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New Dean for Liberal Arts

Dr. Kristen Majocha is the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Majocha comes to Cal U from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she was the assistant to the vice president of academic affairs and an associate professor in the Communications Department. Her employment began July 2.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Majocha holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric, with emphases on interpersonal, intercultural and organizational communication and communications ethics, from Duquesne University. She earned an M.A. in Rhetoric and the Philosophy of Communication, also at Duquesne, and a B.A. in Communication from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

At Pitt-Johnstown, she taught a variety of communication courses, co-chaired the Communication Department from 2015-2016, and served as director of International Program Support and Services from 2016-2017, when she moved into her role in academic affairs.

She is editor of the Eastern Communication Association's *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication* and a past president of both the Religious Communication Association and the Pennsylvania Communication Association. She received the Ecroyd Teaching Excellence Award from the Eastern Communication Association in 2017, and the Carol Arnold



Dr. Kristen Majocha comes to Cal U from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown.

Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Communication Association in 2015.

"Dr. Majocha is widely recognized as a scholar within her discipline, and she brings a high level of energy and enthusiasm to the role of dean," says Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U's provost and senior vice president for having her join us.

The College of Liberal Arts houses the departments of Art and Languages; Communication, Design and Culture; Criminal Justice; English, History, Politics, Society and Law; Music and

Theatre; and Psychology. It is one of three undergraduate colleges at Cal U, along with the College of Education and Human Services and the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

About 1,600 students were enrolled in majors within the College of Liberal Arts in fall 2017, and all Cal U students take liberal arts courses to fulfill their general education requirements.

Majocha succeeds Dr. Mohamed Yamba, who retired in March after more than 29 years as a faculty member and dean, and Dr. Yugo Ikach, co-chair of the Music and Theatre Department, interim dean.

Cal U Adds 7 Business Degrees

California University of Pennsylvania has been granted approval to award Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees in accounting, economics, finance, human resource management, management, marketing, and interdisciplinary studies in business and commerce.

The seven new B.S.B.A. programs previously were concentrations, or areas of focus, within the undergraduate business administration program.

Karen M. Whitney, interim chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, approved the change earlier this month. The new majors will be available to Cal U students beginning this fall.

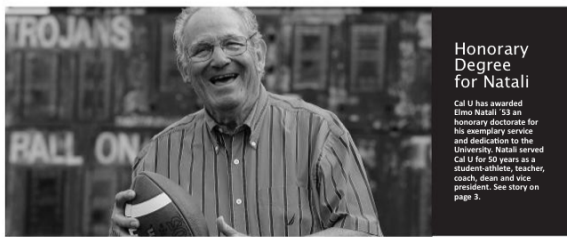
"Converting these concentrations to majors will strengthen recruiting by making our very popular business programs more identifiable and visible, especially in the digital realm," explains Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U's provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

"This has real benefits for students, graduates and employers."

For example, high school students who search online for a college that offers an "accounting degree" will be more likely to locate information about Cal U's accounting program. Cal U students and graduates can list their specific field of study on their resumes more clearly. And employers who use online recruitment tools will find it easier to identify California graduates with the relevant education and expertise.

Business is one of the most popular undergraduate majors at Cal U, which also offers a Master of Business Administration, specialized MBAs and dual-degree business programs.

Cal U recently introduced a Doctor of Education program for superintendents and other school leaders; master's degree programs in criminal justice studies, conflict resolution, and educational leadership in weather and climatology; a bachelor's degree concentration in public affairs; a minor in African American studies; and a certificate for student affairs professionals.



Honorary Degree for Natali

Cal U has awarded Timo Natali '53 an honorary doctorate for his exemplary service and dedication to the University. Natali served Cal U for 50 years as a student athlete, teacher, coach, dean and vice president. See story on page 3.

Cal U to Host WWII Exhibition

Cal U will host *We Can Do It! WWII*, a traveling exhibition from the Senator John Heinz History Center, in association with the Smithsonian Institution, July 30-Oct 2 on the third floor of Mandarino Library.

Visitors to the exhibition will learn about the development of the jeep, a uniquely American invention produced by the American Bantam Car Company in Butler, Pa., and hear the stories behind Rosie the Riveter and the local Tuskegee Airman, whose contributions helped to turn the tide of the war.

Cal U alumni, faculty, staff and students also have contributed items to the exhibition, and local historical societies also will have items from their collections on display.

"The most exciting part for us has been to connect with local World War II veterans and their families, including a few who were students at California State Teachers College, and to learn just how many students of this college served in the war," said William Mezey, chair of the Department of Library Services.

