

# California University JOURNAL

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 10 JULY 24, 2017

READ THE JOURNAL ONLINE: [www.calu.edu/news/the-journal](http://www.calu.edu/news/the-journal)



Dr. Joseph Heim, a professor in Cal U's Department of History, Politics and Society, will spend about four weeks this summer as a visiting fellow at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

## Heim Selected for Oxford Fellowship

**D**r. Joseph Heim, a professor in the Department of History, Politics and Society, will spend about four weeks this summer as a visiting fellow at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, the oldest university in the English-speaking world.

Heim will hold the title of Archbishop Laud Visiting Fellow at St. John's College, Oxford, and Visiting Professor of Comparative Politics and Islamic History, Oxford University.

A former U.S. State Department faculty fellow, Heim is internationally recognized for his scholarly work on British policy-

making, Islamic thought and government, and politics of the world economy.

At Oxford, he will study centuries-old manuscripts housed at the Oxford University Library, the British Library and the British Museum pertaining to relations between 17th-century England and the Islamic world.

In particular, his research will focus on England's historical ties to the cities of Tangier, Morocco; Aleppo, Syria; Isfahan, Iran (Persia); and Mumbai (Bombay), India.

"These documents haven't been

— *Continued on page 2*

## Cal U Ranks No. 1 in Pennsylvania

**C**al U is ranked No. 1 among the Best Four-Year Colleges in Pennsylvania by Schools.com, a source for education information useful to current and prospective college students.

To determine its college rankings, Schools.com researchers examined data from the National Center for Educational Statistics and other official sources.

In all, Schools.com researched 1,649 four-year colleges and universities in North America, including Pennsylvania schools such as Temple University, Penn State University and the University of Pittsburgh.

"Educational access through distance education was a big part of the reason that California University of Pennsylvania took the No. 1 spot overall," the website reports.

Nearly two-thirds of all Cal U students take at least some coursework online, and Cal U "posted the No. 1 ratio of online degrees to campus-based study plans on our list."

In addition to the convenience of online programs, Cal U provides an exceptional value for students seeking higher education, whether they attend classes on campus or online.

"No other school on our list reported a lower median debt load for its graduates," Schools.com found.

Average tuition and fees tied for third-most affordable among top



Pennsylvania schools. "Students at Cal U tend to graduate without breaking the bank," the website says.

Schools.com also recognizes California's participation in PA Trac, a program that makes it easy for students from Pennsylvania's community colleges, public universities and other participating schools to transfer their college credits to Cal U.

"At California, we recognize that higher education isn't a one-size-fits-all proposition," says Dr. Bruce Barnhart, university provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

"For some students, including many working adults, online education is the most convenient option. Other students prefer face-to-face courses and the chance to experience living and learning on campus.

"No matter which style of learning you choose, Cal U is committed to providing good value and high-quality, career-focused academic programs."

## Students Meet as Doctoral Program Debuts

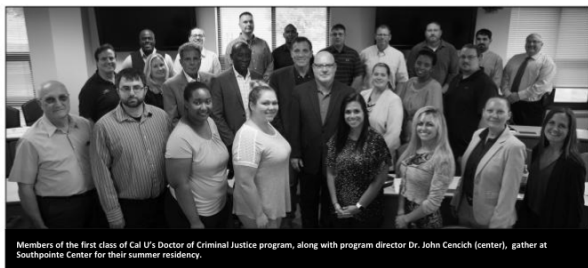
**F**ederal law enforcement officials, state police officers and police chiefs recently concluded a weeklong residency program as the first class of Cal U's Doctor of Criminal Justice program gets under way.

This professional doctorate program — the first regionally accredited D.C.J. degree in the United States — was approved in January by the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

The highly competitive program drew more than 100 applications from qualified mid- and senior-level criminal justice practitioners across the country.

In addition to law enforcement officers, the 26 students selected for the program's first class include counselors; forensic specialists; corrections, probation and parole officers; professors; and others involved in the administration of justice.

"There's a wide range of experiences in this group," said program director Dr. John Cencich, of the Department of



Members of the first class of Cal U's Doctor of Criminal Justice program, along with program director Dr. John Cencich (center), gather at Southpointe Center for their summer residency.

