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Students from Dr. Christina Fisanick's Honors Composition Class recently visited Wheeling, W.Va., for a digital storytelling project.

Digital Storytellers Visit W.Va.

Students from Dr. Christina Fisanick's Honors Composition Class are traveling farther afield as a digital storytelling project continues.

For the third consecutive year, students visited community historical societies and sites to conduct research and gather images, then shaped them into 3- to 5-minute video presentations.

Last month 10 freshmen took an overnight trip to Wheeling, W.Va. to research the history of Ohio County. This was the first overnight stay for Fisanick's digital storytellers, who previously have created videos in communities such as Danora, California, Brownsville and McKeesport.

The projects are co-sponsored by the Heinz History Center, which works with 250 historical sites across the tri-state

area through HCAP, its History Center Affiliates Program.

Students Christopher Carabotta, Danielle de Perrot, Sarah Emsfield, Maria Martik, Vanessa Martik, Austin Owens, Jacob Rice, Felix Rivera, Steven Shrenkel, Jessica Spano, and Rebecca Wockley began their fieldwork by attending a presentation about Wheeling history at the Wheeler House in Oglebay, W.Va.

The speaker was Wierton native Dr. David Javarsk, an author and a retired professor of history at West Liberty University Alpha Kappa Delta, an international sociology honor society, sponsored the event.

The following day Cal U students divided into pairs to visit and research historical sites around Wheeling. Sites included West Virginia's Independence

Hall, Oglebay Mansion Museum, Oglebay Glass Museum, West Liberty University Library and Rare Books Room, and the Ohio County Public Library Archives.

Based on their research, each student group created two digital presentations incorporating video, still photos, graphics, music and narration. The first introduces the historical site and the second features a collection, story or artifact of their choice.

Maria Martik, a psychology major, researched the Oglebay Institute Glass Museum.

"The coolest and most exciting part of my trip for me and my research partners was having the privilege to touch some of the Sweeny glass that was on display," she said. "The glass

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Cal U 'Military Friendly' for Sixth Year

California University of Pennsylvania again has been designated a Military Friendly® School by Victory Media, publisher of *G.I. Jobs*, *STEM Jobs* and *Military Spouse* magazines.

The designation provides service members and their families with transparent,

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about

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military

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opportunities.

Cal U has received the recognition

each year since 2010.

Institutions compete for the Military Friendly® School title by completing a survey of more than 100 questions in 10 categories, including military support on campus, graduation and employment outcomes, and military spouse policies.

Survey responses are scored against benchmarks across these key indicators of success. In addition, methodology is reviewed and data is tested independently with a goal of

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Two Grant Writers Reach \$1 Million Mark

Two more members of the Cal U faculty have joined the list of \$1 million grant writers.

Dr. David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, and Dr. Christine Crawford, of the Department of TRIO and Academic Services, were among those honored at the Grant Writers Recognition Ceremony Nov. 10 in Kara Alumni House.

All told, 50 faculty and 12 staff members who engaged in grant writing during the 2014-2015 academic year were recognized. Collectively, they submitted 75 proposals, resulting in 36 awards totaling \$2.3 million.

Fifty percent of the awards were for service projects, 22 percent for instruction, 17 percent for research and 11 percent for software or equipment.

"The funding has allowed us to expand our fisheries program, train more than 30 students with summer hands-on field experiences and buy needed equipment," Argent said.

"I couldn't have done it without a lot of help

from faculty, staff and students at Cal U. So while it is thought of as an accomplishment, it really is something to be shared by many."

"I am proud to be a part of Cal U student success through the TRIO and Academic Service Department for the past 28 years," Crawford said.

"Since 1971, the Student Support Services TRIO grant has assisted more than 2,000 Cal U students with their goals of college attainment." Also honored at the reception were Dr. Susan Ryan, of the Department of Earth Sciences, who received President's Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship; and Dr. Lisa Kovalchick, of the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, recipient of the Provost's Award for Outstanding Grantsmanship.

Both honors were established by Cal U in 2013 to recognize faculty for dedication, effort and commitment to grant writing.