"We had bomber pilots, fighter pilots, infantry, anti-aircraft gunners, women in the Navy and Army and so much more. We are very thankful for our local history society partners in Donora, California, Monessen, Fayette County, Brownsville and Monongahela for allowing us to exhibit artifacts from their collections."

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Summer Reading Clinic Makes Literacy Fun

Casey Giles arrived at Cal U clapping a stack of stars. One by one, he distributed them — with words like “want,” “pretty,” “please,” and “ate” written on them — throughout the third floor of Keystone Hall.

“We’re going to do a little scavenger hunt with Keagan using vocabulary words,” Giles explained. “She has a lot of energy and likes to move around. So we’ll use this activity to get her moving while she practices recognizing sight words.”

The best learning, he says, is when kids don’t realize it’s happening. They build self-confidence and have fun, all while developing literacy skills.

That’s the idea behind the reading program held each summer at Cal U.

Giles is a 2008 Cal U grad and a kindergarten teacher at Rousseau Elementary School in the Belle Vernon Area School District. He was one of 15 students, all about to graduate from the reading specialist master’s degree program, who participated in the clinic — the capstone to the course.

For five-and-a-half weeks, three hours a day, reading specialist candidates worked one-on-one with a child to conduct and analyze literacy assessments and implement intervention and enrichment lessons to foster strategic thinking and an interest in reading and writing.

Categories for assessment and improvement included reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary.

At the end of the summer program, the reading specialist students provided recommendations for the parents and the child’s classroom teacher to build upon the progress made at the clinic.

Danielle DeCarlucci, who earned her bachelor’s degree from Cal U in 2013, teaches kindergarten at Pleasant Valley Elementary in the Peters Township School District.



Danielle DeCarlucci, a kindergarten teacher and current Cal U graduate student, reads with James Walker, 7, during the Childhood Education Department's summer reading program.

“We’re working on comprehension and short vowel sounds and decoding — how sounds turn into words,” she said of her student, James, age 7. “It’s rewarding to see where a child may be struggling a bit and design ways to build improvement strategies on that.”

“Most of our students are already classroom teachers,” said program coordinator Dr. Diane Fine. “We emphasize the one-on-one work with the children, and it gives our master’s students a chance to learn from each other. The summer reading clinic is the experience our reading specialists love the most, because it brings together the

assessment piece and the instruction piece.”

“The online format makes it possible to complete the program, because you can teach during the day,” said Samantha Brickley, a long-term substitute teacher who earned her undergraduate degree from Cal U in 2014.

“But the on-campus reading clinic program turns out to be awesome, because it puts assessment and instruction all together. It’s a good hands-on capstone, very manageable, because it happens during the summer, and very valuable.”

“The children love it, too.” Fine said, “because it’s more like camp instead of school.”

Craig Reichardt’s daughters, Lena and Eva, 8 and 6, participated in the program. It was Lena’s second year.

“We’ve noticed an improvement in Lena’s reading skills,” Reichardt said. “When she reads to us, she is a lot more confident in doing so.”

“It’s educational, but it’s also fun. We often overhear them playing school at home — they call each other Miss Lena and Miss Eva — and we know they’re repeating the lessons they’ve learned here.”

SGA President Has ‘Passion for Leading’

Shiley fell in love with Cal U at first “site.” Shiley found the University online and knew it was a perfect fit before he ever set foot on campus. Two years later, it has become his home away from home.

“I’m really passionate about Cal U. It has been my home for the past two years,” Shiley said. “I love the University and the people I love everything about it.”

He has become so invested in the campus community that he ran for Student Government president. He will lead the student organization during the 2018-2019 academic year.

“I ran for student body president because I have a passion for leading and giving back,” Shiley said. “I want to help the students and ensure that their voices are heard. My goal is to make sure everyone has a positive college experience.”

Shiley was active with student government at Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill, Pa., and he got involved during his first week at Cal U.

“We are always looking for ways to improve student government,” he said.

“One of my main goals is to improve communication and get more students involved.”

Cal U Student Government organizes two major campus events each year: the Stuff-a-Bus holiday toy drive and

The Big Event day of service. Shiley is already planning for a successful year.

“I’m most excited about The Big Event in the spring. It’s a rewarding experience helping out members of the California community,” he says. “This event allows us to create positive relationships between the students and our community.”

In addition to planning for the upcoming academic year, Shiley is honing his leadership skills by attending the I-LEAD® conference at West Chester University, July 22-27. He received a scholarship to cover his conference costs, and was eagerly anticipating this professional development experience.