Criminal Justice. "That's only going to enhance the program. I anticipate some very good discussions, a good exchange of ideas."

Students enrolled in the two-year D.C.J. program will complete nearly all of their coursework through Cal U Global Online. The five-day residency,

held primarily at Cal U's Southpointe Center, allowed the students to meet their classmates and Cal U faculty, and

— *Continued on page 3*

## Maud Leads Overseas Military Training

**S**gt. 1st Class Jesse Maud, a career counselor and instructor for Cal U Army ROTC, recently spent three weeks in Lithuania as part of the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program.

CULP gives Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets the opportunity to understand various cultures and customs of militaries and civilians outside the United States, with a strong emphasis on English-learning and military-to-military bonding, prior to their careers as officers in the U.S. Army.

Maud was a team leader for the CULP group of more than 40 cadets that traveled to Lithuania, spending time in Vilnius and Klaipeda.

"The goal is for cadets to take what they learn with CULP and apply it to an actual deployment," he said. "As a young platoon leader, they may be sitting down with a village leader, and they need to understand the culture of a foreign country in order to deal with that situation effectively."

As part of the cultural training, cadets stayed in local accommodations, used public transportation and met with ambassadors and other dignitaries. Conversational English skills were practiced with members of fire departments in Lithuania.

The group also participated in military training with Operation Saber Strike, an annual international exercise focused on the Baltic States.



Gathered with a Cal U flag in Lithuania are (from left) Spec. Emilio Venturilla '16, Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Maud '11, Spec. Cody Hickman and Spec. Timothy Bink, both students and Cadet Scott Croyle '06. Maud was in Lithuania for the Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program, and the others were participating in Operation Saber Strike, an annual international exercise focused in the Baltic States.

Maud was the first from Cal U to participate in CULP, something he wants to change. "I hope that every single one of our cadets will go on a CULP mission if they are chosen to do so," he said.

Selection for CULP is based on an Order of Merit list, which includes participation and leadership, physical fitness, and grade-point average.

"I thought it was an amazing experience," he said. "You could see a clear change in the soldiers and cadets. They started to adapt to the culture and understand the differences."

## Trustees Elect New Chair

**N**ew leaders were elected when Cal U's Council of Trustees held its quarterly meeting June 14 in Old Main.

At a brief reorganization session, the Trustees elected Annette Ganassi to serve as chair and Uniontown attorney James Davis '73 as vice chair through June 2019.

Both have served as Trustees since 2009.

Ganassi, a Somerset county businesswoman, also held a seat on the panel from 1994-2000.

Ganassi succeeds Washington County commissioner Larry Maggi '79, who had served as chair for the past four years. He remains a member of the council.

"I have big shoes to fill," Ganassi said, turning to her predecessor. "I hope to take what I've learned from your leadership the past four years."

University President Geraldine M. Jones publicly recognized former trustee Aaron A. Walton '68, who recently was appointed to serve as interim President of Cheney University.

Walton stepped down from both the Council of Trustees and the State System's Board of Governors in order to take on the new role.

"The System could not have selected a more knowledgeable, experienced and better person than Aaron Walton. He will do an excellent job," the President said.

"It's gratifying to see one of our alumni as one of our State System (university) presidents."

In her report, President Jones noted that Summer College enrollment has increased by 2.6 percent compared to this time last year.

The fall enrollment outlook also appears positive, with acceptances and deposits received up 18 percent and

14 percent, respectively, compared to last year.

"We will continue to focus on our strategic enrollment initiatives, which appear to be paying off," President Jones said. "We will continue to review existing programs and continue to create new programs in science, technology and other high-demand disciplines."

"We have the tools to be successful and carry on our commitment to our students and their future."

In other business:
 

- Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, provided further details about Summer College. There are 174 graduate and 136 undergraduate courses being offered this year, and the number of visiting students — 156 — is the highest it's been in a decade.

Barnhart also announced that the Associate of Applied Science in Physical Therapist Assistant program received a 10-year reaccreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.

He also reported that during the past quarter, five Cal U faculty members received notification of new grant awards totaling nearly \$340,000.

• Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, presented the annual inspection of facilities report to the trustees. Despite Cal U's growth, 14 buildings on campus have not been renovated during the last 35 years or more, he said.

Coover Hall is the next building scheduled to receive a life-cycle renovation, with work anticipated to begin in August and completed for the start of the Spring 2019 semester.

Thorn also reviewed budget scenarios

and praised the campus-wide effort that trimmed the University's operational expenses by more than \$5 million during the past fiscal year, with projections for \$2.2 million in additional savings in 2017-2018.

Thorn called this "a significant achievement" and pointed out that were it not for \$1.9 million in costs associated with recent collective bargaining agreements, Cal U would not have had to dip into its in reserves to balance the 2016-2017 budget.

• Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, had athletic director Dr. Karen Hjerpe and sports information director Matt Kiefer report on the success of Cal U's intercollegiate athletic programs.

The Vulcans produced eight All-Americans and seven Academic All-Americans in 2016-2017.

Cal U student-athletes posted a cumulative 3.17 grade-point average last semester, with 179 students earning a 3.00 GPA or higher and 24 of those achieving a perfect 4.00.

Collectively, the teams performed more than 2,000 community-service hours.

• Reporting for University Marketing, Barnhart touched on the University's new way-finding initiative. Vinyl signs have been installed on walkways at strategic locations across campus, part of Cal U's effort to enhance the campus visit experience for prospective students and their families.

• Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office has raised more than \$6 million in donations and pledges in the fiscal year that began July 1, 2016. This total includes more than \$2.7 million in cash donations.

The Trustees are scheduled to meet again Sept. 20.

## Heim Named Oxford Fellow

—Continued from page 1

digitized. They aren't even on microfilm," Heim says. "I'll be making my way through boxes and boxes of original manuscripts ... looking for significant papers."

During his stay at Oxford, Heim will be considered a "fellow," or faculty member, in Oxford's College of St. John the Baptist, founded in 1555. He will give several lectures, sharing his research findings with historians and scholars.

Heim is familiar with day-to-day life at a British university — in addition to master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and a certificate in international finance from the Wharton Graduate School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, he earned a Master of Philosophy, an advanced postgraduate research degree, at the University of Cambridge.

In 1994 Heim received the Queen's Silver, Alexander Prize, for his essay "Liberalism and the Establishment of Collective Security in British Foreign Policy." Endowed in 1897 by L.C. Alexander, secretary of the Royal Historical Society, the prestigious prize is awarded annually for an essay or article based on original historical research.

Heim has been a Cal U faculty member since 1988.

# Cal U Prepares for Welcome Weekend

With fall semester classes set to begin Aug. 28, the Cal U community is making plans to welcome first-year, transfer and returning students as they move into University housing during Welcome Weekend Aug. 25-27.

New and returning students are expected to arrive at Vulcan Village, on the upper campus, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily throughout the three days.

On the main campus, Move-In Day for first-year students will be Aug. 25. 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 2017 will begin the Welcome Weekend activities, which conclude with fireworks and ice cream on the President's lawn outside Old Main at 8:30 p.m. Aug. 27.

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

Move-In Day activities include a picnic-style lunch for all freshmen and transfer students and their families from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 25 in the Convocation Center. University President Geraldine M. Jones plans to drop by and chat informally with the Cal U community's newest members.

"This is an exciting time and an ideal opportunity for the University community to help our new students and families get to know the campus and find to feel at home," President Jones said.

"It's so important for us to make a positive impression and for them to know we truly care about them."

Returning students will move in to main-campus housing from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 27.

Meal plans for on-campus dining will begin Aug. 27 with the 10:30 a.m. brunch in the Gold Rush dining room.

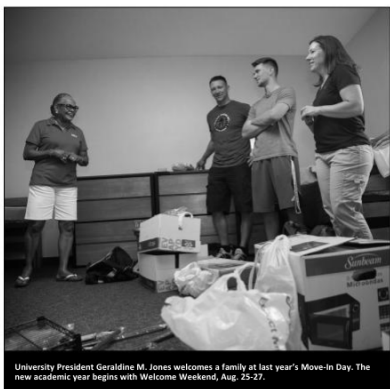
In addition to the activities planned on campus, students may attend the California Borough Recreation Authority's fifth annual River Fest, which takes place in town from 1-9 p.m. Aug. 26-27.

