

California University
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Former GM to Address Graduates

Alumnus Jack Zdurienick '74, former general manager for the Seattle Mariners and a familiar voice to Pittsburgh Pirates fans, will address graduate and undergraduate students at the University's 185th Commencement.

Master's degree candidates will receive their diplomas and be vested in their academic hoods at 7 p.m. Dec. 15. Undergraduate Commencement begins at 10 a.m.

Dec. 16. Both ceremonies will be held in the Convocation Center arena.

In all, more than 1,200 students are expected to graduate,

including those who choose not to attend Commencement.

University President Geraldine M. Jones will confer the degrees and greet each graduate who walks across the stage. Graduates' families and friends are welcome to attend.

Cal U's 185th Commencement recognizes students who completed their studies in August and December 2017.

About the speaker

In keeping with Cal U's tradition

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Jack Zdurienick



Cal U students (from left) Jenn Polando, Kotone Katozaka, Judith Seldomeridge and Jonathan Miljus converse with students from the Perm campus of the National Research University Higher School of Economics, in Russia.

Cal U, Russian Students Talk Again

Separated by more than 5,000 miles, Cal U and Russian students shared a meaningful, informative and enjoyable conversation for the third time in four years.

Cal U's international studies program hosted the Nov. 14 video call in Keystone Hall with students from the Perm campus of the National Research University Higher School of Economics, in Russia.

Dr. Sean Madden, a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law and director of the international studies program, was the Cal U moderator.

Moderating the discussion from Perm was Dr. Tatyana Permyakova, a professor in the National Research University's School of Foreign Languages.

Also in attendance were Cal U President Geraldine M. Jones and Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U's provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

President Jones fielded a Russian student's question concerning Cal U's attitude toward international students. She explained that Cal U holds an International Dinner each spring, and the most recent dinner focused on Russia.

"We have a wonderful international student population here, and I was very happy that we celebrated and studied Russia just this past year," she said. "I am also very proud that technology provides this kind of opportunity both to our students and to you in Perm."

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Hilsey Picked for AAUW Council

Cal U senior Shaina Hilsey has been selected as a member of the 2017-2018 American Association of University Women Student Advisory Council.

Hilsey, from Delaware County, Pa., is one of 10 students nationwide to be selected for the council, which advises the AAUW on the needs of college students. Students on the advisory council also take on campus activism projects as they gain valuable leadership experiences.

The AAUW, founded in 1881, promotes equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

Hilsey, who is majoring in professional golf management with a minor in business administration, will serve as a mentor during the annual National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, scheduled for May 2018. She participated in a leadership retreat at

the AAUW headquarters, in Washington, D.C., this fall.

"We are enormously proud of Shaina," said University President Geraldine M. Jones. "It's been exciting to witness her growth as a young leader making an impact on our University, within the State System and now on a national level."

"Shaina has made the most of every opportunity, and I'm confident that she will be a strong voice for students in her role with the AAUW."

Hilsey also has established an AAUW student chapter at Cal U.

"The Student Advisory Council gives us an outlet to discuss a variety of issues relevant to college campuses," Hilsey said. "Our new campus AAUW chapter will provide similar opportunities for our diverse student body. I look forward to reaching out to members of our campus community."

"The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders was a transformative experience for Shaina," said Nancy Skobel, associate dean of student affairs and leadership, who will advise the club.

"The group is designed to empower women and educate them on leadership issues of the day. I look forward to working this group of phenomenal women."

A former Student Government Association president, Hilsey continues to advocate for public higher education as a member of the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

This past summer, she interned at the U.S. Golf Association, where she assisted with major events such as the U.S. Open. In spring 2018, she will head back to Washington, D.C., for an internship with the Heritage Foundation.



Shaina Hilsey attended a leadership retreat at the American Association of University Women headquarters, in Washington, D.C., this fall.

