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University President Geraldine M. Jones presents her 'state of the University' address Sept. 12 at the faculty-staff convocation.

## President Reports Good News

### Enrollment Turnaround, Balanced Budget Among Signs of Progress

There was good news in abundance Sept. 12 when University President Geraldine M. Jones delivered her "state of the University" address at the fall semester's faculty-staff convocation.

An enrollment turnaround, a balanced budget and the start of campus renovations were among the many bright spots highlighted in the address.

"If you've attended past convocations, you've heard me say that it takes all of us, working together, to move this University forward," the President said.

"That united effort is beginning to pay off — and I want to begin by acknowledging the many contributions of our faculty and staff. None of this would be possible without you."

The student headcount is up, the President said, for the first time since 2011. Although final enrollment figures won't be available until the official census date, the President said all signs point to the largest freshman class since 2014, more transfer students on campus, and a graduate-level headcount that may be the highest in Cal U history.

"Again, credit goes to our staff and faculty, who have worked tirelessly to recruit, enroll and retain new students at every level," she said.

The budget news also was positive. A combination of cost-cutting initiatives and better-than-expected revenue allowed the University to erase a projected deficit for fiscal year 2016-2017 and place about \$1 million into its fund reserves.

Based on current budget projections, Cal U is on track to balance its budget for 2017-2018, as well.

"Don't get me wrong — we are still spending very

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## Political Science Student Interns in Harrisburg

Junior Jonathan Hoover is working in the office of state Rep. Michael Hanna, a Democrat from Lock Haven, Pa., as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

A political science major, Hoover is one of 11 students participating this fall in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program.

THIS gives students from each of the State System universities the opportunity to work in some aspect of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits. Hoover and his fellow THIS interns will attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

Hoover, of Brownsville, Pa., is the son of Cal U faculty member Dr. Marcia Marcolini Hoover, in the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership, and Doug Hoover, dean of Library Services.

Hanna, the minority whip, is a member of the Democratic Party's leadership team in the state House. Jonathan Hoover's duties in Hanna's office include assisting staff with policy goals, meeting with lobbyists and other advocates, and handling constituent correspondence.

"I'll also have the opportunity to meet many of the Democratic officials," he said.

"So far, the biggest thing that's stood out to me was the tour of the Capitol. It has a rich history, and it is a gorgeous building. I'm hoping to meet Gov. Tom Wolf at some point!"

An honors program student, Hoover plans on attending law school.

"Working in governmental law is particularly interesting to me, and this internship will give me a view of what it's like to be a government official," he said.

Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus coordinator for the program and a professor in the Department of History, Politics, and Society, said Hoover's experience of working in a party leadership office is invaluable, as he will see firsthand how the legislative process works.

"His assignment is particularly fortuitous, because he is writing his honors thesis on partisan gerrymandering," Blumberg explained. "Although redistricting will not take place until after the decennial census, Jonathan may gain insight into how the process is done in Pennsylvania and whether there is any hope for substantive reform."

For information about THIS, students may contact Dr. Melanie Blumberg, at [blumbergm@calu.edu](mailto:blumbergm@calu.edu), or call the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg at 717-720-4099. Details are available at [www.psu.edu/this](http://www.psu.edu/this).



Jonathan Hoover

## Professor Wins National Honor

Dr. John D. Massella, an associate professor at Cal U and a licensed professional counselor, will receive the 2017 NAADAC Addiction Educator of the Year Award Sept. 25 at the organization's annual conference in Denver, Colo.

The award — from NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals — recognizes a professor who has mentored students, student chapters, colleagues or other addiction professionals, or has made other contributions to enhance the profession.

Massella joined Cal U's Counseling Center in 2010 after

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Dr. John Massella is this year's NAADAC Addiction Educator of the Year Award recipient.

## Carter Award Recipient 'Gives Back'

**B**layre Holmes Davis '12 received the 2017 Jennie Carter Leadership Award during a ceremony Sept. 9 in the Convocation Center courtyard.

