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Tom Ridge, who was the first secretary of Homeland Security, speaks about the importance of local policing in combating terrorism during the 10th annual Homeland Security Conference.

Ridge Headlines Homeland Security Conference

The nation's first Secretary of Homeland Security and Pennsylvania's former governor believes that local law enforcement is imperative in combating terrorism.

After being awarded a Doctor of Public Service, *honoris causa*, the Hon. Tom Ridge delivered the keynote address at the 10th annual Homeland Security Conference on Oct. 24 in the Convocation Center. The conference was titled "A Community-Based Approach to Fighting Terror Crime."

"We may have great federal law enforcement agencies but ultimately you can't beat terrorism from inside the

belway," said Ridge, who added that the 9/11 terrorist attacks changed the nature of policing by adding another layer of "responsibility to officers' daily tasks.

"The local police know the rhythm of the communities they serve, and until we connect the federal government with the local government, we will never maximize our ability to combat terrorism at the local level."

Ridge's address followed earlier presentations by Cal U criminal justice professors Dr. Michael Hummel and Dr. Aref Alkhattar.
Department chair Julie Warnick

served as conference moderator, and Dr. John Cencich, a former senior U.N. war crimes investigator and director of the Pennsylvania Center for Investigative and Forensic Sciences, gave the closing remarks.

Before conferring the honorary degree, University President Geraldine M. Jones noted that Ridge had spoken to graduating students in 1996, at California University's 149th Commencement.

"While we can never repay Secretary Ridge for all he has done and continues to do for the Commonwealth

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National Award Recognizes Voter Turnout

Cal U has received national recognition for its successful effort to encourage student voters to cast their ballots in the 2016 elections.

The University accepted two awards for its student voting rate at the inaugural ALL IN Challenge Awards ceremony, held Oct. 19 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Cal U received a Best in Class Award for having the most improved student voting rate among medium-size public institutions, and a Bronze Seal for achieving a student voting rate of 50-59 percent.

"This award is a tribute to the countless hours the campus community devoted to registering, educating and mobilizing student voters. Turnout exceeded all expectations," said political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg, director of the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project.

"We should be proud of what we accomplished and enjoy the national recognition. Our next challenge is exceeding the 2016 numbers!"

The ALL IN Challenge encourages colleges and universities "to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, and make democratic participation a core value on their campuses," according to the program's organizers.

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Cadets Graduate from Police Academy

Fifteen cadets en route to careers as municipal police officers became the first class to graduate from Cal U's full-time IUP Police Academy at a ceremony Oct. 17.

The academy is certified by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC), which sets certification and training standards for Pennsylvania's municipal police officers. The satellite program is offered in partnership with the Criminal Justice Training Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Each of the graduates completed 760 hours of rigorous training to earn Act 120 Municipal Police Officer certification, which is required for

employment as a police officer in Pennsylvania.

In addition to classroom instruction, the program includes active, applied learning in areas such as self-defense, defensive driving, use of firearms and non-lethal weapons, CPR, and first aid.

Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert touched on the cadets' distinctive accomplishment and emphasized serving others when he gave the keynote address at the graduation ceremony, which was held at the Performance Center inside the Natoli Student Center.

"This is an important achievement that is only held by a small percentage of the U.S.

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The inaugural class of cadets from Cal U's full-time IUP Police Academy prepares to receive diplomas at the graduation ceremony in the Performance Center.

A Happy Homecoming at Cal U

Summerlike weather and a Disney theme welcomed alumni back to campus for Cal U's 2017 Homecoming celebration.

Annette Ganassi, chair of the University's Council of Trustees, served as grand marshal for the annual parade. The Cal U Marching Band provided musical accompaniment for a lineup of floats, marching units and high school bands.

Each unit paused for a panel of judges stationed near Azosky Hall.

ACACIA fraternity and Delta Zeta sorority took first place with their float, "Cinderella's Carriage." Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, along with Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, took second place with a splashing "Little Mermaid" float, and third-place honors went to Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and Theta Xi fraternity for "Lilo & Stich."

Alpha Sigma Tau sorority and Theta Xi fraternity received the Spirit Award.

High school bands added to the festive atmosphere, with the Carmichaels band taking first-place honors, Ringgold second and Peters Township third.

