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President Emphasizes Opportunities

Strengthening the opportunities inherent in both change and challenges, University President Geraldine M. Jones presented a forward-looking "state of the University" address Sept. 8 at the Fall 2016 Faculty-Staff Convocation.

"With changes come opportunities, and we will identify and embrace those opportunities as they are presented," Jones said at her first convocation since her appointment as University President.

Keeping to a theme she has articulated often during the past four years, President Jones emphasized the University's efforts to prioritize academics, address declining enrollment and stabilize its finances.

She introduced former acting provost Dr. Bruce Barnhart, newly appointed as Cal U's chief academic officer, and Dr. Tracey Sheetz, the University's new dean of Undergraduate Admissions. Thirteen new tenure-track faculty members also rose to a round of welcoming applause.

"Education always has — and always will — remain our University's primary focus," the President said. "Our attention remains firmly fixed on the vital task of preparing students for lifetime success."

Noting that early enrollment figures for Fall 2016 show a drop of about 3 percent in the overall student headcount, President Jones outlined steps being taken to reverse the decline.

The nationally recognized consulting firm Ruffalo Noel Levitz has been hired to develop a strategic enrollment plan, and more than 60 faculty, staff and administrators have provided input to the consultants. In addition to helping Cal U reach more potential students, the firm is assessing market demand for new and existing academic programs and working closely with Cal U's communications team to create a mobile-friendly website aimed primarily at recruiting new students.

"As I've said many times, we are all in this together," President Jones said, urging employees to share ideas.

— *Continued on page 3*



University President Geraldine M. Jones presents her "State of the University" address at the Fall 2016 Faculty-Staff Convocation.

Barnhart Named Provost

At the Fall 2016 Faculty-Staff Convocation, University President Geraldine M. Jones formally welcomed Dr. Bruce Barnhart '83, '89, '01 as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"A proven leader, Provost Barnhart is committed to working with Cal U faculty to provide the best educational experience for our students," said President Jones. "I know he will continue to do an outstanding job as our University's leader for Academic Affairs."

Before receiving his doctorate from West Virginia University, Barnhart earned an associate degree as a



Dr. Bruce Barnhart

physical therapist assistant at Cal U, followed by bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

He joined the Cal U faculty in 1984 and served as director of the accredited athletic training education program from 1992-2008, when he was named an associate provost/associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

As an athletic training professional, he is an expert in prevention and care of athletic injuries, nutrition for sports performance, survey research, and health insurance cost containment.

In addition to teaching, he was Cal U's first football

— *Continued on page 3*

Intern at State Health Department

Senior Claudia Pehovic is working for the state Department of Health as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Pehovic, who has dual majors in communication studies and political science with a minor in French, is one of 12 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. Pehovic and her fellow THIS interns will attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

Pehovic works for the Health Department's Office of Legislative Affairs.

— *Continued on page 2*



Along with improving the fish and insect habitat in the park along Pike Run in California Borough, the stream mitigation and streamside restoration project will make more space for fishing and recreational use.

Project Revitalizing Pike Run

In the park along Pike Run in California Borough, a multifaceted project is transforming the habitat for fish and aquatic insects, as well as anglers, nature lovers, students and community residents.

Through a contract from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program at Cal U, led by program coordinator Jose Taracido, began the stream mitigation and streamside restoration project in late August.

The California Borough Recreation Authority, Pheasants Forever, Army Corps of Engineers, Washington County Conservation District and Department of Environmental Protection also have roles in the project.

And when the restoration is complete, Cal U students will begin a five-year effort to monitor the stream and the surrounding area under the direction of Dr. David Argent, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

Streamside improvements

Partners for Fish and Wildlife has been busy installing rock weirs to alter water flow, log dams and

— *Continued on page 4*

Angler Adds Business to Freshman Schedule

Time management can be a challenge for any college freshman. Cal U honors student Nick Fulks is finding time not only for classes and homework, but for keeping his business afloat.

The owner of Fulks Custom Cranks paints and sells "crankbaits," wood or plastic fishing lures that resemble bait fish or crawfish. A competitive angler, Fulks began selling the customized lures so he could fish in high school bass tournaments.

Three years after starting his business, the Canon-McMillan High School graduate has 1,000 customers and paints 8,000 to 10,000 crankbaits a year.

His Cal U studies are a perfect fit, he says — a major in environmental studies with a concentration in fisheries and wildlife biology, and a minor in business. But making it all work takes discipline.

"I noticed a big difference right away during the first week of classes," said Fulks, who's taking a full course load.

"I need to keep a really tight schedule, keep my time straight and use my weekends wisely. As soon as I get home, I do my homework and get to painting."

Match the hatch

Fulks buys his crankbaits in bulk and gives them several coats of paint with an airbrush, followed by epoxy. He finishes each one individually by adding split rings, hooks and eyes.

