

California University
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'Transformed' Natali Opens

As a new semester gets under way, the "new and improved" Natali Student Center is open for business.

A variety of activities are being planned to celebrate the larger and more student-focused facility, but the campus community is being urged to visit the student center now.

"We are the hub of campus living, as well as the learning community," said Larry Sebek, associate vice president for Student Affairs.

"As folks who have not seen it for a while come in, they're amazed by the transformation. The use of colors, building materials, natural lighting ... it's all just remarkable."

The two-year renovation project improved the building's infrastructure to ensure longevity, and it expanded the center

by about 31,000 square feet.

In addition to more room for students to socialize, relax or gather in small groups, the project features upgraded dining and retail food options, as well as 10 shared conference rooms that are available for student meetings.

"This is not only a two-year construction project, but well over six years of planning," Sebek said. "It's refreshing to see it all come to fruition."

Students initiated the project, approving the upgrade and expansion through a 2011 referendum. And the renovated building makes a wide variety of student services as convenient as they can be. The Career and Professional Development Center, the Women's Center, the Internship

— Continued on page 3

Cal U Again Among 'Best,' Says Princeton Review

For the 11th consecutive year, The Princeton Review has named Cal U among the best universities in the northeastern United States.

The nationally known education services company selected California University as one of the 225 institutions profiled in the Best in the Northeast section of its "2016 Best Colleges: Region by Region" listing at www.PrincetonReview.com.

The institutions named in the regional "best of" lists are considered "academically outstanding and well worth consideration" as part of a college search, according to The Princeton Review.

In total, The Princeton Review recognized 649 colleges and universities in four regions — Northeast, Southeast, Midwest and West. These schools represent just 25 percent of the nation's approximately 2,500 four-year colleges.

The Princeton Review assesses schools for academic excellence, compiling the list based on student surveys, data collected through its administrator surveys, and the



— Continued on page 2

Fall 2015 Semester Begins Today

The 2015-2016 academic year begins today, Aug. 24, with the start of fall semester classes. Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones and the campus community welcomed more than 1,200 first-year students on Friday, Aug. 21, when Move-In Day activities opened Cal U's seventh annual Cal U for Life New Student Orientation.

The three-day orientation included workshops, presentations and recreational activities designed to introduce freshmen and transfer students to the University and the services it provides.

It closed with the annual New Student Convocation and a candlelight ceremony in the Quad, followed by celebratory fireworks.

"The start of the new semester is always exciting. Our students bring renewed vibrancy and energy to campus, and we always look forward to their return," President Jones said. "Our faculty and staff continue to work together to ensure that our students'



Each year, volunteers lend helping hands to incoming students who are moving into residence halls.

needs are met, and that California University of Pennsylvania will have a long and fruitful future.

"I hope that the entire University family will have a wonderful semester."

Students and faculty are reminded of these key dates on the academic calendar.

• No classes will be held on Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day.

• Thanksgiving break will run from Nov. 25-30.

• Classes on Cal U's main campus and at the Southpointe Center for Innovation will end Dec. 4, with exam week following from Dec. 7-11.

• Students who expect to graduate in December must apply no later than Sept. 25.

• Registration for Cal U's five-week Winter College begins on Oct. 5 for veterans and Oct. 6 for all students. The session runs from Dec. 14 through Jan. 15.

• Commencement ceremonies for master's degree candidates will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 11. Bachelor's and associate degrees will be awarded at 10 a.m. Dec. 12. Both Commencement ceremonies will take place at the Convocation Center.

All members of the Cal U community are urged to visit www.calu.edu regularly for up-to-date news and event information. Visit the Quick Links section of the homepage to register for Cal U next alerts.



Each fall Cal U salutes its service members and veterans by displaying colorful banners that highlight their military service. The Office of Veterans Affairs at Cal U is accepting applications for new banners to add to the array already on campus.

Commemorative Banners Now Available

Each fall Cal U salutes its service members and veterans by displaying colorful banners that highlight their military service. Now through Sept. 25, the Office of Veterans Affairs at Cal U will be accepting applications for new banners to add to the array.

Each sturdy red-white-and-blue banner includes a photo of the Cal U student, graduate, employee or family member being recognized, along with details about his or her military service.