“I’m grateful to have this opportunity, and I hope to bring back information and ideas that will advance Cal U Student Government.”



Shiley

‘Shrek Jr.’ Set July 28

The Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy will wrap up its 2018 summer theater experience for young performers with a fully staged production of *Shrek The Musical Jr.*

The public is welcome to attend the show at 4 p.m. July 28 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre on campus.

Hosted by Cal U’s Department of Music and Theatre, the academy, now in its 21st year, gives students ages 8-17 an opportunity to study musical theater and present a musical with stage sets, costumes and props. Nearly 40 MVPs — Mon Valley Performers — are participating in this year’s academy, which began July 16. Students study and rehearse from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

“Selecting a show for Summer Experience is always a challenge as we want a show that has lots of roles, flexible casting opportunities, and is family-friendly,” said Dr. Michele Pagen, the academy’s director and co-chair of the Music and Theatre Department. “I have been wanting to do *Shrek Jr.* for quite some time, as it fits our casting desires.”

The plot has the ogre Shrek leading a cast of fairytale misfits on an adventure to rescue a princess and find true acceptance.

It’s not easy to bring comic characters to life — and to create a swamp, Pagen said.

“Most importantly, though, is that we wanted a show that local families can enjoy together,” she said. “*Shrek Jr.* totally fit that bill and we are looking forward to letting our ‘freak flags fly’ with young and old!”

Current Cal U students involved in the production include Betsy Kline as production stage manager, and Kacie Kubizza, Jeremy Mackey, Garrett Smyth and Marissa Sorenson as counselors. Recent graduate Kayla Grimm taught acting classes.

The Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre, the same organization that has accredited Cal U’s Bachelor of Arts in Theatre program since 2005.

“*Shrek The Musical Jr.* is open to the public. Ticket price is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the door. To order tickets in advance, leave a message at 724-938-4220.”

Cal U Awards Honorary Doctorate to Esteemed Alumnus

Cal U has awarded an honorary doctorate to alumnus Elmo Natali, Class of 1953, in recognition of his dedication to students, his decades of service, and his lasting legacy at the University.

The Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, was delivered directly to Natali, who is unable to visit campus to accept the degree. Natali, 91, resides with family members in Virginia.

The University's Council of Trustees approved the honorary doctorate at its June 6 meeting, noting that Natali served California over a 50-year span as a student-athlete, teacher, coach, dean and vice president.

About Elmo Natali

Natali was born in 1927 in Gallatin, Pa. He graduated from Monessen High School and attended California State Teachers College from 1950 to 1953, making a name for himself as a student-athlete. He earned a master's degree from West Virginia University in 1958.

As a standout running back on the Vulcans football team, Natali helped "Cal State" finish the 1951 season by competing in the prestigious Pythian Bowl in North Carolina. He capped his football career by being drafted into the National Football League by legendary head coach Paul Brown of the Cleveland Browns.

From 1953 to 1961, Natali was a classroom teacher at Monongahela (Pa.) Junior High School, where he also was an assistant football coach. He continued coaching and served as elementary supervisor of the Monongahela School District from 1961 to 1962.

Natali returned to California State College in 1962 and remained until 1966 as a professor of education and assistant football coach.

After a brief stint at Community College of Broward County, Fla., he returned to California in 1967 to join the football staff and serve as the assistant dean of men and then dean of men, a position he held for seven years. In addition to his assistant coaching duties, he was the Vulcans' volunteer head football coach from 1973 through 1976.

Natali became California's vice president for student development on January 24, 1977. He is remembered for taking a firm but fair approach that enabled California to become a premier academic and athletic institution.

"He 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 Geraldine M. Jones told the trustees.

"It was said that his complete dedication to the University made it a better place then, and the place it is now," Natali retired in 1992.

He received many awards and accolades during his career at California, including the Alumni Association's 1983 John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service. The University retired his football jersey number, 34, and inducted him into the inaugural class of the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

His name and photo also are visible in the Elmo Natali Student Center, a hub of campus life for Cal U students.

"Elmo Natali's commitment to California University and our students certainly exemplifies the University's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility," said President Jones. "While we can never repay Mr. Natali for all he has done for the University, we hope that this honorary doctoral degree will let him know that we truly appreciate all he has done for our University and, particularly, for our students."



Cal U is preparing to begin the new academic year with Welcome Weekend on Aug. 24-26.

Cal U Prepares for Fall Semester

The excitement and anticipation builds as the Cal U community prepares for the start of fall semester classes on Aug. 27.