Honors Program Makes Impact at Conference

Ten University Honors Program students and two faculty members recently participated in the 52nd annual National Collegiate Honors Council's Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Founded in 1966, the NCHC supports and promotes undergraduate honors education. NCHC has nearly 900 member institutions and several hundred individual members, impacting more than 330,000 honors students.

Laken Ganoce, a senior environmental studies major, earned first-place in the poster presentations with "Feasibility of Remote Mark-Recapture Methods on Fishes (*Pekania pennanti*) in Clarion County, Pa."

The poster described her research with fishers, small carnivorous mammals in the weasel family. Ganoce collected hair samples in the wild to determine the animals' habitat preference. If lab results determine there are multiple samples from the same animal, this project would be the first successful mark-recapture study done on fishers in Pennsylvania.

Three other seniors presented posters. Meteorology major Adam Andresen presented "A Climatology of Air Mass Types in Pittsburgh, Pa. from 1951-2010." Hannah Kovcssek, a special education major, presented two posters, "Teaching K-4 Students about the Election Process through Hands-On Activities" and "Homeschoolers in Honors."

International studies major Brynna Sherony's poster was titled "The Future of the E.U." Andresen and seniors Lindsay Kastroll and Bryan Moore — psychology and parks and recreation



Students in Cal U's Honors Program participated in a variety of scholarly activities at the 52nd annual National Collegiate Honors Council's Conference in Atlanta, Ga.

management majors, respectively — teamed for a roundtable presentation, "Improving the Honors Community: How Do We Encourage Involvement?"

Another roundtable presentation, "Honors Senior Thesis: Are You Prepared?" was led by Cal U junior Amanda Andrews (mathematics education), Natalie Reichard (criminal justice), and Samantha Zimmerman

(mathematics education).

Senior Amanda Sloan, a psychology major, presented a paper, "Refugee Mental Health: Expressive Arts Therapies and Mindfulness in the Treatment of Trauma," at an interdisciplinary research panel.

Sophomores Ivy Savidge (anthropology) and Jelit Chawchang (communication disorders) represented

the Student Honors Advisory Board by researching questions of diversity in honors programs.

Dr. M.G. Aune, director of Cal U's Honors Program, presented on "Transfer Students in Transition," while associate director Dr. Craig Fox presented "Models of Interdisciplinary Honors Seminars and Effective Team-Leading."



Pottery Sale Dec. 11-13

The Holiday Student Pottery Sale will be held from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 11 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 12-13 in the Ceramics Studio, near Vulcan Hall.

Complimentary refreshments will be served. Members of the Student Pottery Association have created an array of mugs, bowls, pitchers, jars and vases.

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

For more information, contact the Department of Art and Languages at 724-938-4182 or Miecznikowski@calu.edu. 724-938-4083 or miecznikowski@calu.edu.

Designer Wins National Award

Some lighthearted and creative fun at the end of the Spring 2016 semester led to national recognition a year later for Connor Marshman '16.

His photo illustration, "That's All Folks," was selected as a Mark of Excellence national finalist at the 2017 Society of Professional Journalists annual Excellence in Journalism Conference, held in Anaheim, Calif. On his way to the national honor, Marshman earned first place in the small photo illustration category for SPJ Region 4.

The regional awards recognize the best in college journalism at schools in Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. Awards are given for collegiate journalism in print, on radio, on television and online. The more than 400 entries in this year's regional competition were published in 2016.

From the regional winners, the SPJ announced a Mark of Excellence national winner and two national finalists.

"It was a nice honor to receive, and this is certainly exciting and something beneficial for my resume," said Marshman, who earned his bachelor's degree in graphic communications and multimedia.

Marshman's photo illustration was based on the famous ending of the Looney Tunes cartoons, in which the characters say, "That's All Folks!" For the final issue of the Spring 2016 *Cal Times*, he placed an image of the graduating editorial staff members in the center of the cartoon graphic.

