas such as DNA testing faster than ever before.

"I never in my life dreamed what our work could do in helping to shape history," he said.

Lee, who grew up fatherless as one of 13 children, encouraged the students to make the impossible possible.

"You professors and students are people that make things happen," he said. "In anything you do, have knowledge, courage and honesty in your heart."

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

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