

California University JOURNAL

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Doctor of Education Program Starts This Fall

Beginning this fall, Cal U will offer a Doctor of Education degree designed for aspiring superintendents and other school district leaders.

The Ed.D. in Education Administration and Leadership will be Cal U's third doctoral program. Coursework will be delivered online, making it a convenient choice for working educators.

The Ed.D. program has a special focus on fiscal resource management, one of the top challenges identified by school administrators nationwide.

Coursework addresses areas such as business practices, financial management, human resources, and ethics and integrity in education leadership. A field project allows doctoral students to apply what they've learned and make a positive impact in their school districts.

"Cal U's online Ed.D. program is designed for seasoned educators who are eager to take the next professional step without taking time away from their work or personal responsibilities," said program director Dr. Silvia Braidic, a professor in Cal U's Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership.

The initial cohort of the Ed.D. program will be open to candidates who already hold the Superintendent Letter of Eligibility, the Department of Education-approved credential required for school superintendents in Pennsylvania.

In subsequent cohorts, student will earn the letter of eligibility as part of the doctoral program. Those who already hold the credential enter the doctoral program with advanced standing.

"We've had many requests for a doctorate from school administrators in Cal U's very successful Superintendent Letter of Eligibility program," Braidic said.

"Now education leaders can earn their letter of eligibility and their doctorate in a comprehensive program that emphasizes fiscal responsibility — an area of concern for every school administrator."

Cal U's lineup of doctoral courses now includes the Doctor of Education, Doctor of Health Science in Health Science and Exercise Leadership, and Doctor of Criminal Justice, which is

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Joshua Luko receives his degree and congratulations from President Geraldine M. Jones during Commencement in the Convocation Center.

Journey Begins for New Grads

Fittingly, the Commencement speaker's address focused on a journey.

As more than 1,200 students celebrated their graduation and prepared to set out on a new path, alumnus Larry Maggi '79, a Washington County commissioner, shared his story about a 5,578-mile motorcycle ride he took across the United States.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former Washington County sheriff, Maggi described scenes from his 2016 journey, which included meeting a homeless Marine veteran in Missouri and being invited to lead a Buffalo Soldiers parade in Tombstone, Ariz.

Maggi enjoyed a 24-year career as a state police trooper and criminal investigator before entering the political arena in 1997. He urged

the graduates to occasionally "push the envelope."

"Once in a while, disconnect the filter, remove the glass and look upon life without a transparent barrier," he said.

"It does not have to be from the back of a motorcycle, but it does have to be with your own eyes and your own senses. You will find the world as it was meant to be seen, and you will discover your place in it."

Maggi told the graduates that they are positioned to prosper.

"You will choose your own path to success, your own love for family, and you will create a life after Cal U," he said.

"I am certain that the education you received here has prepared you for life, and now you are ready to achieve success as you define it."

From Stage to Work

Joshua Luko earned his bachelor's degree in environmental science and got right to work.

His internship in 2017 with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, based at Cal U, turned into a job as a habitat specialist. Two days after receiving his diploma, Luko headed to Garrett County, Md., under the guidance of program coordinator Jose Taracido.

He credited Cal U biology professor Dr. Robert Whyte for arranging the internship.

"Dr. Whyte's classes also gave me an understanding of why we were completing the work in certain manner and how it benefited wildlife," Luko said. "Overall, I have loved my experience in the major and the internship. This work

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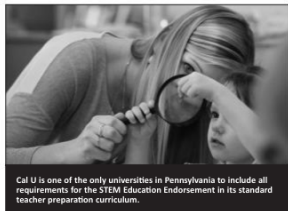
STEM Endorsement for Educators

Future early childhood and elementary teachers at California University of Pennsylvania will earn the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Integrative STEM Education Endorsement, an in-demand credential that documents their ability to incorporate science, technology, engineering and math concepts into classroom learning activities.

Beginning in fall 2018, students who successfully complete Cal U's bachelor's degree program in grades Pre-K to 4 education will graduate with a bachelor's degree and Level I Pennsylvania teaching certification, plus the STEM Education Endorsement.