Each honoree should have a direct or family tie to the campus community or Cal U Global Online. All members of the U.S. armed services are eligible, including current, former or reserve members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard.

The banners transform the Cal U campus each year, typically during November, when the University marks Veterans Day with a series of special events. Visitors are encouraged to stroll the grounds and read the banners, which honor men and women who served in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world.

Since the program was introduced in 2013, the patriotic display has grown to include more than 40 banners. The Office of Veterans Affairs hopes to add a dozen or

more this fall.

"Because these banners are personalized, they bring American history to life," says Robert Prah, director of Veterans Affairs at Cal U.

"Not only do they honor individual veterans, they also tell the story of where and when the U.S. military has served. They put a very human face on military service through the decades, both for our students and for visitors to our campus."

Order a banner

Although service members and veterans may place an order for themselves, most banners are ordered by family members, friends or colleagues, who sometimes ask a business or community organization to help defray the \$80 cost.

Those who submit a veteran's name are recognized on the banner, along with the business or community sponsor, if applicable. Once the annual display is taken down, the sturdy banners are carefully cleaned and stored so they can be reused year after year.

Applications for banners are being accepted now. For an order form, visit www.calu.edu and type "banners" into the search box. For details, contact the Office of Veterans Affairs at veterans@calu.edu or 724-938-4076.

Campus BRIEFS

Discovery Days Set

Cal U has scheduled fall Discovery Days to introduce prospective students to the University.

Discovery Days will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on two Saturdays, Sept. 12 and Oct. 3; on Monday, Oct. 12; and on Saturday, Nov. 7. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in Steele Hall, followed by an overview of the daily schedule at 9 a.m.

On Discovery Days, high school students who are beginning their college search may tour the campus and learn about Cal U's academic offerings, housing options and student activities.

For more information or to register online, visit www.calu.edu, keyword "Discovery Days."

Faculty or staff members who are interested in leading tours should contact the Welcome Center at Ext. 1626 or e-mail Carrie Pavitis at pavitis@calu.edu.

Faculty-Staff Convocation on Sept. 3

Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones will host the 2015 Fall Faculty and Staff Convocation on Sept. 3 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. The convocation for University employees will be held during the common hour, beginning at 11 a.m.

Annual Health Fair Sept. 16

Students and other members of the campus community can learn more about health and wellness at the 28th annual Cal U health fair, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 16 in the Convocation Center. The public is invited to the free event, which is coordinated by the Health and Wellness Education Center.

For more information, contact Fran Fayish at 724-938-5922 or e-mail fayish@calu.edu.

Cal U Again Among Best

— Continued from page 1

opinions of its staff and of college counselors and advisers.

The results indicate that Cal U's small-town setting means the campus "feels safe," yet it's "only 45 minutes from the airport" and downtown Pittsburgh. "Cal U has a beautiful campus, and the facilities are top-notch. It's hard not to fall in love with it," one student wrote.

Once again, the university earned high marks for campus-wide Wi-Fi and "smart" classrooms. Students also mentioned the importance of the university's "roomy" residence halls: "That is where you live, after all."

Students also commented on the diversity on campus, with a mixture of traditional, non-traditional and international students.

"People are really friendly. I really enjoy having people from so many different backgrounds in my classes. It makes discussions fun."

The Princeton Review's 225 "Best Northeastern Colleges" are located in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and the District of Columbia.



Sophomore Natalie Barrick and graduate student Miles Bennett stock the Cal U Clubboard, located in the Nistali Student Center. The student food pantry, which addresses issues of food insecurity, is run by the Office of Volunteer Programs and Service Learning. To make a donation or for information, contact Diane Hasbrouck, hasbrouck_d@calu.edu or 724-938-4734.

'New' Natali Welcomes Campus Community

— Continued from page 1

Center, and the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning are all on the building's main floor.

"This is a highly visible location, in the center of the 'pulse' of our students," said Rhonda Gifford, director of the career center. "We invite students to drop in, meet their career adviser and find out how they can gain their Career Advantage."

Tracie Beck, director of the Internship Center, shared Gifford's enthusiasm.

"Ever since I began at the Internship Center, I strongly believed that our office should be central to campus and easily accessible to our students. This is an absolutely perfect location — we have great exposure to students in getting our word out about how important internships are to their academic and future careers."

