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## First Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend Oct. 12-14

**CMA Award-winner Lonestar to perform at Roadman Park**

The Roman god of fire is ready to party. For the first time, Cal U is teaming up with the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency to present Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend, a community celebration of Cal U connections and hometown pride.

Named for the University's Vulcan mascot, the celebration Oct. 12-14 expands on the traditional Homecoming favorites — alumni reunions, the downtown parade, tailgate parties and Vulcans football — to create a memorable weekend jam-packed with activities for the entire community.

The highlight of the event is a free country music concert on Oct. 13 featuring multi-platinum recording artists Lonestar, winner of the 2001 Country Music Association's Vocal Group of the Year Award. Opening the show outdoors at Roadman Park is contemporary country music artist Chris Higbee.



Country Music Award-winner Lonestar will perform at Roadman Park after the Oct. 13 Cal U football game against Gannon University.

The concert begins about 6 p.m., immediately after the Vulcans' Homecoming football game, where the Vulcans face Gannon University's Golden Knights. The public is invited.

Admission is free, with parking at Roadman Park for \$10. Fireworks will follow the show.

"California University is a premier destination in Washington County," says California University President

Geraldine M. Jones. "Partnering with the county's tourism agency has allowed us to reimagine our Homecoming as a top tourism attraction.

"I'm excited about using our Homecoming event as a springboard to a festival that promotes tourism in our region."

Vulcan Fest is a "natural evolution" of efforts to promote the county's

— *Continued on page 4*

## Athletic Day of Giving is Tuesday

Fans can help Vulcans student-athletes continue to succeed — on the playing field and in the classroom — during the Sept. 25 Cal U Athletic Day of Giving.

On this day devoted to supporting Cal U's 18 men's and women's athletics programs, donations can be designated for a particular team to the Athletics Department.

Cal U teams have won an impressive 27 PSAC Championships over nine different sports in the last 10 years, plus a combined 82 league titles in the sports of cross country, golf, swimming, and track and field.

The Vulcans have produced 55 Academic All-Americans over the last 10 years. Collectively, our student-athletes have compiled a cumulative grade-point average of 3.10 or higher for 16 of the past 17 semesters.

Yet of the 326 student-athletes enrolled at Cal U last year, only 209 received some form of athletic scholarship. Because state funds cannot be used for athletic scholarships, support must come from other sources.

The Day of Giving allows alumni and fans of Cal U athletics to show their Vulcan pride.

"Your support is an investment in our student-athletes and the future of Vulcans athletics," said Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's athletics director. "Every gift, no matter the amount, helps our student-athletes earn an education and gives them an opportunity to prosper beyond athletics."

To make a donation, visit [calu.edu/athletics-give](http://calu.edu/athletics-give).



### Lancaster Receives Carter Award

Professor Paul Larry Lancaster '66, '69 gives remarks after receiving the 2018 Jennie Carter Leadership Award in the Kara Alumni House on Sept. 14. The award is named for Elizabeth 'Jennie' Adams Carter, the University's first African-American graduate. See story on page 3.

## New Student Trustee Prepared for Position

What does the boardroom at California University of Pennsylvania have in common with the wide open spaces of a national park?

Plenty, says junior Alex Arnold, of McClellandtown, Pa. Cal U's student member of the Board of Trustees for 2018-2019. Arnold is majoring in history and parks and recreation management.

"Whether you're managing a university or managing a park, the operations are very similar, especially with matters such as budgets, staffing and even dealing with forms of government," he said.

Another similarity: Both require a heart for service and a desire to manage assets responsibly.

"I feel that the student trustee is a vital position on the Council of Trustees, because you bring that student perspective," Arnold said.

"As the student trustee, I have to remember

not to put my personal opinion forward, but to put forward what the students want, because that's who I am representing, not myself.

"It's all about serving the students, and I feel that at this level I can really help them."