Welcome Weekend begins the new academic year as first-year, transfer and returning students move into University housing Aug. 24-26.

On the main campus, Move-In Day for first-year students will be Aug. 24. New students whose last names begin with letters A-M are scheduled to arrive between 9 a.m. and noon. Others will move in between noon and 3 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand at the main-campus residence halls to greet incoming students and their families, and to help carry their belongings to their rooms.

Move-In-Day activities include a picnic-style lunch for all first-year and transfer students and their families from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 24 in the Convocation Center. University President

Geraldine M. Jones plans to drop by and chat informally with the Cal U community's newest members.

Returning students will move in to main-campus housing from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26.

At Vulcan Village, on Cal U's upper campus, new and returning students will arrive between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Aug. 24 and Aug. 26.

Welcome Weekend activities conclude with fireworks and ice cream on the President's lawn outside Old Main at 8:30 p.m. Aug. 26.

The three-day experience helps first-year, international and transfer students meet their classmates and discover the programs and services offered at Cal U.

In addition to the activities planned on campus, students may attend the California Borough Recreation Authority's sixth annual River Fest, which takes place in town from 1-9 p.m. Aug. 25-26.

World War II Exhibition Opens July 30

—Continued from page 1

Jean Hale, executive director of community and corporate relations at Cal U, shared her mother's collection of identification cards, dog tags and troop assignments.

A scrapbook includes a series of letters pertaining to her father, Thomas L. Cuccaro, the first to inform the family of his death, the second to explain that the information was unconfirmed, and the last to state that he was alive but had been taken prisoner.

"It just seemed like the right time for me to share not only my dad's story, but my mother's remarkable stewardship of these materials," she said.

This fall, Cal U Honors Program students will continue an ongoing digital storytelling project under the direction of Dr. Christina Fisanick, from the English Department, by documenting military service, life in the United States and industry in southwestern Pennsylvania during World War II. Exhibition hours are noon-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday; noon-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. The library is closed on Labor Day weekend. Pay-by-meter parking is available on campus in lots 11 and 17.



Dan Zygowicz, University archives and special collections technician, inspects a World War II-era flag that will be on display in Manderino Library.

Special Public Events

- 6-8 p.m. Aug. 15, third floor, Manderino Library: Members of local historical societies will be on hand to discuss their collections.
- Noon-1 p.m. Sept. 12, Manderino Library, Room 208: Dr. David Lonich, a retired social studies teacher and former adjunct professor at Cal U, will discuss life in America during World War II.
- Noon-1 p.m. Sept. 14, Manderino

Library, Room 208: Americans who experienced the war as civilians will join Dr. Charles Stacey, a member of the Donora Historical Society, to share memories, discuss wartime efforts and take audience questions.

Sponsors are Erie Insurance, The Eberly Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For details and news about special events, visit library.calu.edu/WWII.

Veterans Welcome Set Aug. 23

As part of the festivities, military veterans will be brought to campus for a Welcome Home Breakfast before a special showing of the *We Can Do It! WWII* exhibition in Manderino Library.

Seating is limited at the breakfast, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 23 in the Kara Alumni House. Admission is free; it is open only to those who served in the U.S. armed services.

Tickets are required; veterans should call 724-938-4076 or email veterans@calu.edu to inquire about obtaining tickets.

"We want to welcome area veterans to campus and give them a chance to explore the exhibition together," says Robert Prabh, director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at Cal U.

It's our privilege to host the men and women who have served our country, including our war veterans."

Cal U Welcomes New Basketball Coach

After leading one of the region's top programs over the last decade, Danny Sancomb was introduced as Cal U's head men's basketball coach during a news conference held at the Convocation Center earlier this summer.

Sancomb spent the past 11 seasons as head coach at Wheeling Jesuit and posted a 216-115 record with the Cardinals. Last year, he led the program to its first-ever Mountain East Conference (MEC) Championship and a third-straight appearance in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

"The search committee and I were impressed with Coach Sancomb's coaching philosophy and total commitment to student-athletes," said University President Geraldine M. Jones. "Coach Sancomb expects his players to compete at the highest level, not only on the court, but also in the classroom."

Sancomb guided the Cardinals to their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Atlantic Regional Championship during the 2016-17 season. In the 2015-16 season, Sancomb led Wheeling Jesuit to a school-record 28 wins and the Cardinals were ranked No. 1 in the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) poll for the first time



University President Geraldine M. Jones welcomes Danny Sancomb as Cal U's new men's basketball coach at a news conference last month.

in program history.