The 2014-2015 grant writers are recognized in the Grant Writers Yearbook, available online at www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/sponsored-research/grants-yearbook/index.htm.



Dr. Christine Crawford accepts an award from Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones honoring her achievement as a \$1 million grant writer.

Vets Day Speaker Urges Vigilance, Gratitude

Retired Col. Douglas Lawson '82 reminisced about his undergraduate days before addressing a sensitive issue at the Cal U Veterans Club's 42nd annual Veterans Day Dinner.

Lawson's military career began when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps through Cal U's Reserve Officer Training Candidate program. He retired in 2012 after 30 years of decorated service, which included assignments in Germany and Kosovo.

Speaking at the Veterans Day event, he recalled living in Binns Hall in the late 1970s. He didn't need an alarm clock, he said — freight trains passed his dormitory regularly at 6 a.m., and the river-barge horns also provided a literal wake-up call. "It was an interesting transition, but it set me up well for my Army career," he joked.

His talk turned solemn when he discussed suicides by military veterans, who take their own lives at a significantly higher rate than those who never served.

"Suicide is the elephant in the room that nobody wants to talk about, but it's a very serious problem," he said.

Lawson urged family members and friends to take an active role in helping veterans — or anyone experiencing signs of depression or despair.

"In our world we deploy and come home rapidly, and sometimes that transition can make one's mind go in different directions," he said.

"Please reach out to those who are in need."

Lawson also urged the audience to show a little gratitude toward those who have served, especially on the day set aside to honor them.



Retired Col. Douglas Lawson '82 makes a point about the issue of suicide by military veterans at the Cal U Veterans Club's Veterans Day Dinner.

"Veterans Day is important. It does not matter what uniform you wear, because it's about dignity and respect," he said.

"Not many give time to serve, and when someone thanks us, it is sincerely appreciated."

Capt. Robert Prah, director of Veterans Affairs, presented a slide show of the 51 banners displayed on campus as a salute to service members and veterans with University ties.

"I wanted to share these to show you what a wide range of veterans we have on our campus, and there's not a better time than now," Prah said.

Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones gave welcoming remarks.

"I sincerely thank our veterans for their selfless service," she said. "We also fondly and gratefully remember those who are no longer with us. Please know that our University family always remembers our veterans' role in preserving the freedoms we all enjoy."

Following a longstanding tradition, students Daniel J. Hart, Brian J. Kellaway, Michelle L. Olson and Ayam Texidor formally accepted the 2015-2016 Col. Arthur L. Bakewell Veterans Scholarship at the Veterans Day event.

The scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Bakewell, a longtime Veterans Club adviser. It is funded through the generosity of the Veterans Scholarship Fund 500 Club.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 240 students, faculty and staff at Cal U have served in the U.S. military, including a number of students who have served multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

All current and former Marines attending the Nov. 10 dinner also were recognized, because the U.S. Marine Corps celebrated its 240th birthday that day.

Native American Artist Discusses Relationships

Wampum belts and strings once conveyed the meaning of treaties, which are not just paper documents but also records of a relationship between peoples.

This was one of many views presented by Rick W. Hill Sr., Tuscarora of the Beaver clan, who spoke at Cal U on Nov. 9.

Hill's talk, "Indigenous Magna Carta — Haudosaunee Great Law of Peace," celebrated Native American Heritage Month.

Hill is an artist, writer, photographer and curator who is recognized as a leading authority on contemporary Native American art and Indian images depicted in mass media.

Over the years he has served as manager of the Indian Art Centre in Ottawa, Ontario; museum director at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, N.M.; special director for public programs at the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution; and manager of the Haudosaunee Resource Center.

He is the coordinator for the Joint Stewardship Board at Six Nations, which is working to develop an environmental interpretation center, and the manager of the Six Nations Virtual Archives Project.

Hill discussed the Great Law of Peace of the Haudosaunee Six Nations (Oneida, Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, the Seneca and Tuscarora), laws that initially were recorded in wampum symbols.

Hill compared them to the Magna Carta, which laid out early principles in English law.