"It was a fun final issue, and we wanted to make it a special farewell for the editorial staff members," Marshman said. "At first, I was kind of joking when I came up with the concept, but the editors liked it and we ran with it."

Marshman worked for the *Cal Times* in his senior year after finding out about an available graphic designer position through Pam Delverne, director of technology services for SAI. Marshman earned an associate degree in marketing last summer from Community College of Allegheny County.

"It was my senior year and I wanted to make the most



of it, so I tried the *Times* for a new experience and really enjoyed it," Marshman said. "It just shows that sometimes things that just come to mind can become good ideas."

Jeff Heisel, director of print and multimedia journalism for SAI, said Marshman is "a very gifted and creative graphic designer."

"He first came to the *Cal Times* to help the editors lay out the pages, and soon he demonstrated an ability to create amazing graphics and develop outstanding photo illustrations."

"We are very proud of him for winning such a prestigious award."

Cal U Students Help Needy Children

Junior Vlaney Almaraz beamed with holiday spirit as she helped Cal U's Student Government Association for the first time with its Toys for Tots drive, which took place through November.

SGA culminated its drive by loading a school bus full of donated toys — more than \$1,400 — for the 96.1 KISS Stuff-a-Bus program for Toys for Tots.

"I really enjoy this because some children are not fortunate enough to get anything for Christmas. Helping with this really does make you feel good," said Almaraz, a psychology major who is SGA's corresponding secretary. "If we make even one kid's Christmas a little happier, then how can you not be pleased?"

This marked the seventh year that Student Government has led a toy collection effort in conjunction with the 96.1 KISS Stuff-a-Bus program. Cal U has supported Toys for Tots annually

since the 2007 holiday season.

The Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, Athletic Training Club, Student Activities Board and SAI also supported the toy drive with volunteers and donations.

Emily Moyer, event coordinator and Student Government financial secretary, was one of five students who followed the bus to Robinson Township to help unload.

"This is my third year helping but first time making the trip, and it's exciting," said Moyer, a senior majoring in sport management.

"The time and effort spent are so worth it for this good cause."

Toy donations are still being accepted through Dec. 14 and will be distributed to Toys for Tots of Washington County. Drop boxes will remain in the Natali Student Center lobby as well as in Steele Hall lobby Dec. 7-10 during the production of *The Happy Elf*.



Taylor Kodric, a sophomore psychology major, stuffs a school bus with donated toys for the 96.1 KISS Stuff-a-Bus program.

Walton Named Cheyney President

The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has appointed Aaron A. Walton '68 president of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania.

His term will continue through June 30, 2021, to ensure stable leadership while Cheyney implements a multi-year financial plan.

Walton had served as Cheyney's interim president since May, shortly after the Middle States Commission on Higher Education ordered the university to "show cause" as to why its accreditation should

not be withdrawn.



Aaron Walton

Since then, Cheyney has submitted a detailed operating plan to Middle States that explains, among other things, how it will balance its budget while meeting the educational needs of students.

A retired senior vice president for Highmark Inc., Walton stepped down from both the Cal U Council of Trustees and the State System's Board of Governors last May in order to take on the interim role at Cheyney.

Cheyney's Council of Trustees voted to ask the Board of Governors for limited dispensation from its policy on presidential selection in order to expedite the process and recommended Walton be named the university's next president. In accordance with state law, Cheyney's trustees conferred with students, faculty and alumni prior to voting on the recommendation.

"When we considered who would be best to ensure the university's future, it was clear that Aaron Walton is that person," said Robert W. Bogle, chair of Cheyney University's Council of Trustees. "I applaud what he has accomplished in just six months, and I can only imagine what he will do with more time."

GM to Address Graduates

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of inviting distinguished alumni to address the graduates, Jack Zduriencik, Class of 1974, will speak at both ceremonies. He has built a distinguished 34-year career in Major League Baseball.

Since 2016, Pittsburgh Pirates fans have heard Zduriencik's insightful commentary during the pre- and post-game shows on AT&T SportsNet and KDKA-FM.