"This is an exciting time, and we want students to enjoy a sociable experience as they connect and become familiar with Cal U," said Dr. Tracy Sheetz, dean of Undergraduate Admissions.

"The schedule is packed with fun events that allow students to meet new friends, become familiar with campus and its many resources and traditions, and most of all have fun!"

"As students embark on this new journey as Vulcans, we want their first days on campus to set the stage for their college career."

*Parking information and other details about Move-In-Day and the 2017 Welcome Weekend will be posted at [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).*



University President Geraldine M. Jones welcomes a family at last year's Move-In Day. The new academic year begins with Welcome Weekend, Aug. 25-27.

## Volunteers Welcome

Students who volunteer to assist their new classmates on Move-In Day will be registered through OrgSync so their service can be reflected on their official Activities Transcript.

Students who volunteer on Aug. 25 will receive Move-In Day T-shirts at the lobby of the Natali Student Center.

For more information, students can visit OrgSync or email the Center for Volunteer Schedules and Service Learning at [volunteer@calu.edu](mailto:volunteer@calu.edu).

Employees are encouraged to welcome new students and their families, if their work schedule allows. Employees may ask their supervisor for release time to assist on Aug. 25. (No compensatory time will be given.)

Throughout Welcome Weekend, staff and faculty members are encouraged to wear Cal U gear or a nametag indicating their role at the University.

## Estill Training at Cal U

Molly Erlichman, a freshman theater major, performs voice exercises during the Estill Voice Training course held earlier this summer at Cal U. The five-day program, designed for singers, actors, vocal coaches, drama instructors, speech-language pathologists and other vocal health professionals, has been held on campus for 30 years. Classes are taught by Estill Voice Training instructors and faculty from Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre who are Estill Certified Master Teachers.



## Doctoral Program Debuts

—Continued from page 1

to hear from nationally recognized criminal justice experts. "It's convenient," said John Thackie, one of two Pennsylvania State Police officers enrolled in the program. "I want to go as far as I can in the state police. That's why I'm here."

During their first days in the program, the students heard from speakers including Dr. Jay Albanese, a professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and former chief of the International Center at the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the U.S. Justice Department; Dr. Cyril Wecht, former Allegheny County medical examiner; and Adam Berocovic, retired

commander of the Los Angeles Police Department and an expert in policing.

"I like the design of the program," said class member David Baer, a police chief from Marco Island, Fla. "It's not a traditional Ph.D. program. It's more practical, more focused on applied learning rather than academic research."

That focus also appealed to Steven Shaffer, a retired County captain who teaches criminal justice at Butler County Community College.

"Things are constantly evolving" in the field of criminal justice, he said. "Already these speakers have given me information that I can take back to my classroom."

## GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- Laura Giachetti, of the Department of Trio Academic Development Services, has been awarded two Upward Bound continuation grants from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2017-2018 project year, Upward Bound has been awarded \$398,576 for Fayette County and \$270,375 for Greene County. The program helps to prepare eligible high school students for success in college.
- Dr. David Agent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded two grants totaling nearly \$150,000 from Pennsylvania's Department of Transportation for the Pike Run Stream Mitigation and Marchezek Stream Mitigation projects.
- Cal U has been awarded a \$140,000 grant from the Allegheny Foundation to support its Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO) through Aug. 31, 2018. With this funding GACO will assist area businesses in all aspects of federal, state, local, and corporate contracting and subcontracting.
- Dr. Katherine Mitchell, of the Department of Special Education, has been awarded a \$60,000 grant from the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust for "Robotics, Virtual Reality, and Simulations: Special Education for Students with ICD."
- Dr. Gregg Gould, of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, has been awarded \$3,000 from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh for support of chemistry students and lab equipment.
- Dr. Mark Lennon, of the Department of Business and Economics, has been awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation to be used in support of Cal U's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

## 'Madagascar' Adventure Onstage July 29

The Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy will wrap up its 2017 summer theater experience for young performers with a fully staged production of "Madagascar: A Musical Adventure Jr."