The award, presented during Family Day festivities, is named for Elizabeth "Jennie" Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the University's first African-American graduate.

Davis is the director of Community Partnerships at Adagio Health, where she works to ensure that residents of rural areas throughout western Pennsylvania have access to healthcare, education and nutrition.

She is vice president of the Young Leaders Board for the YWCA Greater Pittsburgh and has mentored young women as a program manager for the Women and Girls Foundation of Pittsburgh.

While earning a bachelor's degree in communication studies, Davis joined AmeriCorps through the University's Center for Civic Engagement. She served two years as a Community Service Leader, creating community partnerships and planning community events.

"I always try to accept people for who they are and never take for granted people who give you opportunities and are here to support you," said Davis, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. who was recognized in the inaugural *Who's Who in Black Pittsburgh* and *Young Black Pittsburgh* publications.

"There are no words really to explain the joy and honor I feel."

William Carter, Jennie Carter's great-grandson, praised Davis for her commitment to educational excellence and community involvement.

"Though she is still early in her career, Blayre Holmes Davis is clearly headed to being a vital



Blayre Holmes Davis '12 displays the 2017 Jennie Carter Leadership Award in the Convocation Center courtyard with University President Geraldine M. Jones and William Carter, the great-grandson of Jennie Carter.

and critical leader," Carter said. "She continues Jennie's mission of helping communities to be smarter, healthier and more productive."

University President Geraldine M. Jones reflected on Jennie Carter's legacy in remarks at a luncheon following the ceremony.

"We remember Jennie Carter not only because of who she was, but who she inspires us to become,"

President Jones said. "I have known Blayre Holmes Davis for much of her life, and she exemplifies the courage, determination and commitment to service for which Jennie Carter was known."



Face-painting demonstrations are one of many activities scheduled to take place when the College of Liberal Arts hosts a fall festival from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 5 at Mandelino Library.

## Liberal Arts Festival Set for Oct. 5

The College of Liberal Arts will host a fall festival from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 5 at Mandelino Library. Admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Activities are scheduled to include performances by the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, a *cappella* group, 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 interpretive performances. Printmaking, painting and drawing demonstrations are also planned.

Academic activities are scheduled to include a presentation about Egypt from Emad Hakim, the University's second visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the Arabic program; a Chinese writing workshop; and student research presentations.

From 9:30-10:45 a.m. Oct. 5, alumus Stephen Russell will discuss "American Presidents: Celebrating Red, White and Blue," his personal collection of political memorabilia, which will be on display in the art gallery on the third floor of Mandelino Library. The exhibit, sponsored by the American Democracy Project at Cal U and the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, also will be on view from noon-4 p.m. Oct. 2-6.

At 11 a.m. Oct. 5 in Eberly Hall, Room 110, a panel presentation, "Bullying Has No Borders," will feature Judge Theresa Dellick and other court officials from Mahoning County, Ohio. The political science, sociology and professional studies programs are sponsoring the event.

For more information contact the Department of Art and Languages at 724-938-4182.

## President Gives Good News at Convocation

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carefully," the president said. "But with your assistance, we have been able to redirect funds to critical areas that improve the educational experience for our students. And we anticipate no further workforce adjustments in the year ahead."

President Jones credited the campuswide Strategic Enrollment Planning initiative for much of the forward progress. SEP action plans include updating the campus visit program, introducing new academic programs, adjusting the timetable for financial aid awards and optimizing scholarship awards to attract more capable students.

Looking ahead, data drawn from a series of interactive workshops will help the University develop "a brand identity that is uniquely our own," the president said. And an \$11 million renovation under way at Coover Hall will result in a "more up-to-date and functional facility" for applied engineering technology, graphic design and art classes.

Early planning has begun for a new science center — a \$38 million building slated to replace Frich and New Science halls — and an updated Campus Master Plan, last revised in 2007.

A board consisting of faculty, staff and administrators will oversee the Master Plan revisions, "so we can evaluate and improve our usage of existing and upcoming classroom and lab space on our campus," President Jones said.