"It has enormous symbolic power, and we believe it's the real thing," he said.

Hill also spoke about many treaties and related "wampum belt archives," such as the One Spoon, One Dish wampum belt, the first recorded treaty between the Ojibwa and the Six Nations of the Iroquois confederacy.

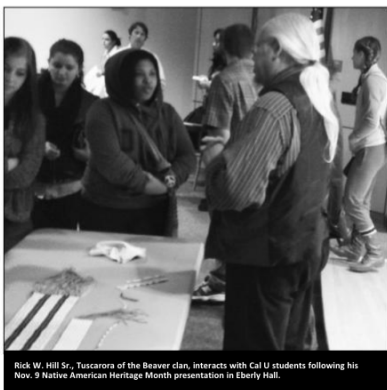
"This simply means we all have an equal right to share from the same dish — to be all one and have one heart," he said. "It's a very simple and profound agreement, one we need to think about today."

"Maybe we need to respect people-to-people relationships without government and become one people with one heart."

Hill spoke to a capacity crowd in the Eberly Hall auditorium. Many audience members were students from Dr. Keat Murray's Early American literature class and Dr. Clarissa Confer's Native American history class.

Before Hill's presentation, Murray presented him with digital transcriptions of 84 narratives written by research anthropologist Frederick Wilkerson Wauyah, who worked with the Haudosaunee, mainly from the Six Nations.

The transcriptions were prepared by 50 Cal U students from Murray's and Confer's classes — one of three digital repatriation projects Cal U has participated in since 2012.



Rick W. Hill Sr., Tuscarora of the Beaver clan, interacts with Cal U students following his Nov. 9 Native American Heritage Month presentation in Eberly Hall.

The projects give Cal U students a real sense of engagement, Murray said. It's a trait he also sees in Hill.

"Beyond all of his accomplishments the word that comes to mind ... is 'community,'" he said. "He has always been grounded with his community, and it's an honor to have worked with him."

Hill urged the students to continue their work.

"I take great stock in our young people, and I hope there's time for us who are older to ... blend our knowledge [with theirs]," he said.

"Thank you — and continue to help us restore our heritage."

Holiday 'Miracle' Begins Dec. 3

Community members will be onstage and high school students will be working behind the scenes when the Department of Theatre and Dance performs *Miracle on 34th Street, The Musical*.

This is the third consecutive year that local singers, actors, dancers and technicians will join Cal U students for the holiday production in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Showtime is 7 p.m. Dec. 3-5, with matinees at 2 p.m. Dec. 5 and 6.

All performances are open to the public. Children from area school districts will attend a school matinee at 10 a.m. Dec. 4 in Steele Hall.

"It's exciting for our department and the University to come together with the local community to bring this heart-warming show to life," said department chair Dr. Michele Pagen, who directs the production.

"The local community cast, children through adults, become part of the theater family, and we love it."

The family-friendly musical is filled with humor, spectacle, and such familiar songs as "Fences and Hollyberries" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." Based on the 20th Century-Fox Pictures production, its book, music and lyrics are all by Meredith Willson.

The story takes place between the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Christmas. It centers on a white-bearded gentleman who claims to be the real Santa Claus — and who brings about a genuine "miracle" on 34th Street, spreading a wave of love throughout New York City.

Among the Cal U students handling behind-the-scenes roles are Mikay Rogers, assistant director; Sidney Popielarcheck, dance captain; and Kellee Cohlhepp, production stage manager. Assistant stage managers Mark Barrett, Grant Prodan and Evan Peffer, all from Brownsville High School.

Brian Eisminger is providing musical direction, and choreography is by Maria Gismondi '02.

"What better way to ring in the holiday season than with the magic of theater and the touching story about faith in the unknown and the unseen?" Pagen asked.

Ticket price is \$12 for patrons of all ages. Students with valid CalCards are admitted for 50 cents; a \$5 deposit will be returned when the student attends a performance.

For more information, or to order tickets (with a credit card) by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-3945.



Senior Theatre and Dance major Clayton Rush rehearses with Sidney Wilson and Ally Grodz for the Dec. 3-6 productions of *Miracle on 34th Street, The Musical*.