Students in the undergraduate special education certification program for grades Pre-K to 4 also earn the STEM endorsement.

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Cal U is one of the only universities in Pennsylvania to include all requirements for the STEM Education Endorsement in its standard teacher preparation curriculum.



Jeffrey Pritchard Sr., a senior equipment operator, receives his 30-year certificate from Fawn Petrosky, associate vice president for Finance, and President Geraldine M. Jones.

Luncheon Honors Longtime Staff

Service milestones from five to 35 years were recognized at the Staff Recognition Luncheon held May 24 in the Natali Student Center's Performance Center.

"We could not accomplish the things that we do without the support of all of you," University President Geraldine M. Jones told staff members. "We are here to celebrate, appreciate and thank you for the important work done by all of you."

Darla Holley-Holmes, who provides administrative support in the department of Art and Languages, was one of the 30-year honorees.

She worked to launch Cal U Women United and was one of the Spring 2013 Women of the Year selections by the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

"Working at Cal U has allowed me to find my life passion and purpose by serving our students from all walks of life," she said.

Thirty-year award recipient Dr. Stanley Komacek — who has been at Cal U as a student, professor and administrator — said it has been a privilege to work at the school.

Now the special assistant to the President for Academic Programs, Komacek said even before he enrolled at California State College in the 1970s, he saw how the school helped his parents, aunts and uncles move from difficult and dangerous jobs in the coal and steel industries to professional careers.

"As a former faculty member, I now see how the professional and personal lives of my former students have developed, and I realize again that Cal U continues to provide opportunities for individuals to have meaningful careers that allow them to support their families and their communities," he said.

The other 30-year recipients included Diane Greenleaf (library technician), Gregory Phillippi (carpenter), and Jeffrey Pritchard, Sr. (equipment operator for Administrative Services).

Dr. Karen Amrhein, director of Academic Success Initiatives, was one of the two 35-year recipients along with Leslie Loase, who is retiring from her job as residence hall director for Johnson Hall and Hall E.

Amrhein was attending Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education's Student Success Network meeting in Harrisburg during the luncheon. She began working at Cal U in 1982.

"Over the years I have observed so many physical changes and an increased emphasis on student initiatives that focus on student success," she said. "When people ask me why I would work at one place for so long, I tell them it is the people, the students, staff, faculty, my colleagues."

"It's been a great journey for me both professionally and personally, and I will always be thankful that Cal U gave me the opportunity to grow and develop over these last 36 years."

Komacek, also a former dean and associate provost, believes Cal U will continue to prosper.

"Given the University's current direction under President Jones' leadership, I feel confident Cal U will continue to help individuals realize their dreams," he said. "I feel fortunate to have been part of this special place for so long."

President Jones emphasized the staff's importance moving forward.

"It's clear that you care about our students and give your best on their behalf each day, and your vice presidents and I will never lose sight of that," she said.

Trustees Approve Honorary Doctorate, New Programs

At their quarterly meeting on June 6, the University's Council of Trustees approved an honorary doctorate and a variety of new academic programs while saying farewell to two members who have completed their terms on the council.

The trustees unanimously endorsed University President Geraldine M. Jones' request to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Elna Natali '53, whose career as a student-athlete, teacher, coach and administrator at Cal U spanned five decades.

Natali retired in 1992 after serving his last 25 years as vice president for Student Development, now known as Student Affairs.

"(Natali) was called the tone and pulse of the campus for his ability to talk with students and really understand what their problems and issues were," President Jones said.

"It was also said that his complete dedication to the University made it a better place then, and the place that it is now. It's appropriate that we honor his wonderful legacy."

Natali will receive the honorary degree at a ceremony this summer.

The trustees also approved a new bachelor's degree program in molecular biology, pending approval by the Office of the Chancellor for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education. Trustees also backed the University's request to convert 10 program concentrations — nine in business, plus one in biology — to major programs of study.

Should the State System approve, nine current business concentrations will become Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees in Fall 2018: accounting, interdisciplinary business commerce, economics, finance, human resource management, integrated global business, management, marketing, and management information systems.