Other good news items: Cal U is partnering with the American Meteorological Society so teachers

"At last spring's convocation, I mentioned the growing spirit of collaboration on our campus. That positive energy has only grown stronger."

— President Geraldine M. Jones

can earn Cal U graduate credits for taking AMS classes; the Middle States Commission on Higher Education accepted Cal U's monitoring report, submitted this spring; and 22 faculty and staff members collectively received \$5.4 million in grants and other external funding during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

"Despite the breathless headlines ... no one is calling for Cal U to abandon its mission," the president noted, referring to the review of all State System universities commissioned by the Chancellor's Office this spring.

Throughout the address, president Jones credited faculty and staff for working in concert to bring about change.

"At last spring's convocation, I mentioned the growing spirit of collaboration on our campus. That positive energy has only grown stronger. ... There is plenty of work left to do, but we've scored some victories — and that is what we celebrate today."

"For a few moments, let's reflect on our accomplishments. Let's recognize that our University is better today than yesterday — and tomorrow it will be better still. If we continue to work together ... there will be no stopping us."

## Online Approach for Voter Registration Day

**C**an five minutes of class time make a difference for our democracy? Believing it can, Cal U is encouraging faculty to mark National Voter Registration Day by giving students five minutes of class time to register to vote online, using their laptops, tablets or smartphones.

The nonpartisan, online voter registration initiative replaces previous years' efforts to register students in person, at tables set up on campus.

To accommodate class schedules, the five-minute online voter registration campaign will continue from Sept. 25-27.

Provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart said he fully supports the effort, especially because midterm and local elections typically generate less voter interest than presidential races.

"Last year our faculty, administrators, staff and students worked tirelessly to register, educate and mobilize the campus community," Barnhart said.

"I am thankful again for their efforts in promoting civic engagement on our campus."

Also, paper voter registration forms are available at the circulation desk in Mandarino Library, the information desk in the Natali Student Center, and in the Department of History, Politics and Society.

### Report Examines Turnout

A newly issued report on student voting rates shows that nearly 55 percent of California University of Pennsylvania



During the first five minutes of classes on Sept. 25-27, Cal U students will be encouraged to register online to vote.

students cast their ballots in the 2016 presidential election, exceeding the national average for college voters included in a nationwide study.

And although the number of registered Cal U student voters was smaller last November than in 2012, nearly 500 more students voted in the 2016 presidential election.

The "Student Voting Rates for California University of Pennsylvania" report comes from the National Study of

Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE), an initiative of the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education at Tufts University's Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life.

Since 2013, more than 1,000 colleges and universities have asked NSLVE to research their voting rates for federal elections, using publicly available information that does not include the candidate or party a voter selected. The study's results are based on

enrollment records submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse and publicly available voting files. NSLVE's database of nearly 30 million college student records also is used for research on college students' political learning and civic engagement.

"Research indicates that if college students participate in politics, they are more apt to remain active in community matters throughout their lives," says political science professor

Dr. Melanie Blumberg, director of the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project.

"Voter turnout, especially among younger voters, makes a difference."

### Voter Friendly Campus

During the 2016 election season, the American Democracy Project spearheaded a series of campuswide events designed to educate students about the election process, promote voter registration, inform students about the candidates and the issues, and encourage them to cast their ballots on Election Day.

Last spring, Cal U was named a Voter Friendly Campus, one of only seven Pennsylvania universities to be recognized by the nonpartisan Campus Vote Project (CVP) and NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

Nationwide, just 83 campuses in 23 states received the designation for planning and implementing practices that encourage students to become informed, register and vote.

## ALD Wins National Award

**T**he Cal U chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta has received the Maintaining the Flame Award for its activities during the 2016-2017 academic year.

ALD is a national honor society that recognizes academic excellence among first-year students. Each year, the society's National Council selects winners of the Order of the Torch Award, which honors chapters that have excelled in programming, activities and service.