In addition to the parade, a petting zoo and other family-friendly activities brought alumni and community members to campus. The fun continued with an afternoon of Vulcan football at Adamson Stadium, where Cal U earned a 21-19 victory over conference rival Clarion.

Students Corry Cotton and Mari Boyle were crowned Homecoming King and Queen during halftime festivities at the stadium.

Other members of the Homecoming Court were Cody Ambrose, Joseph Fuoco, Jordyn Cunningham, Dillon Gaudet, Ivy Jackson, Rudeene Jackson, Megan Maturo and Mike Mertz.

The festive weekend was preceded by a number Homecoming activities. Winners of the office decorating contest were the End Violence Center, Office for Students with Disabilities, and University Housing.

More than 20 alumni from the Class of 1967 attended the Pioneers Dinner celebrating their 50-year reunion.

Among them were alumni couple Claudia (Paradise) Blake '67 and Timothy Blake '67, who met at a gathering at Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity, where he was the pledge-master.

This Fourth of July the couple will celebrate their 50th anniversary.

"I told myself that that night I was going to marry her, and I did," said Timothy Blake, who did his student teaching at the Noss School on campus and retired after teaching middle school mathematics for 36 years in the West Allegheny School District.

"California means a great deal to us."

Claudia Blake, who was a sister in the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, taught second and fourth grade for 38 years in the Elizabeth Forward School District. She hadn't been back to campus since 2012, when she



Cal U's marching band helps inspire the crowd during the football team's Homecoming victory over Clarion; Mari Boyle and Corry Cotton enjoy the festivities after being crowned King and Queen. Claudia (Paradise) Blake '67 and Timothy Blake '67 enjoy the summerlike weather outside Kara Alumni House.

stopped by to view the *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion* display at the Convocation Center.

"Everything is beautiful," she said inside the Kara Alumni House. "It's unbelievable coming back seeing all the change, the people and the parade. It's wonderful."

The couple both fondly remembered being challenged in geometry by professor George Novak '55, who still teaches.

"He was tough but good," Timothy Blake recalled.

Another view of Homecoming came from Nichole Mosley '07, a former student worker in the Office of Alumni Relations. She recalled helping with many alumni events while earning her degree in communication studies with a focus on public relations.

"I loved going to Cal U, and I love coming back for

Homecoming," said Mosley, an avid Vulcans football fan who is now a community relations specialist with Uniontown Hospital. It's such an exciting day to be on campus.

That thought was echoed by Zach Zigmund '14, a former Lacrosse Club president who earned his bachelor's degree in accounting. He came back to take in the Homecoming parade and football game with a few of his former teammates.

"I can't believe it's been three years already since I graduated," said Zigmund, who is a manager with Sherwin Williams.

"I use my degree from Cal U every day in my job, and I enjoy keeping up with what's happening here, mostly through the website."

Campus BRIEFS

Benefit Gospel Choir Concert Nov. 12

The Young and Gifted Gospel Choir's dinner and benefit concert will begin at 3 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Youngblood Western Baptist Association Christian Center, 624 Duck Hollow Road, Uniontown, Pa. Cost is \$20 per person, and doors open at 2:30 p.m.

The dinner supports the choir, whose repertoire includes traditional spirituals and African-American gospel music. Membership is open to all Cal U students who wish to participate.

In 2016, the group performed at the Governor's Mansion in Harrisburg and was featured as part of KDKA-TV's Black History Month celebration.

For reservations or more information, call 724-938-4735 or email choir director Dr. Randy Tillmatt at tillmatt@calu.edu.

Holiday Performances

The Cal U choirs and orchestra will present their annual holiday concert at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 in the Chapel of Old Main. Admission is free, and the public is invited.

Performances will include numbers by the Cal Singers and a *capella* group Acapella Stella, Vulcanize and Isolated Incident.

For information, contact the Department of Music and Theatre at 724-938-4878.

Hard at Work

Sabrina Hykes-Davis, of the Music and Theatre Department, assisted in organizing the recent Liberal Arts Festival. Her name was inadvertently omitted when the event organizers were credited.