Students also will be able to earn a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

"The new molecular biology program addresses important workplace developments in the southwestern Pennsylvania region," said Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

"Converting the existing concentrations to majors will strengthen recruiting by making these program more identifiable and visible to both students and employers, especially in the digital realm."

In other business:
• Fawn Petrosky, associate vice president for Finance, presented the

annual inspection of facilities report to the trustees.

She noted that Coover Hall's \$10.5 million renovation is on schedule to be completed this winter, and the building should be open for classroom instruction in Fall 2019.

The softball field renovation is on track to be completed by fall. The project includes regrading the field, completing electrical upgrades and installing new dugouts, press box, bleachers, batting cage and warning track.

Trustees approved new lab fees for courses in art, applied engineering technology, biological science, chemistry, communication design, earth science, health science and physics. The fees will be used to purchase laboratory instrumentation and supplies.

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, had Jamison Roth, director of Recreational Services, report on the success of Cal U's sports clubs.

This spring, 426 student-athletes played for 24 club teams, including a number that earned national or regional recognition.

Among the highlights: the baseball club's 22-2 overall record and fifth-place finish at the National Collegiate Baseball Association World Series; the women's rugby team's 12th-place finish at the National Small College Rugby Organization's Women's 7s National Championship; and five top-40 performances by Archery Club members at the U.S. Intercollegiate Archery Championships.

In his report on Cal U's marketing efforts, Barnhart reviewed recent advertising campaigns, including banners placed in the River Lot to promote residence life. Created by A to Z Communications, they use quirky messages ("Your room NEVER needs new brakes") to encourage commuters to try on-campus housing.

Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office has raised nearly \$4.5 million in cash donations during fiscal year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 to date. He reminded trustees of several alumni events, including Cal U Night at FNC Park on Sept. 7 and the Oct. 12-14 Vulcan Fest, which includes Homecoming festivities.

The quarterly meeting marked the conclusion of six-year terms served by trustees Michelle M. Mandell '69 and Robert Miner Jr. '78. President Jones and trustees chair Annette Ganassi, among others, praised both trustees for their dedication to the University.

The trustees will meet again Sept. 19.



Elna Natali '53

Early Childhood Educators to Earn STEM Endorsement

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Cal U is one of the only Pennsylvania universities to include all requirements for the endorsement in its standard teacher preparation curriculum.

"Future pre-kindergarten or elementary school teachers who study at Cal U don't need to fit additional

courses into their schedule or go on to graduate school to obtain this endorsement," says assistant professor Dr. Diane Fine, of California's Childhood Education Department.

"In keeping with Cal U's special mission in science and technology, all students who are preparing to teach young children will complete

the coursework and field experiences required for the STEM credential as part of their regular studies.

"This does more than save our students time and money — it gives them a competitive edge in the job market. Many school districts place a premium on teachers who are proficient in STEM subjects and can integrate important

STEM concepts into their lessons."

In its description of the endorsement, the state Education Department states its intention to prepare the Pennsylvania's children "to thrive in an increasingly technological world and to solve challenges ... in key areas such as energy, environmental conservation, and health care."



University President Geraldine M. Jones congratulates Larry Maggi '79 as he is introduced as guest speaker during Cal U's Commencement ceremony.

Cal U Day Planned at Kennywood

The Alumni Association will host Cal U Day at Kennywood Park June 30 at the amusement park in West Mifflin, Pa.

The event is open to all Cal U alumni, faculty, staff, students and their families.

Funday passes start at \$28 for regular admission, and \$22 for guests age 55 and older. The ticket includes access to a Cal U Ice Cream Social at the park pavilions.

This is Kennywood's 120th anniversary season. The park offers live entertainment, classic rides and "modern thrills," including six roller-coasters, a Kiddieland and a number of unique attractions.

This year Kennywood Park debuts Thomas Town™ at Kennywood, the second-largest attraction in North America featuring characters from the Thomas the Tank Engine™ series.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Ryan Barnhart or Staci Tedrow at alumni@calu.edu, call 724-938-4418, or stop by the Kara Alumni House.