Cal U received the Order of the Torch for its 2014-2015 activities. Winners are ineligible to compete for the award for the next four years. Maintaining the Flame is awarded to chapters that continue their excellent work during the ineligibility period.

The 2016-2017 ALD officers at Cal U were: Quentin Sano, president; Anthony Pappageorgios, vice president; Kaylee Rusek, secretary; Angela Clark, treasurer; Allison Kuklar, historian; Natalie Reichard, editor; and Jillian Thorn, social media manager.

The chapter's advisers are Dori Eichelberger, director of Peer Mentoring, and Rhonda Gifford, director of Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center.

## Families Enjoy Sunshine, Activities

**M**ore than 500 moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas and other visitors enjoyed sunshine and a full slate of activities at Cal U's Family Day on Sept. 9.

Kim Dirienzo and her family came from Meyersdale, Pa., to see her son, Chase, a senior meteorology major who performed with the University Choir.

"What a difference a year makes," Dirienzo said, recalling how rain last year forced the choir concert to be held inside. "The campus is beautiful, and the concert is always so entertaining."

Many families also visited the Family Field Day at Frich Hall.

Presented by Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society, the event included an archery demonstration, a display of animal tracks, and information about bluebird box construction.

NcGai Tolliver came from Pittsburgh to visit her daughter Nariah White, a sophomore majoring in business administration.

"We missed last year but are making the most of it this year," Tolliver said. "It's a really nice school, and we're going to the football game because we keep hearing how good they are."

The Vulcans did not disappoint, opening conference play with a 54-14



Nariah White, a sophomore business management major, enjoys Family Day activities in front of the Natali Student Center with her parents, NcGai and Stephan Tolliver.

victory over PSAC-East rival Cheyney.

The women's volleyball team was also in action, losing in the morning to Lake Erie (Painesville, OH) College before defeating Daemen (N.Y.) College at the Convocation Center.

Nariah White enjoys attending

Cal U's Black Student Union and Cal U Women United activities.

"I like it here and hope to get an out-of-state internship and eventually own my own business," said White, who looks to pursue a master's degree in human resources.

## Theater Season Opens with 'Creativity'

**T**he Department of Music and Theatre presents "An Evening of Creativity" at 7 p.m. Oct. 5-6, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oct. 7.

The event is open to the public and will be performed in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall.

Ticket price is \$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 ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

## Coal Bowl to be Televised Nationally

The Coal Bowl is going national. The ninth annual clash between Cal U and IUP, at 2 p.m. Oct. 7, will be streamed live on ESPN3 as part of the 18-game NCAA Division II Football Showcase.

This will be the second consecutive year that the Vulcans will be featured on ESPN3. Last year, viewers across the country watched as the team won 48-20 at Clarion and 49-7 at home over Kutztown in the 2016 PSAC championship game.

ESPN3 is accessible on computers, smartphones, tablets and connected devices through the ESPN app.

The network is available nationwide at no additional cost to fans who receive their high-speed internet connection or video subscription from an affiliated service provider.

It is also available at no cost to U.S. college students and U.S.-based military personnel via computers, smartphones and tablets connected to on-campus educational and



on-base military broadband and Wi-Fi networks.

The Coal Bowl trophy, which

remembers a coal miner's lunch pail, recognizes a football rivalry that dates to 1918. The winner of the Oct. 7 game

will keep the trophy on display until the teams meet again.

The Coal Bowl was conceived by Bob Lippencott '06, a 2002 inductee into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame, and his brother Barry, an Indiana University of Pennsylvania graduate. Bob Lippencott played linebacker for the Vulcans, and his brother was a standout end for the Crimson Hawks.

Both have established endowed football scholarships at their respective schools.

Cal U has been victorious in six of the first eight Coal Bowls. Last year the Vulcans won by a score of 31-28 on a game-winning, 39-yard field goal by Will Brazill in the final minute.

"This is an important tradition the Lippencott brothers have created, and to have this year's game shown on a national network is an honor and a privilege," said Gary Dunn, Cal U's second-year head coach. "I hope we can bring the trophy back to California after the game."