'Nutcracker' Items on Loan

Cal U's Department of Theatre and Dance is lending a hand to Clara, her Prince and the Sugarplum Fairy.

The department is lending costumes, props, a dance floor and scenery from past productions of *The Nutcracker* to the State Theatre Center for the Arts in Uniontown.

The University presented the holiday ballet for 21 years, including three years when the performance was held at the State Theatre while Steele Hall underwent renovations.

"We loved the production, and it just made sense to help our longtime friends," said Dr. Michele Pagen, chair of the theater department.

Former Cal U instructor Donna Marovic '96 is the choreographer for the State Theatre's production of *The Nutcracker*. Performances will be held at 8 p.m. Dec. 11-12 and 2 p.m. Dec. 13.

Campus BRIEFS

Musicians Perform Off Campus

Cal U musicians will put their talents on display at two off-campus events in December.

On Dec. 5, two student jazz combos will perform at the Fayette County Community Action Agency's seventh annual "Magic and Mistletoe" event at the Fayette County Courthouse, 61 East Main Street, Uniontown, Pa. Tickets are available at the Fayette County Community Action Agency office and at other locations in Uniontown.

Cal Singers will join the Washington Symphony Orchestra for "Ho Ho Ho with the WSO" at 8 p.m. Dec. 5 and 3 p.m. Dec. 6. Both concerts will be held in the Trinity High School auditorium, 231 Park Ave., Washington, Pa.

Cal U students are admitted free with a valid CalCard. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.washsym.org or call 888-71-TICKETS.

For more information, contact Dr. Yugo Ibach at ibach@calu.edu.

Trustees Meeting

The California University Council of Trustees will hold its final quarterly meeting of 2015 at 7 p.m. Dec. 2 in the President's conference room, Room 110 of Old Main.

Schedules Change for Thanksgiving

To mark the Thanksgiving holiday, no classes will be held from Nov. 25 through Nov. 30. The University will be closed Nov. 26-27 and will reopen Monday, Nov. 30. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Residence Halls will close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24, and reopen at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29.

Cal U Named Military Friendly Again

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promoting transparency while advancing best practices to support military students across the country.

"At Cal U, 'military friendly' is more than an award — it's how we operate every day," says Robert Prah, the University's director of Veterans Affairs.

"Through our Veterans Affairs Office, our Veterans Club and special events throughout the year, we demonstrate our commitment to welcoming military members and veterans to campus, and helping them to succeed."

Colleges, universities, community colleges and trade schools across the country that are eligible for the designation.

"Post-secondary institutions earning the 2016 Military Friendly® School award have exceptionally strong programs for transitioning service members and spouses," said Daniel Nichols, Chief Product Officer of Victory Media and Navy Reserve veteran.

"Our Military Friendly® Schools are truly aligning their military programs and services with employers to help students translate military experience, skills and training into successful careers after graduation."

To learn more, visit MilitaryFriendly.com.



Pottery Sale Runs Dec. 1-3

The annual Holiday Student Pottery Sale will be held from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 1 and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 2-3 in the Ceramics Studio near Vulcan Hall.

The sale is open to the public, and complimentary refreshments will be served. The sale features handcrafted holiday gifts including mugs, bowls, pitchers, jars and vases of all sizes. Members of the Student Pottery Association create all the handmade wares.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the campus community and public to get a good start to their holiday shopping," said Richard "Duke" Miecznikowski, professor in Cal U's Department of Art and Design. "The pottery sale showcases the quality work of our students. They take considerable pride in this."

Distance Runners Reach Championships

The Cal U's women's cross country team chased their dream all the way to the National Championships.

For the first time in program history, the Vulcans — competing as a team — were in the race for a national title.

Cal U finished 25th with 618 team points at the 2015 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championships, which were held Nov. 21 in Joplin, Mo.

The Vulcans earned their team berth at Nationals when they won the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Championship Nov. 7 at Lock Haven University.

Cal U's previous best team finishes at the Regional contest were fifth and sixth, accomplished in 2014 and 2013, respectively. These were the program's first top 10 Regional showings in 35 years.