Each of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has a policy-setting Council of Trustees. Before being appointed by the governor, a student trustee must go through a screening and interviewing process on campus. Then it's on to interviews with a team from the State System's Board of Governors.

"I did not do this because I wanted a resume builder or needed it to go further," said Arnold. "I'm doing it because I feel with my experience, and now in this role, I can really help our students and hopefully be an asset to Cal U."

— *Continued on page 2*



Alex Arnold is the 2018-2019 student member of the Cal U Council of Trustees.

## President Updates Faculty and Staff

At the Sept. 13 convocation address to faculty and staff, President Geraldine M. Jones emphasized Cal U's purpose: To empower students to reach their full potential, so they can graduate with the knowledge, skills and confidence it takes to build successful careers and rewarding lives.

"Nothing is more fulfilling than seeing our students graduate and set off in pursuit of life's infinite possibilities," she said. "But we do more than believe in our students' ability to rise up and achieve."

"Everyone in this room, our faculty and staff, provides our students with the tools and teaching that lets them actually reach their goals."

The President's reminder echoed Cal U's new "Build You" advertising campaign — the first campaign based on a University-wide rebranding project that involved faculty, staff and students. Slides depicted some of the billboards and other ads developed for the campaign, which features proud, determined Cal U students.

"We are sending a strong message," she said. "Don't settle. Build you."

Despite a 6 percent decline in enrollment, President Jones said she is convinced that maintaining Cal U's academic standards is the right approach. She pointed out that the number of



University President Geraldine M. Jones presents her "State of the University" address Sept. 13 at the Fall 2018 Faculty-Staff Convocation.

incoming freshmen is slightly higher than a year ago, and more first-year students are in the top academic tier.

"The students we bring to our campus, and to our online programs,

should be capable of achieving their educational goals," she said. "And we here to help them every step of the way."

President Jones pointed with pride to the variety of new academic programs

approved during the 2017-2018 academic year, including Cal U's third doctorate and a bachelor's degree program in molecular biology scheduled to debut next fall.

"Creating new programs was identified as a vital element of our Strategic Enrollment Plan, and we are committed to preparing our students for tomorrow's careers," she said.

Another point of pride: Cal U closed the 2017-2018 fiscal year with a surplus that has been earmarked to support new and existing academic programs, ongoing marketing and branding campaigns, capital improvement projects, and life-cycle maintenance projects.

"But our hard work is not over yet," she warned. "With enrollment down, significant financial challenges remain."

She emphasized, however, that furloughing employees is not an option this year, although some positions may remain vacant and travel requests will be carefully scrutinized.

The President closed with a mention of current litigation regarding the Vulcan parking garage, and a reminder about two upcoming events: Vulcan Fest on Oct. 12-14 and Chancellor Dan Greenstein's first visit to campus, on Oct. 25.

"As always, I thank you for all your hard work on behalf of our students," she told the faculty and staff. "I wish you all a productive and rewarding semester."

## New Trustee Prepared

—Continued from page 1

Arnold is in his second year as a seasonal park ranger with the National Park Service. He works 10-hour shifts Friday through Monday at Friendship Hill National Historic Site, in Point Marion, Pa.

He started working as a volunteer at Friendship Hill when he was just 13. His first year as a seasonal park ranger was at Maryland-based Chesapeake & Ohio National Historic Park.

When he's not working in a park, he is busy at Cal U.

Beyond the classroom, Arnold is secretary of the College Republicans Club and past president of the Parks and Recreation Student Society. His job as a student worker in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations introduced him to many campus constituents.

"I was fortunate to know what career I wanted before I came to college, and I've been able to tailor my major and my activities to reach my goals," he said. "My student job has further helped me become known."

Arnold credits Cal U professors for their role in his development as a leader and decision-maker.

"The faculty here is amazing, because you can get close to them on a personal level and they will bend over backward to help you," he said. "You learn so much, and they really help to advance your career while you're still in school."