Zduriencik became a scout for the New York Mets in 1983. Scouting and front-office roles took him across the country until the New Castle, Pa., native came back to western Pennsylvania in 1991 as director of scouting for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Zduriencik returned to the Mets in 1994 as the organization's minor

league operations director; four years later he was named special assistant to the general manager. He then moved to the Los Angeles Dodgers as director of international scouting and special assistant to the general manager before joining the Milwaukee Brewers in 1999.

In Milwaukee, Zduriencik rose to the position of vice president and special assistant to the general manager. In 2007 he was the first non-GM to be named Baseball America's Executive of the Year, and in 2008 he helped the Brewers make the organization's first post-season appearance in 26 years.

His next stop was Washington, where from 2008-2015 Zduriencik served as executive vice president and general manager of baseball operations for the Seattle Mariners.

Zduriencik transferred to California State College in 1971 and was a two-year all-conference starting catcher and team captain for Vulcans baseball in 1972 and 1973. The Chicago White Sox signed him after his junior year, and he played two seasons of minor league ball before returning to California to finish his degree in education.

Zduriencik was inducted into the Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

He and his wife of 35 years, Debbie, live in Treedale, Pa. Their daughter, Kimberly Swendsen, is a nurse practitioner in Pittsburgh.

Both graduation ceremonies can be viewed live online at www.calu.edu. For more information, visit www.calu.edu/events/commencement.

Cal U, Russian Students Talk Again

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While interacting, both student groups realized their university settings are globalized communities where students are able to exchange ideas and broaden their minds by studying different countries and cultures.

"I would love to study in Russia, where there's so much history, architecture and wonderful pieces of art," said Cal U junior Nathan Thorne. "Russia would be one of my top three places to go."

Both student groups discussed problems with believing stereotypes.

"The Internet lies, and it's not right to make assumptions or prejudice people based on hearsay," said Victoria McGough, a sophomore majoring in international studies. "You have to meet and get to know people as we are doing now."

Interestingly, the Cal U and Fern students took that same approach when they asked each other about their top government leaders, whom the students cautiously said are "charismatic."

Devaughn Davis, a junior international studies major who wants to work for the intelligence community after joining the Air Force, believes the video call will help his career.

"The thing I believe I most took away from this is that despite barely knowing each other, we were all so comfortable and open and able to talk about sensitive topics, which was really cool."

McGough, who wants to be a foreign diplomat or work for the United Nations, also found the video call rewarding.

"I like the idea of being part of that bridge from one country to another and developing relationships," she said. "Even as different as our countries may seem, as students we go through the same cycle every day, so it does feel like there's a natural connection."

"I love this experience, hearing their dialogue and accents. Normally you don't get this kind of opportunity."

Pernyskova, who was Madden's faculty collaborator during his 2012 experience as a Fulbright Specialist in

"I like the idea of being part of that bridge from one country to another and developing relationships. Even as different as our countries may seem, as students we go through the same cycle every day, so it does feel like there's a natural connection."

— Sophomore Victoria McGough

Russia, has continued to work with him to make connections between the National Research University and Cal U.

Both educators were pleased with the experience.

"I walk away from these sessions feeling very educated and impressed by our students and your students," said Madden at the end of the video call. "Let's do this again."

Pernyskova added, "This is a wonderful practice, and I cherish the day when you and your students are sitting next to us in the same room and sharing conversations in person."

Cross-Country, Football Highlight Fall Sports

Both the women's cross-country and football teams capped off a successful fall sports season by competing in NCAA Division II post-season action.

For the second time in three years, Cal U's women's cross-country team qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships and finished in 25th place.

The Vulcans earned the trip by finishing in third place at the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional.

Leading the way was senior Julie Friend, who became the program's first-ever NCAA Division II All-American. She finished 22nd out of 247 runners at the national championship 6K run, which was held in Evansville, Ind.