"I think it's a testament to the hard work and belief of the ladies that we've gotten this far," said Daniel Caulfield, head coach for women's and men's cross country, as well as track and field.

"They have operated more and more like top-class athletes as each season has gone by. Everything finally came together."

At this year's regional competition, Cal U dethroned two-time defending champion Edinboro after three Vulcan runners — junior Julie Friend, senior Alex Zanella and sophomore Summer Hill — earned all-region honors for finishing among the top 25.

"Two weeks before the Regional we finished fourth at the conference meet with some people sick and banged up," said Caulfield, who was named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Atlantic Region Women's Coach of the Year.

"We did not know we'd win, but we knew there was more there."

Friend led Cal U all season. She won two individual titles during the regular season, finishing first among 107 runners at the Oprey (Pomona, N.J.) Invitational and winning the Cal U Mary Uher Invitational for the second consecutive year.

She took fourth place at the PSAC meet to earn all-conference honors, and then placed third out of 153 individual runners at the Atlantic Regional, with a time of 20:45.8.

This will be Friend's second National Championship appearance. She competed individually last year and finished 119th out of 249 runners.



Cal U's 2015 women's cross country squad is the program's first NCAA Regional team champion.

Zanella also is making her second trip to Nationals after a seventh-place finish at the regional contest, where her time was 21:05.6.

A 2014 redshirt and returning first-team Capital One Academic All-American, Zanella qualified for national competition in 2013 and finished 100th in a field of 244 runners.

Zanella also earned All-PSAC first-team honors by finishing sixth at the conference meet.

Hill is making her first appearance at the cross country Nationals after finishing 21st in the Regional race.

All three are track and field standouts as well as distance runners.

"They were sort of the reason the other girls had confidence that we were going to get the job done," Caulfield said.

Also competing at Nationals were freshmen Alyson Pierce and Maddie Thrasher, senior Alison Kimble, and junior Shannon Bridges.

Pierce and Kimble rounded out the team scores at the Regional contest by placing 37th and 41st respectively. Thrasher and Bridges finished 65th and 93rd. The times scored by the team's top five finishers are used in the team standings.

"Really, these ladies ran just as impressively as our top three," said Caulfield, who credited assistant coach Jackie Caulfield and strength and conditioning coach Bob Sepeszy with helping the team reach the top.

"These people are the ones that our team works with every day," Caulfield said. "They're a big reason for the success."

With Zanella and Kimble the only seniors, Caulfield is hoping this fall's breakthrough is just the beginning.

"We aren't looking at this as just a cherry on top of this season, if you will," he said. "We are looking to build on this in future years. Our goal is to remain one of the top programs."

"I still think there's a lot more to come."

Storytellers Visit West Virginia

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had only ever been touched by maybe 12 or so people!

"Going in I did not know what to expect, and I came out with so much knowledge. It was such a great experience."

The videos will make their debut at noon Dec. 5 at the Ohio County Public Library, 52 16th St., Wheeling. The event is free and open to the public.

Financk said mobile digital storytelling is the next long-term phase for the project. She is seeking a National Endowment for the Humanities: Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant to support the project.

"We plan to take our project on the road to help provide a means of preserving and sharing history with underserved communities in our region and, eventually, nationally," she said.

"This has been an absolutely wonderful experience."



Students Ready to Stuff a Bus

It's the holiday season, and Cal U students are in the mood for giving. Headed by Student Government, more than two dozen student organizations are participating in a Toys for Tots toy drive through the 96.1 KISS-FM Stuff-a-Bus program. Toys and monetary donations are being collected at the Nat'l Information Desk or the Student Government Office, Suite 101 in the Nat'l Student Center. At 11 a.m. Dec. 3, a Vulcan Flyer will park in front of the center and students will stuff it with toys. This will mark the eighth consecutive year that Student Government has coordinated a Toys for Tots drive and the fifth year they've filled a Vulcan Flyer. Above, Cal U student Zachary Bogardus collects gifts for last year's Toys for Tots drive.

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