The public is welcome to attend the show at 4 p.m. July 29 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Hosted by Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre, the academy, now in its 20th year, gives students ages 8-17 an opportunity to study musical theater. After acting, voice and dance classes, technical theater learning and rehearsals, students present a musical complete with stage sets, costumes and props.

Nearly 40 MVPs — Mon Valley Performers — are participating in this year's academy, which began July 17. Students study and rehearse from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Based on the smash DreamWorks animated motion picture, the upbeat musical follows the adventures of outlandish characters such as Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo, and plotting penguins as they escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected journey to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar.

"We wanted to do something new, and everyone is a fan of these films," said Dr. Michele Pagen, the academy's



Maria Gismondi '02, dance instructor for the Mon Valley Performing Arts Academy, prepares young performers for dance warm-ups during the 2017 youth theater experience in Cal U's Steele Hall.

director and co-chair of the Music and Theatre Department.

"Most important, this musical is filled with many fun characters, and we want the students to apply what they are learning in the production."

Current Cal U students involved in the production include graduate student Emily Curwright (acting instructor/

assistant director), Kacie Kubitz (camp counselor/assistant choreographer), Josh Myers (camp counselor), Kinty Hoffman (company/stage manager), and incoming freshmen Betty Kline and Garrett Smyth (camp counselors).

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.

The performance of "Madagascar: A Musical Adventure 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.

## Two From Cal U Travel to Belize

Two Cal U students spent two weeks in the Central American country of Belize as part of a trip abroad for Honors Program students organized by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Lorraine Bracker, a sophomore with dual majors in graphic design and graphics and multimedia, and Brynna Shernoy, a senior with a major in international studies, went on the honors trip from May 29 to June 12.

Students first traveled to Mansfield University, which hosted the trip, to be briefed on aspects of Belizean history, politics, economics and culture. In Belize, students met with politicians, business leaders, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and non-governmental organizations, and University of Belize professors.

"We had a good mix of experiencing the tourism side of Belize as well as what a local Belizean would experience," Shernoy said. "We went to the U.S. Embassy, and it was interesting to hear about the interactions with the local government and Belizeans. I'm interested in working for the State Department, and this trip definitely piqued my interest."

A highlight for both students was



Lorraine Bracker (left) and Brynna Shernoy show their Cal U pride as they visit Xunantunich, an ancient Mayan archaeological site in Belize.

visiting the Actun Tunichil Muknal Cave, a Mayan archaeological site.

"We got to see pots and bones and skeletons that are still in there, so it was a once-in-a-lifetime kind of thing," Bracker said. "If someone showed up at

my door today and said, 'Let's go back,' I'd say, 'Let's go pack a bag!'"

The Cal U Honors Advisory Board selected Bracker and Shernoy for the trip as part of a competitive scholarship process that also involved preparing a

portfolio, soliciting letters of support and writing a statement of purpose.

Their academic scholarships fully funded the cost of six academic credits, room and board, and travel expenses to Belize. Each participating school contributes \$8,000 to the cost of the trip.

Students used interviews and direct observations in support of four broad research questions related to globalization, economic development, politics and multiculturalism.

"We had to read articles, answer questions and react to what we were doing in Belize, and we also had to do a lot of homework to prepare for the trip," Shernoy said.

Study abroad is essential in preparing Cal U students for the workforce, said Dr. M.G. Aune, director of the University Honors Program.

"Opportunities for overseas experience are crucial for State System students who will be competing for jobs in an increasingly globalized economy," he said.

"We are delighted to be able to support Cal U students who wish to study abroad and grateful to the President and provost for their continuing support."

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

Geraldine M. Jones  
University President

Robert Thorn  
Vice President for Administration and Finance

Christine Kindl  
Editor

Dr. Bruce Barnhart  
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Nancy Pinardi  
Vice President for Student Affairs

Bruce Wald, Wendy Mackall  
Writers

Office of Communications and Public Relations 250 University Avenue California, PA 15419 724-938-4195 wald@cuh.edu

INTEGRITY - CIVILITY - RESPONSIBILITY