Natali also is home to a renovated "media suite" shared by CUVT, WCAL and the California Times. Walls were removed to bring the campus television, radio and newspaper offices into a common space.

"Media convergence is happening all over these days, and a student must be able to master a combination of skills in order to be successful in electronic or print media," said Pam Delverne, director of technology services for SAI.

"We wanted to ... encourage more interaction among the students from all the campus media outlets, so now it's easier to cross train. The student center has a new face, and so do we."

Shannon Barnett, a senior majoring in business administration and economics, said she appreciates the water-bottle filling station at the water fountain near the bookstore. Students won the filling station through Pennsylvania American Water Co.'s UTAIP Challenge, a Facebook competition.

"It's really neat and cuts down on waste," she said. "I use the student center whenever I am on campus, and the renovation is very pretty, especially the rotunda."



The Natali Student encourages more student interaction, and the entire campus community is welcome to visit the student-focused facility.

Explore Natali

Natali Information Desk staff members will be available to offer direction and tours of the renovated building during the first two weeks of the semester.

Grand Opening Week activities are scheduled for the week of Sept. 7-12 and a dedication ceremony is being planned for 2:30 p.m. Sept. 16.

As part of the grand opening, singer/songwriter Matt Schuler, the 2015 runner-up on NBC's "The Voice," will perform from 5-7 p.m. Sept. 9 in the rotunda.

A "passport" with a building map and directory will be available to encourage students, faculty and staff to visit the offices in Natali. Passport stamps will be collected in all areas of the building, and a special prize drawing will be held at week's end.

For a detailed schedule of activities, visit www.calu.edu.



One of many new features in the Natali Student Center is the large rotunda known as the Heritage Lounge.

Who's Where in the Natali Student Center?

LOWER LEVEL (Lobby)

- Information Desk
- CalCard
- Student Center Reservations
- PSECU Credit Union

FIRST FLOOR

- 101—Student Government, Greek Affairs, Student Activities
- 105—Vulcan Theatre
- 107—Retail Food Court
- 108—Retail Food Court
- 109—Billiard Room
- 116—Multimedia Access Center
- 117—Women's Center, End Violence Center

- 119—Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning
- 124—Convenience Store
- 135—Bookstore
- 138—Career & Professional Development Center, Internship Center
- 143—WCAL
- 143—CUTV
- 143—Cal Times

SECOND FLOOR

- 212—Performance Center
- 246—Dining Services

THIRD FLOOR

- 311—Student Affairs
- 311 G—Vice President for Student Affairs
- 332—Student Association, Incorporated

GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- John Kula and Laura Giachetti, of the Department of Academic Development Services, have been awarded two Upward Bound continuation grants from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2015-2016 project year, Upward Bound has been awarded \$386,967 for Fayette County and \$262,500 for Greene County. The program helps to prepare eligible high school students for success in college.
- Christine Crawford, of the Department of Academic Support Services, has been

awarded continued funding of \$287,754 from the U.S. Department of Education for student support services.

- Debbie Wojcik, of the Government Agency Coordination Office (GACCO), has been awarded a Procurement Technical Assistance grant of \$212,255 from the Defense Logistics Agency. This award will be used to continue the services provided to businesses for obtaining government contracts.

- Brian Kraus, associate vice president for University Technology Services, received a three-year Enterprise Portal

Grant from the CampusEI Consortium in the amount of \$150,000 per year. This funding consists of enterprise portal licenses provided by LookingGlass Platform, a division of CampusEI Consortium.

- Dr. Thomas Mueller, Dr. Kyle Fredrick and Dr. Mario Majcen, of the Department of Earth Sciences, and Jeffrey Surney, of the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, have been awarded \$6,000 from NASA through Penn State University. This funding will continue to support Cal U's participation in the PA Space Grant Consortium.

OSD Located in Carter Hall

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides services and support for California University students. The office is now located in Carter Hall, G-35.

Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. To contact OSD, e-mail osdma@calu.edu or call 724-938-5781.

Interested students are invited to attend semester registration meetings by contacting the OSD office for meeting dates and times.

Additional information can be found at www.calu.edu/osd.