## Liberal Arts Festival Set for Oct. 2

Cal U will celebrate "Cultures and Arts" at the second Liberal Arts fall festival.

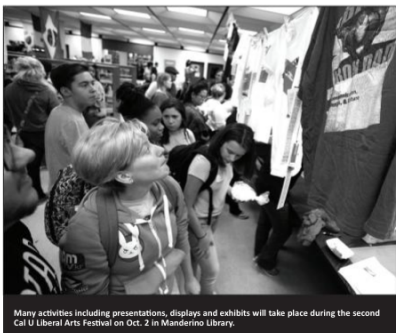
The event, which will be held 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 2 in Manderino Library, celebrates the importance of a liberal arts education by showcasing the departments found within the college — Art and Languages; Communication, Design and Culture; Criminal Justice; English; History, Politics, Society and Law; Music and Theatre; Psychology; and the Honors Program.

Admission is free, and the Cal U community and public are welcome to attend. "The liberal arts are an integral part of our lived experiences: how the psyche operates, appreciating beauty, and persuading," said Dr. Kristen Majoche, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "This festival showcases the College of Liberal Arts in ways that invite participation and build excitement around our majors."

"But the liberal arts do more; we inform the sciences, technology, and practical applications, helping doctors learn bedside manner, creating critical decision makers, reaching digital markets through compelling graphics and design. This day of celebration makes visible these interdisciplinary connections."

More than 400 high school students are expected to attend the festival. From 10-11 a.m., they will hear presentations from Cal U faculty and guest speakers — including one about Morocco from Oussama Alaoui Ismail, the University's third visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the Arabic program.

Other presentations will discuss Chinese writing and culture, motifs in early Islamic architecture, and artistic expression and life in the French court.



Many activities including presentations, displays and exhibits will take place during the second Cal U Liberal Arts Festival on Oct. 2 in Manderino Library.

Cal U students from the Department of Music and Theatre will perform, and the history of artifacts and artwork from the Louvre also will be discussed.

All festival attendees may view *We Can Do It! WWII*, a traveling exhibition from the Senator John Heinz History Center, in association with the Smithsonian Institution, which runs through Oct. 5 on the third floor of the library.

Activities open to the public are scheduled to include performances by the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, a cappella groups, and African, salsa and Latino bands.

Students from Cal U's Department of Music and Theatre will perform a series of one-act plays, dance pieces and other interpretative performances.

Other activities and displays include

print-making, painting and drawing demonstrations; cultural diversity tables; poetry and prose readings; and medieval sword-fighting demonstrations.

Students and faculty from the College of Liberal Arts also will present academic works and share interactive experiences with visitors.

Andrea Cencich is the event organizer, with assistance from Sabrina Hykes-Davis, Monica Ruane Rogers, Jodie Bonidis, Becky McMillen, Barbara Engle and Darla Holley Holmes. The Office of the President is the gold sponsor. Co-sponsoring the festival are the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Art and Languages, and Manderino Library.

For more information contact the Department of Art and Languages at 724-938-4182 or email [cencich\\_a@calu.edu](mailto:cencich_a@calu.edu).



## ADP Holds Voter Registration Drive and Documentary

Two events planned on Sept. 25 and Sept. 27

Nov. 6 will be an important day in Pennsylvania as votes are cast in the general election for governor and U.S. Congress, among other races.

To prepare the Cal U community, the University's chapter of the American Democracy Project is holding a voter registration drive on Sept. 25 — with free pizza on the line — and also showing an important documentary on Sept. 27.

### Voter Registration Drive

Cal U will mark National Voter Registration Day with a voter registration drive from 10 a. m. - 4 p. m. Sept. 25 on the first floors of Mandertino Library and Eberly Hall, and outside the Natali Student Center. In case of inclement weather, the Natali location will be in the student center lobby.

The Natali location will also feature live music from 11 a. m. to 2 p. m. with a faculty DJ. Dr. Michael Slaven, professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law.