"I'm thrilled to be the head coach at Cal U and excited for the future," said Sancomb. "I was so impressed with the people here during the interview process. I can promise you that every day you will get the very best Coach Sancomb and I will help our players become the best players and coaches

they can possibly be."

Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's athletic director, also praised the new Valencas coach.

"Danny has a tremendous history of coaching success and we are fortunate to be able to have him lead our men's basketball program," she said. "He brings incredible knowledge

in fundamentals, strategy and recruiting and we are looking forward to the start of the 2018-19 season."

Prior to his time as a head coach at Wheeling Jesuit, Sancomb served as athletic director and head boy's basketball coach at St. Mary's Ryken High School in Southern Maryland. He led the basketball program to its first winning season in the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC).

A native of Maryland, Sancomb played two seasons for Wheeling Jesuit, earning first-team all-conference honors both years. He led the NCAA Division II in scoring as a senior, averaging 26.9 points per game and scored 1,454 points.

Sancomb, a 2008 Wheeling Jesuit Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, earned his bachelor's degree from Wheeling Jesuit in criminal justice in 1998. He later completed a master's degree in business administration from the institution in 2003.

"California University has a great tradition in men's basketball and the support and passion every one has here for the school and its academic and athletic success is tremendous," Sancomb said.

Cal U Night at PNC Park

Tickets are on sale now for the third annual Cal U Night at PNC Park. Alumni, faculty, staff, students and their guests are invited to join the fun as the Pittsburgh Pirates face the Miami Marlins Sept. 7 at PNC Park, in Pittsburgh.

Ticket price is \$20 per person for a seat in the Cal U section, or \$38 for a game ticket and admission to an exclusive Cal U Reception in the park.

Order tickets online now through 4 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31, at <https://www.calu.edu/irates/index.jsp>

Game ticket only includes:

- Free custom-designed cap with the Pirates and Cal U logos.
- Watch a Cal U VIP toss the ceremonial first pitch.
- Roberto Clemente Free Shirt Friday, presented to the first 20,000 fans.
- Dollar Dog Night, presented by Sugarale.

Game ticket and Cal U Reception includes all of the above, plus:

- Nacho and Pretzel Bar.
- Pieterg Station.
- Fountain Beverages.

A cash bar also is available. The Cal U Reception starts at 5:30 p.m. The first pitch is at 7:05 p.m.

Questions? Email Denise King at king_d@calu.edu, or include your question in the "comments" section when you place your order online.

Zola (Budd) Pieterse Speaks Aug. 1

Zola (Budd) Pieterse — a two-time Olympian best known for competing



Zola (Budd) Pieterse

barefoot during her track and field career and an infamous collision with another athlete during the 1984 Olympics — will speak at 7 p.m. Aug. 1 in Blaney Theatre, located inside Steeple Hall.

Her talk is part of the Cal U cross country program's annual summer camp. Admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Destination Day Set for Aug. 3

College students considering a transfer to California University of Pennsylvania get one-stop assistance when they visit the Cal U campus on the next Destination Day, Friday, Aug. 3, 2018.

The Destination Days program streamlines the transfer process and welcomes new students to the Cal U

Campus BRIEFS

community. All services are free, and the University will waive the application fee for students who apply on Aug. 3.

Students considering a transfer may visit Dixon Hall, Room 312, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Phone appointments also are available.

Students can register online at calu.edu/transfer or just walk in to receive free transcript evaluation, application fee waiver, information and support, and orientation scheduling.

Greenstein to Lead State System

Daniel Greenstein, who led the Postsecondary Success strategy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the past six years and who previously was a top administrator in the University of California system, will become the fifth chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

As director of the Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Success strategy, Greenstein worked with other higher education leaders across the country on initiatives designed to raise educational attainment levels and to promote economic mobility, especially among low-income and minority students.

He developed and implemented a national strategy for increasing the number of degrees awarded and for reducing the attainment gaps among majority and non-majority students.

"With the appointment of Dr. Greenstein as chancellor, the State System makes the strong statement that we are committed to our mission of providing accessible, affordable, quality higher education to students while serving the needs of the Commonwealth, even as we redesign ourselves for the future," said Board of Governors Chairwoman Cynthia D. Shupria.

Greenstein begins his new role in September.

Sport Management Program No. 1

Cal U's undergraduate and graduate sport management degree programs have been ranked No. 1 nationally for 2018-2019 by schools.com, a leading provider of higher education information.

In its rankings, based on data from the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, schools.com noted the number of majors and concentrations offered at Cal U, as well as the convenience of the 100 percent online master's degree programs.

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