Friend, also a two-time track and field All-American in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, was making her third appearance at the cross-country national championship. She previously placed 119th and 65th in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Earlier this season, Friend became the first Cal U woman to win the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional individual title in cross-country. She is only the second Vulcan athlete — and the first in 37 years — to win the PSAC individual championship in her sport.

Daniel Caulfield, Cal U's cross-country and track and field head coach, praised Friend, who was selected as the 2017 U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Atlantic Region Athlete of the Year.

"Being the first All-American in program history is a result of her talent, determination and work ethic, and it was fantastic to see her at nationals up on stage receiving her regional Athlete of the Year award," Caulfield said.

Fellow senior Summer Hill and junior Alyson Pierce also earned all-region honors.

Hill finished 96th in her third appearance at the national championship after finishing third overall at the regional competition and 14th at the PSAC Championships.

Both Friend and Hill are three-time all-region honorees.

"Julie and Summer were a great 1-2 punch for the team this year, and they have certainly helped put Cal U cross-



The women's cross-country team earned the program's second top-25 finish at the NCAA Division II National Championships in the past three years.

country on the map," Caulfield added.

Pierce came in 190th place at nationals after finishing 12th at the Regional and 26th at the PSAC competition.

Cal U's other runners at the national event included freshman Shaye Beckett (220th), junior Jaclyn Reinbold (224th), freshman Megan Bateman (231st) and sophomore Shaq Grinnell (243rd).

"I am very proud of the ladies for what they've accomplished," said Caulfield. "They dealt with a lot of adversity this season, and when it mattered most, they exhibited tremendous character and competitiveness."

"I believe the underclassmen will keep this momentum going."

Football

The Vulcans football team again qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs under second-year head coach Gary Dunn.

Cal U (9-3) won its last five games of the regular season to earn the NCAA Super Region One's sixth seed. The Vulcans ended the season with a 40-31 loss to eventual regional finalist Assumption College (Mass.).

The Vulcans tied IUP for the most first-team, all-conference selections with seven: senior defensive lineman Justin Baker, senior kicker Will Brazill, senior



Senior placekicker Will Brazill is one of three Cal U football players to earn consecutive All-PSAC West First-Team honors, along with center Taylor Nikithser and linebacker Luke Hrapchak.

linebacker Luke Hrapchak, sophomore offensive tackle Craig McCorkle, sophomore defensive back Lamont McPhatter II, senior center Taylor Nikithser, and senior linebacker Cameron Taylor.

"Since midseason our team was basically in playoff games, and I am so

proud of their resiliency," said Dunn.

"Though we were disappointed to lose an exciting game in the post-season, we were one of 16 teams to make the playoffs, and that's quite an accomplishment."

"We are ready to work hard this off-season and do the right things for continued success in 2018."

Mark Your (Academic) Calendar

Students, faculty and staff are reminded of these important dates on the academic calendar.

Dec. 15: Residence halls close at 8 p.m.

Dec. 18: Winter College classes begin; the online classes end Jan. 19.

Dec. 25-28: Holiday break (University closed).

Jan. 15: All University offices

close in observance of

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Jan. 21: Residence halls reopen at 9 a.m. for new students, 2 p.m. for returning students.

Jan. 22: First day of classes for the 2018 spring semester.

March 12-17: Spring break for faculty and students.

May 7-11: Exam Week.

May 11-12: Commencement ceremonies.

Work, Family Law Seminars Set

Work and family law are the topics of four upcoming seminars presented by the Institute for Law and Public Policy at California University of Pennsylvania.

The programs for attorneys and other legal professionals are held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 13 and 14 at the Cal U Educational Resources Center at Southpointe. Each is approved for Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education (PA-CLE) credits.

Noted attorneys discuss workplace issues, bankruptcy, alternative dispute resolution and custody.

Legal professionals may register now for these continuing education programs. For seminar details, costs and online registration, visit www.cau.edu/llpp.

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