A voter registration table will be

set up in the Keystone Hall lobby from 4-6:30 p. m.

The campus club or organization that registers the most students to vote will win a free pizza party courtesy of the Campus Vote Project. Details can be found at [sai.orgsync.com](http://sai.orgsync.com) and campus email announcements.

Last year, the Campus Vote Project, a project of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Fair Elections Center in Washington, D.C., named Cal U a Voter Friendly Campus based on its efforts to educate student voters and get them to the polls for the 2016 elections. Only 83 campuses nationwide, including seven in Pennsylvania, earned the Voter Friendly Campus designation.

Students, faculty and staff interested in helping with National Voter Registration Day should email Jordan Freeburn at [fre2069@calu.edu](mailto:fre2069@calu.edu) with hours they can work, along with contact information.

Event organizer Dr. Melanie Blumberg, a political science professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, emphasized the

importance of the student vote.

"By not voting, students are undermining their interests and passions, whether it be affordable college tuition or environmental protection," said Blumberg, director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U.

### 'One Vote' Documentary

The documentary *One Vote* will be shown at 6 p. m. Sept. 27, in Eberly Hall Room 110.

Filmed in five locations on Election Day 2016, the non-partisan documentary portrays voters' Election Day experiences and connects the struggles of generations past with voters' dreams for the future.

Christine Woodhouse, the documentary director, said the five stories selected speak for themselves and that voting is a self-fulfilling act of belief.

Her daughter, Chloe, will be at the screening on Sept. 27 to take part in a discussion with the audience. A voter registration table will be set up at the event, which is free and open to the public.

## Register for Winter College Starting Oct. 1

Registration for Cal U's five-week Winter College begins Oct. 1.

Students who attend any college, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, may register for the online classes offered during the break between the fall and spring semesters. The winter session runs from Dec. 17 through Jan. 18.

"This year's Winter College offers 27 undergraduate and 29 graduate courses. Online registration and a complete course list is available at [calu.edu/admissions/visiting-summer-winter.aspx](http://calu.edu/admissions/visiting-summer-winter.aspx), along with information about tuition and fees, financial aid, library services and technology support.

"Because Winter College courses are 100 percent online, they are especially convenient for students who may be busy with work or family obligations between the fall and spring semesters," said Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U's provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.

Now in its sixth year, Cal U's popular Winter College has attracted more than 5,000 students.

Kathy Gavazzi, director of the Summer College and Winter College programs at Cal U, said Winter College helps students reach their academic goals faster and maximize their education.

"Winter College can help some students to finish a minor, or even a second major, and still graduate on time," Gavazzi said.

"Other students use the winter session to focus on a single course, or to take a class in a subject they've always wanted to learn more about."

## Emeritus Professor Accepts Carter Award

A Cal U graduate who became a leader in the classroom and the community received the Jennie Carter Award on Sept. 14 during a luncheon in Kara Alumni House.

Paul "Larry" Lancaster '66, '69 is the 10th recipient of the award, named for Elizabeth "Jennie" Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the University's first African-American graduate. The honor is given to a person who exemplifies her spirit, resilience and leadership.

Lancaster taught in Cal U's Department of Special Education for 35 years, serving as department chair for 10 years prior to retirement in 2004. He was also the University's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) for 10 years.

"It was because of Jennie Carter that many individuals of color have been able to become educated," said Lancaster. "When I came to campus there were so few blacks on campus, and I can't imagine what she went through back then.

"She set the standard and led the way."

Lancaster has been active in the community. He serves on the board of Cross Keys Human Services Inc., in Brownsville, Pa., which supports seniors and people with behavioral health issues. His wife, Dr. Adrienne Lancaster '69, is the board president.

For many years Lancaster served as a rape counselor for the Women's Resource Center of Fayette County.