The Alumni Association is also hosting a number of local and regional events for Cal U alumni, faculty and staff. For details, contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Journey Begins for New Grads

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is great hands-on experience."

Mariah Howze, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented University President Geraldine M. Jones with a check for more than \$10,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

Howze earned her degree in psychology with a minor in business. She wants to work in human resources.

"I definitely have a desire to make a difference in people's lives, and I am ready to improve a work environment so businesses can be more effective," she said.

Political science graduate Ellen "Mari" Boyle recently completed her term as the student member of Cal U's Council of Trustees. This fall she will attend Penn State Dickinson Law on a full scholarship.

"This opportunity definitely would not be possible without all the support and help I was given at Cal U," she said. "We are certainly Cal U proud and resilient."

Commencement ceremonies begin May 11, when master's degree candidates received their diplomas and were vested in their academic

hoods. Undergraduates received their bachelor's and associate degrees May 12.

Rose Nelson, who earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at Cal U, added a master's degree in nursing administration and leadership. "I learned so much in this program," said Nelson, who works for a workers' compensation insurance company.

"I can tell an employer, I may not have done this yet, but I know it, and if you give me a chance, I can do it!" Carlos Medina is employed by the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, based in Enola, Pa. His new master's degree in exercise science, with a sport psychology concentration, complements his passion for helping athletes succeed.

"I want to use my personal experiences and my education to help them with their mindset and training," Medina said. "I'd like to get my certification as a performance coach and then be a consultant."

Lunch on the Quad

Before the Commencement ceremonies, graduates gathered for the first President's Lunch on the Quad.

The new event made online sport management graduate Amanda

Hershey's first visit to Cal U all the more memorable. The Coudersport, Pa., resident and aspiring personal trainer met Dr. Bruce Barnhart, who began his Cal U career as an athletic trainer and is now the University's provost.

"The campus is amazing, and to have this (lunch) out in the open where people can ... mingle with others is really nice," she said. "The five-hour drive here was so worth it. I cannot wait to go up on stage and get my degree."

President Jones greeted each of the new graduates personally and offered them heartfelt advice.

"Although you'll receive your degree today, please recognize that your education is not done," she said. "Every day brings new opportunities for learning, and I have always believed in the power of lifelong learning to enrich our lives."

"Trust in your own abilities and talents. And no matter what happens, you must follow your own moral compass. Be courageous and know that you can — and will — make a difference for those you meet along the way."

"May you find happiness and satisfaction in the days and years ahead."

Ed.D. Program Approved for Fall

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beginning its second cohort this month.

New programs starting this fall include a minor in African American Studies, a certificate program in Student Affairs Practice, a bachelor's degree concentration in political science that's focused on public affairs, and master's degrees in criminal justice studies, conflict resolution and Educational Leadership: Weather and Climatology.

Students may register now for the Ed.D. program. For more information, call Cal U Global Online at 724-938-3938 or email caluinfo@calu.edu. For a complete list of all of Cal U's academic programs, visit www.calu.edu/academic.

Over the Top

Students from the Veterans Club and student workers in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs are all smiling as they present a check that will endow the Post 9/11 Scholarship. Fundraising for the scholarship has been ongoing for several years, and when the students realized that the \$10,000 endowment threshold was less than \$125 away, they pitched in to reach the goal before Commencement. Sharing the moment are current students and recent graduates (front row, from left) and Lt. Richard Myers '16, senior Whitney Ptak; Joseph Bryan '18; Tony Mauro, associate vice president for Development and Alumni Relations; junior Sierra Munson; Donald Fike '18; (back row) Robert Milhnan '18, and senior Ian Thomas.



ROTC Cadets Commissioned as Officers

ROTC cadets Sean Cushman and Richard Myers were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at a Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony May 11 in the Kara Alumni House.

Before taking the oath of office and receiving the gold bars signifying their new rank, the cadets and guests heard remarks from University President Geraldine M. Jones.