Region's Economic Development in Focus

The Northern Appalachian Network, based at Cal U, will host a panel discussion focusing on existing strategies for economic development in the region, as well as plans and initiatives supporting future development.

"Strategic Visions for the Region's Economic Development" will be held from 4-6 p.m. Nov. 8 in the north wing of the Convocation Center.

The public may attend this free event, which featuring:

- Lew Villotti, director of planning and development for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission; vice president of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corp. — "A Strategic Plan for Southwestern Pennsylvania."
- Christopher Whitchuck, chief executive officer of the Mon

Valley Alliance — "The Mon Valley Alliance: Visions and Initiatives."

- Dr. Sarah Meiss, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Cal U — "Sustainable Agriculture Initiatives to Build Local Food Systems."

- Dr. Mark Lennon, associate professor in the Department of Business and Economics at Cal U — "The Role of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship."
- Dr. Paul Hettler, professor in the Department of Business and Economics at Cal U — "Envisioning a Rural Economic Data Center."

To reserve your seat, contact Dr. Pamela Twiss at twiss@calu.edu or 724-938-4053.

Biology Lessons Held Outdoors

Canoes turned into classrooms when Cal U's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences gave Carmichaels High School students a chance to learn on the region's waterways.

Cal U students and more than a dozen high schoolers climbed into canoes to conduct an inventory of fish and macroinvertebrates in two unassisted tributaries that flow into the Youghiogheny River.

Biology professor Dr. David Argent and emeritus professor Dr. William Kimmel led the excursion, which was funded through a grant from the Pennsylvania American Water Authority in collaboration with Cal U, Carmichaels, Chiopie State Park and the local chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The group canoed from Dawson to Layton, Pa. The canoes were provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, with launch and take-out assistance from Hazlebarck Recreational Services.

Another survey, on Oct. 26, was conducted on shore at Bruner Run Takeout, just north of Youghiogheny River Water Trail.

The hands-on activities put classroom learning into perspective, Argent said.

"If (students) can see that all the classes they take matter, and if they can see how the classes they take figure into the bigger picture of things, I think



Cal U emeritus professor Dr. William Kimmel discusses the region's waterways with students from Carmichaels (Pa.) High School before they embark on a canoe trip to collect fish and macroinvertebrates from the Youghiogheny River.

they're generally going to be more interested in what they're studying and why they're studying it."

In the past, Argent has conducted outdoors research with students from Connellsville Area High School, and he has presented program overviews for Canon-McMillan and Mount Lebanon students.

The Carmichaels canoe excursion

allowed the young researchers to investigate streams that are inaccessible from roadways.

"The primary objective of the grant was to provide a baseline assessment of water quality for the region, which Pennsylvania American Water is very concerned about," Argent said.

After taking "spot samples" to check water quality, pH, temperature, dissolved

oxygen and conductivity, the students surveyed fish and macroinvertebrate populations.

Students used a non-lethal sampling technique that relies on electricity to briefly stun the fish in a small area, so they can be counted, identified and released back into their habitat. The fish typically recover within five to 10 seconds, Argent said.

"We evaluate their behavior and if they're exhibiting the right kind of behavior... then I know we're doing the right things in terms of sampling," he explained.

Counting macroinvertebrates, such as snails, clams and aquatic insects, provides information about water quality.

"Their presence tells us an awful lot about past conditions and gives us good readings on temperature and conductivity," Argent explained.

With that information, Pennsylvania American Water can make decisions about areas that might benefit from habitat improvements or water quality mitigation.

Argent said his work with Carmichaels students is comparable to the fieldwork done by his college classes.

"It's all about giving the students valuable, hands-on learning experiences and opportunities," he said.

"We've had high school students come to Cal U because they are interested in what we're showing them."

Ridge Headlines Conference

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of Pennsylvania and our country, it is our hope that this honorary doctoral degree will serve as a reminder to all that California University of Pennsylvania truly appreciates his devotion to public service," she said.

In remarks at the conference's opening, President Jones noted that Cal U is "in the forefront of providing the criminal justice professionals our country needs." Faculty members with experience in policing and homeland security addressed an audience that included many criminal justice students, as well as members of the region's law enforcement community.