"If we are to follow in the footsteps of Jennie Carter, and act with her courage, we need to be more active in our communities," he said. As a first step, he urged those at the award presentation to vote: "We need to get involved."

Participating in the award presentation were University President Geraldine M. Jones and Sheleeta Camarda-Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs, University LGBTQIA Initiatives, and Commuter and Non-Traditional Student Services.

President Jones reflected on the

*"It's because of Jennie Carter that many individuals of color have been able to become educated. ... She set the standard and led the way."*

Paul "Larry" Lancaster '66, '69

legacy of Jennie Carter, who became a respected teacher, school administrator and orator after graduating from Cal U.

"Jennie's success as a student was not only a significant achievement for the African-American community, but also a noteworthy sign of the changing role of women in America," she said. "Her memory continues to inspire our campus community."

William Carter, the great-grandson of Jennie Carter and a Maryland resident, was unable to attend the ceremony because of Hurricane Florence. He asked that Carmarda-Webb

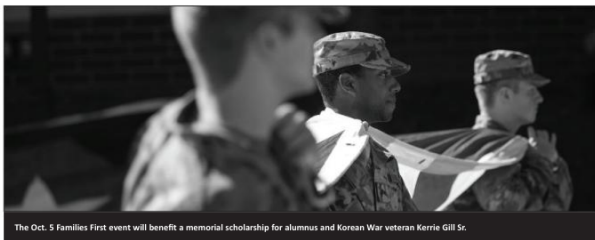
read his prepared remarks.

Carter described his ancestor as a woman dedicated to educational excellence for African Americans of all ages and a role model of giving.

"This award honors today's and tomorrow's leaders — those who are already carrying on Jennie's legacy through the work they are doing," he wrote. "Professor Lancaster represents the very best of that ideal."

The Lancasters, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, live in Hiller, Pa., and have two children, Paul '93, '95 and Christopher '00. Both of their wives — Janine '96 and Lauren '01 — are Cal U alumni. Two grandsons, Hunter and P.J., attend Cal U.

"I'm very honored, but when you think of all the past recipients, it's very humbling to be included in that group," Lancaster said. "I believe the University is becoming much more diverse — not just the student body, but the faculty as well."



## Former American Legion Leader to Speak at Fundraiser

Not too long after Korean War veteran Kerrie Gill Sr. '76, '83 passed away in 2015, American Legion Post 337 in downtown California closed its doors.

A longtime member, Gill had been a sustaining force for the local post, serving three terms as post commander and, from 2011-2012, traveling across Pennsylvania as commander of the Legion's statewide organization, which included more than 800 posts.

"He was always a proponent of the Legion," recalled Mike Kanalis, Gill's nephew and director of Facilities Management at Cal U. "When he was Pennsylvania department commander, he was always on the road. He believed in the Legion and was very proud of the organization."

Now a scholarship for military families has been established in Gill's name, and a fundraiser is being organized to support it.

University President Geraldine M. Jones and University trustee Larry Maggi, a Marine Corps veteran, are the official hosts for Families First, set for Oct. 5 in the Convocation Center. The event's keynote speaker is Denise Rohan, past national commander of the American Legion.



Denise Rohan

Beginning at 6 p.m., guests can enjoy a sit-down dinner and a talk by Rohan, who made military families the focus of her tenure as American Legion commander. Reservations are required.

For an additional fee, guests can meet Rohan, Pennsylvania Commander James Voltrath and other dignitaries at a Commanders Reception starting at 4:30 p.m. Light appetizers will be available, and guests can have a photo taken with Rohan.

The event is open to the public, as well as the Cal U community. All proceeds benefit the Commander Kerrie Gill Sr. Memorial Family Scholarship.

Staff from the University's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs will be visiting American Legion posts throughout the region to invite veterans and their guests to attend.

"Denise Rohan is the first woman to serve as national commander of the American Legion, where she made 'Family First' her theme," says Robert Prah, the office's director.