Athletes, Teams Win National Academic Honors

Seven Vulcan student-athletes were named national Academic All-Americans, and seven Cal U athletics teams have been recognized nationally for their success in the classroom.

The seven individual Vulcans who earned College Sports Information Directors of America (CSIDA) Academic All-American honors were: Chelsea Crockett (women's soccer), Aaron Dinzoo (men's cross country and track and field), Haley Henderson (women's soccer), Spencer Lynn (football), Laurel Miller (women's volleyball), Matt Peters (baseball), and Alex Zanella (women's cross country and track and field).

To be nominated, a student-athlete must have reached sophomore athletic eligibility and completed at least one full calendar year. He or she also must be a starter or important reserve with at least a 3.30 cumulative grade-point average at his or her current institution.

The women's swimming, tennis and volleyball teams, along with the men's and women's track and field and cross country teams, all received academic honors.

"These academic team and individual honors are a testament to the dedication and commitment of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty and academic support staff here at California University," said Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's athletic director. "We look for continued success both in the classroom and on the field in 2015-2016."

In other honors:

• For the 13th consecutive year, the College Swimming Coaches Association of America named Cal U's swimming team a Scholar All-America Team. The Vulcan swimmers achieved a cumulative



Recent graduate Chelsea Crockett is one of seven individual Cal U student-athletes who are 2014-15 College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-Americans.

3.32 grade-point average for the Spring 2015 semester.

The Team Scholar All-America award is presented to swimming and diving teams who have achieved a grade point average of 3.00 or higher in the semester coinciding with the NCAA's Swimming and Diving Championships.

• The women's tennis team has been named an Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-Academic Team for the 12th consecutive year. Cal U tennis led all Vulcan teams last spring with a cumulative 3.50 grade-point average.

To earn the ITA All-Academic Team award, a program must have a cumulative

GPA of 3.20 or above

• The volleyball team earned the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for the fourth consecutive season after earning a 3.45 collective GPA in 2014-2015.

The AVCA award honors collegiate and high school teams that display excellence in the classroom during the school year by maintaining at least a 3.30 cumulative team grade-point average on a 4.00 scale.

• The women's track team earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic status for the fifth consecutive year after posting a 3.26 cumulative GPA. A team must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher to qualify.

Under the same standards, the men's track team received USTFCCA All-Academic Team honors for a second year. The team had a cumulative 3.06 GPA.

• Last winter, the women's cross country team (3.43 GPA) earned USTFCCA All-Academic Team honors for a sixth consecutive season, while the men's team (3.07 GPA) received the same honor for its eighth straight year.

This spring the women's and men's cross country teams posted team GPAs of 3.44 and 3.19, respectively.

Overall, the Vulcans posted a cumulative GPA of 3.12 last spring, marking the 11th consecutive semester the athletic programs attained a 3.10 or higher GPA.



This fall, CUTV marks 30 years of football coverage, which will include the complete Vulcan season and nine high school games.

CUTV Football Ready for 30th Year

California University Television (CUTV) is set to mark its 30th season on the gridiron. Beginning in September, CUTV will broadcast the complete Vulcan football season, as well as nine high school games. All games are aired via tape delay.

CUTV's Vulcan football broadcasts are slated for 6 p.m. Mondays and 4 p.m. Tuesdays on the Armstrong (channel 61) and Atlantic Broadband (channel 17) cable systems. Viewers also can watch on YouTube, at cutvports1.com. For the complete Cal U football schedule, visit www.calvulcans.com.

High school broadcasts on the same affiliates air at 8:30 p.m. Sundays and 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

CUTV's nine-game scholastic state opens with Trinity at Belle Vernon Area, played on Sept. 4, followed by Penn-Trifactor at Connelleville (Sept. 11 game). The remaining games are Derry Area at Charleroi (Sept. 18), Jefferson-Morgan at California Area (Sept. 25), Washington at Mt. Pleasant Area (Oct. 2), Frazier at Bethlehem Center (Oct. 9), West Milford at Elizabeth Forward (Oct. 16), Avella at Carmichaels (Oct. 23) and Burgetstown at Brownsville (Oct. 30).

CUTV also is partnering with NFHSnetworks.com to stream the high school games live on Friday nights; a subscription is required.

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