Hummel, for example, is an active municipal police officer who spent 23 years in various military leadership positions. He emphasized that homeland security is a very serious issue both internationally and locally.

"Since 9/11 there have been 1,000 active terrorism cases with ongoing investigations," Hummel said. "This terrorism threat is real and it will not go away."

"We must be proactive."

Alkhatir is a Fulbright Specialist and retired law enforcement officer with 17 years of intelligence experience in the Kingdom of Jordan. Speaking about the role of the Arab-Muslim community in countering terrorism, he pointed out that no Arab or Muslim citizen or permanent resident of the United States was connected to any role related to the 9/11 attacks.

"The perception of alienation and marginalization can lead to negative reactions," Alkhatir said. "They are part of the community, and we need their help and mutual trust."



The Hon. Tom Ridge receives the academic hood and degree of Doctor of Public Service, honors cause, from Cal U President Geraldine M. Jones.

He added that no country is free of terrorism, and there is no single profile of who might commit such crimes.

"The war on terrorism will not be won solely on the battlefield, but through intelligence, strategic and tactical responses," Alkhatir said.

Prior to the events of 9/11, Ridge served two terms (1995-2001) as governor of Pennsylvania. A combat veteran of the Vietnam War, he also served six years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he represented Pennsylvania's 21st District.

Ridge said he always will be a strong proponent of community policing.

"Throughout my 40-year career, I have learned that issues of neighborhood and family are still the most influential and consequential to the security and prosperity of our nation," Ridge said.

"All policing is local. Terrorism has become increasingly borderless, which makes the job of law enforcement more difficult than it's ever been before."

Ridge thanked all the law enforcement officials in attendance and concluded his address by speaking to the students intending to serve.

"I am grateful that California University of Pennsylvania has designed multiple programs that have attracted some fascinating, experienced professors to not only explain the perils and challenges of the law enforcement profession, but also open the door to you for a great public service career," he said.

"Thanks for taking on the challenge. We are blessed to have you protect our communities and make us safer and more secure every day."

Cal Wins Honor for Voter Rate

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More than 300 campuses, enrolling more than 4 million students, have joined the Challenge since its launch in summer 2016.

At 30 awards were announced at the ceremony, where former U.S. secretaries of education John B. King Jr. and Arne Duncan spoke about the importance of beginning the "habits of citizenship" at an early age.

"What we need to learn and teach and practice is building empathy and the ability compromise," Duncan said.

"Colleges have an extraordinary opportunity to lead our country in the direction we need to go."

A number of campus activities propelled Cal U's student voter rate in 2016, including guest speakers and panel discussions that explored key issues, DebateWatch and ElectionWatch events, voter registration drives, and efforts to help student voters get to the polls.

"Thanks to the combined efforts of our faculty, staff and students, Cal U is making a name for itself as a campus where civic engagement is a priority," said University President Geraldine M. Jones.

"Our students have many opportunities to educate themselves about important issues, and they are motivated to express their views through their votes. I'm proud that Cal U is helping to develop a new generation of informed and thoughtful voters."

Home Games Ahead for Basketball Fans



Fans of Cal U men's and women's basketball can enjoy plenty of early-season action at the Convocation Center.

Vulcan basketball season begins this month, and both the men's and women's teams anticipate plenty of action at the Convocation Center.

The men's team opens the home season by hosting Ashland (Ohio) University at 7 p.m. Nov. 15.

Both teams will begin Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference play by hosting doubleheaders against Kutztown and Mansfield universities during the weekend of Nov. 18-19. The doubleheaders begin with the women's game at 1 p.m., with tip-off for the men's game at 3 p.m. (for 20 minutes after the women's game ends).

The home swing concludes with the women hosting Golden-Beacom (Wilmington, Del.) College at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 and the men entertaining Salem (W.Va.) International at 7 p.m. Nov. 27.

Under the guidance of seventh-year head coach Jess Strom (139-39), the Vulcan women went 30-4 overall last season and finished ninth in the final NCAA Division II national rankings. Strom was elected the Women's

Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Atlantic Region Coach of the Year.

The men's team continues a new era under second-year head coach Kent McBride, who led the Vulcans to 10 victories last year. Cal U was in PSAC playoff contention until the final day of the regular season.