"As I look at Richard and Sean, it warms my heart to know that our country, and the preservation of our freedom, is in their capable hands," President Jones said. "I feel confident that the strong leadership skills and exemplary conduct that have epitomized your time as cadets will continue to flourish as you become officers."

"You give us hope and conviction and pride, and we thank you for your brave and selfless service on our behalf and are prayerful that when your service is complete, you will find your way safely home."

The guest speaker was Lt. Col. Jason Eddy, Three Rivers Battalion Commander and chair of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Military Science.



Sean Cushman (left) and Richard Myers take the oath of office and become commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at a Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony May 11 in the Kara Alumni House.

Previously he was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge and Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

"The commissioning ceremony is the culmination of years of study in pursuit of both your academic discipline and development as a leader," Eddy said. "Sean and Richard embraced responsibilities above and beyond most

typical college students and made this organization better."

Eddy said of the oath: "It's one of the most formal obligations an individual can take. An Army officer is a servant to the nation, a defender of the Constitution and a leader of our nation's greatest treasure — its young men and women."

Eddy urged the cadets to be lifelong learners and take personal

responsibility for themselves and their subordinates as they embark on a journey of selfless service.

"Thank you for the choice to be part of something bigger than yourself," he said. "I am proud of what you've already accomplished, and I look forward to the excellent leadership you'll bring the United States Army."

"These young officers will lead the charge to solve tomorrow's unknown problems and I look forward to serving with them again."

Cushman earned his bachelor's degree in mechatronics engineering technology. Commissioned as an active duty cyber officer, he will attend cyber school in Fort Gordon, Ga.

Myers, who earned his bachelor's degree in political science, received a National Guard commission as a field artillery officer and his first duty station will be as a platoon leader with the First Battalion of the 109th Field Artillery Unit in Wilkes Barre, Pa.

After their parents pinned the gold bars to their uniforms, the new second lieutenants followed the Army tradition of giving a silver dollar to an officer in exchange for his first salute — Sgt. First Class James Henderson and Myers' father, Ret. Staff Sgt. Ronald Myers.



Students search for sea crabs in a mangrove swamp in Madagascar during the 2016 study-abroad trip. Students will learn more about the research methods and explore the culture of the island nation during this year's trip July 11-Aug. 8.

Cal U Students Madagascar Bound

There is nothing, it seems, that doesn't excite Ashley Caputo about traveling to Madagascar from July 11-Aug. 8 for Cal U's bi-annual summer field school.

"I'm in love with plants, rain forests, deserts, streams, tropical places," says the sophomore from Irwin, Pa., who is majoring in environmental studies.

"I want to be a conservationist, and I am a hands-on learner. This trip is going to open so many doors for me. I'm going to get research experience and see if I may want to go to graduate school. Plus, a trip like this will give me a competitive advantage for grad school — a lot of professors have never been there."

The trip, which will include six students from Cal U, is organized by Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

The six-credit undergraduate experience introduces students to research methods they may use in graduate school and their careers. It also introduces them to the history and culture of Madagascar, a large island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa.

This year, students will compare the biology and ecology of a rain forest to a dry forest — both found on the island.

Small-mammal trapping, botanical sampling, stream sampling, and lemur

behavior analysis are all part of the learning experience, which is aided by a Malagasy teaching assistant and program assistant.

The students' trip concludes with research presentations at the University of Antananarivo.

"It's a well-rounded program," Arrigo-Nelson said. "Students will spend some time in the capital of Antananarivo, four national parks and three protected areas. They will experience culture, time in the forest, and hands-on experience with research methods."

Caputo is ready. "I'm so excited to learn. I can't even believe it's happening!"

SEEK Offers Two Sessions

Cal U plans an "Out of This World" experience for children this summer. That's the theme for SEEK, the University's annual Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids program for children entering grades 1-8.

Classes will be held July 9-13 and July 23-27. 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 program, or \$90 per child for a full-week, half-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 academically challenging and entertaining.

Curriculum options are tailored to specific age groups and encourage all participants to reach their maximum learning potential.

For information and to register, call the Office of Academic Affairs at 724-938-4807, email seek@calu.edu or visit calu.edu/community/outreach/seek.

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