Gill, who earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Cal U, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He worked in the University's IT

department for many years.

Prior to attending the Families First activities, guests are welcome to visit *We Can Do It! WWII*, a free exhibition of World War II memorabilia on display in Mandersino Library.

### Attend the event

Reservations are required for all Families First events. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Cost is \$25 per person for the dinner and keynote address at 6 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Cal U Convocation Center arena. For an additional \$15, guests also may attend the Commanders Reception at 4:30 p.m. in the Convocation Center's south wing.

For reservations or information about sponsorship opportunities, contact the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 724-938-4076 or veterans@calu.edu. To make a reservation by mail, send your name, address, phone number and number of tickets desired, with a check payable to SAI-Vets Club (write "Families First Dinner" on memo line), to Cal U Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, Campus Box #84, 250 University Ave., California, PA 15419.

Reservations must be received by Sept. 28. No tickets will be sold at the door. Donations are tax-deductible.

Questions? Contact Robert Prah at 724-938-4076 or prah@calu.edu.

## Fall Open Houses Set

Award-winning faculty, nationally ranked programs, a beautiful campus setting, the start of a successful career — Cal U invites prospective students to see all that Cal U has to offer at one of the undergraduate open house events this fall.

The fall 2018 dates are:

- Saturday, Sept. 29
- Saturday, Oct. 27
- Saturday, Nov. 10

The events introduce prospective students to Cal U or give students who have been accepted a chance to explore the campus.

Students and families learn more about Cal U's programs of study, housing and student life. They can talk with Cal U students, meet faculty members from their academic area of interest, tour the main campus and visit Vulcan Village on the upper campus. They also take part in various campus activities.

To register for one of the undergraduate Open House dates, go to [calu.edu/visit](http://calu.edu/visit). For information on the admissions process at Cal U, visit [calu.edu/admissions](http://calu.edu/admissions) or call 724-938-4404.

## 'Creative Works' on Stage Oct. 4-6

The Department of Music and Theatre presents "An Evening of Creative Works" at 7 p.m. Oct. 4-5 and 2 and 7 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall. The student-directed event is open to the public.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay 50 cents, plus a \$5 deposit that is refunded at the show. For information, or to charge tickets by phone, call 724-938-5943.

## First Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend Set

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tourism assets to University alumni, students and families, says Jeff M. Kotula, president of the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency.

"We also believe that Vulcan Fest will bring more customers to our Mon Valley businesses and increase visits to our river towns, he added.

On Oct. 12, members of Cal U's Class of 1968 gather at the Kara Alumni House for a cocktail reception and their 50th class reunion. Later that evening, graduates of all generations meet at The Meadows in North Strabane Township for an all-class reunion party and a house-rock'n

performance by Cal U alumnus Joe Grusbecky '71.

Festivities on Oct. 13 begin with a Picnic on the Patio brunch for alumni, followed by the Homecoming parade of marching units, bands and floats created by Cal U students. The public is invited to join the fun as bands from area high schools and the Cal U Marching Band celebrate "Decades" with a parade across campus and through California's downtown business district.

After the parade, the community celebration moves to Roadman Park, on Cal U's upper campus. Food trucks arrive outside Adomson Stadium just in time for a pre-game tailgate that's open to all Vulcans football fans. Little ones can have fun in the Kids' Zone until 6 p.m. Game time is 3 p.m., when

Cal U takes on conference rival Gannon.

After the Homecoming game, Vulcan Fest presents a free concert outside the stadium. The headliner is Lonestar, whose No. 1 country hits include "Come Crying to Me" and "Amazed," which also reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100. The band's awards include 1999 ACM Single of the Year and Song of the Year and the 2001 CMA Vocal Group of the Year.

Local favorite Chris Higbee opens the show. Concert-goers may bring their own chairs. The concert closes with a fireworks display.

On Oct. 14, guests are invited to explore Washington County; visit [www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com](http://www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com) for details.

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