Cal U students with valid CalCards are admitted free to all regular-season home games. Ticket prices for others are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. Children younger than 12 are admitted free.

Fans who join the women's Fastbreak Club or the men's Sixth Man Club at various levels can receive special discounts and access to hospitality rooms, where they can interact with coaches and student-athletes after games.

For more information about the booster clubs, contact assistant coaches Karin Tizlow (Fastbreak) at ktizlow@calu.edu or Justin Caldwell (Sixth Man) at jcaldwell@calu.edu. For more information about Cal U athletics, visit www.calulancers.com.

Cadets Graduate from Police Academy

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population, and that alone speaks volumes about who you are and what you want to do with your lives," said Schubert, who joined the Pittsburgh bureau in 1993 and since last winter has led the 900-member police force.

"It's awesome to know that you are the inaugural class of the academy. You will always be known as No. 1, and you set the bar for future cadets."

Class president Sebastian Cencich addressed his fellow graduates before sharing a video of the academy experience.

"The past few months have been enduring and challenging," Cencich said. "I am confident we will make a difference in the quality of life in our communities, but the graduates of this police academy class will need your help and support moving forward."

Dr. Michael Hummel, program coordinator, a professor of criminal justice and a part-time police officer, offered welcoming and closing remarks.

Along with praising all of the instructors and administrators, Hummel lauded Dennis L. Marsili, director of the Criminal Justice Training Center of IUP.

"I am very proud and grateful for this program on our campus, which provides not only Cal U students but citizens from the area the important opportunity to become intelligent, respectful police officers that serve the streets in our surrounding communities," he said.

Hummel also introduced Washington County District Attorney Gene Vitone, who awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to graduating cadet Chase Taylor of Donora.

The scholarship from the District Attorney's Office and the NAACP chapters in both Washington County and the Mon Valley encourages greater



Pittsburgh Police Chief Scott Schubert receives a plaque from class president Sebastian Cencich after delivering the keynote address at Cal U's full-time IUP Police Academy graduation ceremony.

diversity in the region's police forces.

Vitone credited county Commissioner Bracken Burns with the idea for the scholarship, adding that the police academy at Cal U "is instrumental in supporting the future generation of police officers."

One of the cadets who found Cal U's IUP Police Academy advantageous was Cody Kuslach of Canonsburg, Pa.

"Having the academy here definitely was a factor in my decision. The commute to Cal was considerably shorter (than to IUP)," he said.

"It's been a long five months, but this is a great feeling, and I know for sure I want to be a police officer."

In addition to their Act 120 certification, police academy graduates are awarded 15 college credits that can be applied to Cal U's B.S. in Criminal Justice or the new associate degree in Applied Policing and Technology.

Cadet Lauren Morgan of South Park, Pa., is expected to graduate from Cal U in December with a criminal justice degree after just three-and-a-half years. She

achieved the highest academic score on the academy's 22 written exams.

"Things have worked out really well for me here, and now I just want to continue to make the most of it," Morgan said.

Schubert, who coordinated security during the G20 summit in Pittsburgh in 2009, emphasized that police officers swear an oath to serve as well as protect.

"For as to be successful there must be trust and partnership between the police and community," he said. "It must be a two-way street."

His closing advice was simple.

"Stay the course, never give up, always treat people with dignity and respect, and pay it forward when you can," he told the graduates. "Take what you learn and seize the moment, because the possibilities are endless."

For more information about the police academy, contact Dr. Michael Hummel at hummel@calu.edu or assistant program coordinator Dr. Christopher Wydra at wydra@calu.edu.

One More Open House This Fall

Cal U will hold this fall's final Open House program for prospective undergraduate students from

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 11. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Natall Student Center's Heritage Lounge.

Students and families can learn about Cal U's programs of study, housing and student life. They can talk with students, meet faculty members from their academic area of interest, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village.

They also take part in various campus activities and meet members of campus departments.

Faculty or staff members who wish to take part in Open House events should contact the Welcome Center at 724-938-1626 or email welcom@calu.edu.

For more information about Open House or to register online, visit www.calu.edu. Prospective students may contact the Office of Admissions at 724-938-4404 or admissions@calu.edu.

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