## Addiction Educator Honored

—Continued from page 1

working for 30 years at Gateway Rehabilitation in Monroeville, Pa.

This semester he assumed the duties of director of the Office for Students with Disabilities. He continues to teach two counselor-education graduate courses during the winter and summer terms.

Massella operates a private practice in McMurry, Pa., and also works with healthcare professionals who may be abusing drugs and alcohol.

"I am very honored and can't imagine being considered, let alone winning a national award," Massella said. "I can think of a thousand people who deserve this above me, who have done, and are still doing, great work."

Mary Van Osdol, a licensed professional counselor and a certified Master Addiction Counselor who has her own practice in Wexford, Pa., nominated him for the award. She met Massella in 2002, when both worked at Gateway Rehabilitation.

"He is completely approachable, genuinely concerned for people, and one of the most highly regarded therapists and educators in the state," she said.

"He's impacted so many people's careers that I felt he would be the perfect candidate for that award, and evidently the people on the selection committee did too."

Massella is an advocate for his profession, which involves working with a population that

often struggles not only with substance abuse or dependence, but also with associated mental health problems.

"I feel there are plenty of people out there with a lot of compassion and caring for individuals, and I always want to reach those folks and make them aware they are excellent clinicians who can do this work," he said. "People... feel if they are not a recovering alcoholic or drug addict they can't do this work, which is just not true."

### Program development

Massella has played a key role in developing the Prevention Awareness Recovery Center, or PARC, at Cal U.

The University is the first in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, and one of only 250 nationwide, to have a designated recovery center for students.

One support group created recently is Cal Clean and Sober, which meets weekly at PARC during the academic year for general discussion about abstinence or to discuss a specific topic.

Massella, Donna George, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Coalition coordinator for the State System, and Rachel Michaels, Cal U's AOD education specialist, have brought a problem-gambling conference to Cal U in each of the past three years with support from the Washington County Drug and Alcohol Commission.

### New role on campus

Massella began serving as director of the Office for Students with Disabilities on Aug. 28, taking over for Robert Mehalik, who is now a full-time assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education.

Both Mehalik and Michaels interned with Massella when they were students at Cal U.

"This office provides a level playing field for those individuals that may have some struggle because of a physical, emotional or psychological impairment that may cause some limitations," Massella said.

"Students need to just come and say they've struggled with a disability and may need some help, fill out an application, and we'll take it from there," he said.

He praised the many services available on campus and the faculty's dedication to helping students learn.

"I love working here. We are a true system of service and a true continuity of care," he said.

Dr. Tim Susick, Cal U's associate vice president for Student Affairs, praised Massella.

"Dr. Massella receiving the NAADAC Addiction Educator of the Year Award is a capstone to his commitment, dedication and positive effect not only to Cal U students but his overall contributions to addiction education," Susick said.

"We are obviously very proud of him and the national recognition he has deservedly earned."

## Cal U Fair Offers Employment Opportunities

Hundreds of students and alumni, all seeking internships, full-time or part-time employment, are expected to attend the "Blaze Your Path" Fair in the Convocation Center.

Sponsored by the Career and Professional Development Center, the career fair is scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 3. No advance registration is required, and admission is free to alumni and students.

Representatives from more than 75 companies, organizations and graduate school programs will be on hand to recruit for internship, co-op, job-shadowing and employment opportunities.

Cal U students are encouraged to dress professionally, and bring resumes and their CalCards. Before the fair, students can have their resumes reviewed from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. weekdays at the CPDC, located next to Heritage Lounge in the Natall Student Center.

"Our upperclassmen and alumni can learn about immediate opportunities and get a firsthand perspective about workforce needs at the fair," said Rhonda Gifford, CPDC director.

"For freshmen and sophomores, attending these kinds of events early in their college experience can help them make a more informed decision in choosing a career path."

Information is available online at the Career and Professional Development Center webpage.

[www.calu.edu/current-students/career-services/index.htm](http://www.calu.edu/current-students/career-services/index.htm)

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