Unlike mass-production bait companies, Fulks creates lures to meet his customers' specifications. He paints them to "match the hatch," mimicking the aquatic life in a river or stream.

"It's painting the baits to (look like) what the fish eat," Fulks said. "If someone sends me a picture of a shad or



Three years after starting his business, Cal U freshman Nick Fulks has 1,000 customers and paints 8,000 to 10,000 fishing lures a year.

minnow from their local river, I can get that matched.

"A lot of crawfish in the river have a greenish and brown look with orange pinchers, so I do that a lot."

Crankbaits are the go-to lures for avid anglers, said Dr. David Argent, a fisheries expert from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

"Having custom painted ones, as opposed to some off-the-rack deal, is special."

Fulks hasn't mapped his sales, but he

believes he's sold baits to anglers from nearly every U.S. state. He has customers in Canada, too.

Impressive stuff for a colorblind teenager whose dad, Ryan Fulks, marks all of his paint colors.

"I guess being an artist and colorblind is kind of different," Fulks said with a laugh.

"Getting started was the hardest part, but now I'm in a pattern of doing things, so it comes automatically. I don't see myself doing it any other way."

All about the bass

When he's not in the classroom or painting lures, Fulks is likely to be fishing.

In 2015 he won the West Virginia B.A.S. High School Nation title and finished third in the Pennsylvania version of the event. He took fifth in the B.A.S. Nation Mid-Atlantic Championship, which draws anglers from multiple states.

From 2009-2013 he was the junior club champion for Penn's Waters Bass Busters, his home club, and he hopes to start a competitive bass fishing team at Cal U.

"I've been fishing since I could walk," said Fulks, whose father and grandfather are both competitive fishermen.

As cold weather approaches, most anglers in the region will put away their rods and reels. But Fulks expects to be busier than ever.

"Most people in winter are thinking about fishing but can't do anything about it, so they buy stuff and get ready for spring," he said.

That means more orders for custom-painted lures, which Fulks sells online and at weekend shows and fishing tournaments.

He said he would like to expand his business or work for a larger company — and he expects that his University studies will broaden his career options.

Hearing Argent speak at his high school made Fulks aware of the many environmental programs offered at Cal U.

"He made me realize the classes I could take here went right along with my interests," Fulks said.

He wants to learn more about operating a business. "And I'm really looking forward to going out and collecting samples, so I can base new colors on things I never knew were in the river."

'Creativity' Opens Theatre Season

The Department of Music and Theatre presents "An Evening of Creativity" at 7 p.m. Sept. 29-30, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Oct. 1 in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall.

The first production of the fall season previously was billed as "An Evening of One-Acts."

"This is now changed to 'An Evening of Creativity' in order to give our students a broader outlet to express their creative minds," said Dr. Michele Pagen, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre.

"While one-act plays will still be performed, we now will be offering other types of entertainment, as well. With new (theater program) concentrations in place and with new faculty members and students aboard, we feel this is the perfect way to showcase our department."

The comedic one-act *Long Ago and Far Away*, written by David Ives, will be among the selections performed.

The short play takes the audience to New York City, where a young, married couple sits in their empty apartment debating the meaning of life and their roles in it. They take a mysterious turn when the wife finds herself travelling through time, and identities, on a snowy winter night.

Senior Trevor Kiser directs the performance. Cast members are seniors Ryan Johnson (Gus), Emily Marmoi (Laura) and sophomores Sabria Johnson (Landlady) and D.J. Miller (Jack). Junior Alexis Hawk is the stage manager, with lighting design by senior Liz Andrews.

"An Evening of Creativity" is open to the public. Ticket price is \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay \$0 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 724-558-5943.

Senior is THIS Intern

—Continued from page 1

on the eighth floor of the Pennsylvania Health and Welfare building, where the office of the state Secretary of Health is located.

She is working directly with legislative aide Emily Holladay, a former THIS intern from West Chester University.

"I was very fortunate to land another really neat internship opportunity," said Pehowic, who offered this summer with Talk Media News at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Since starting here (on Sept. 6), I've already seen and been in more offices than I realized even existed!"

Pehowic's duties include working with legislative staffers to resolve constituent concerns about vital records, hiring processes and upcoming legislation.

For example, when a state plan emerged to address a backlog of untested rape kits, a number of constituents who feel strongly about the issue called the capital with questions and offers to volunteer their time.

"When representatives' and senators' offices call the Department of Health with constituent questions, I find the appropriate resources to answer them," Pehowic said.

"In the process, I'm constantly intercepting, reviewing and learning

information about the state's public health policy."

She also tracks health-related legislation in the General Assembly and monitors upcoming changes in statewide

health legislation around the nation, focusing on state and issues relevant to Pennsylvania.

"I've found that the definition of terms used in bills can be extremely influential, and I've spoken to lobbyists who seek to influence that terminology," said Pehowic.

"All of these things become extremely important when the law is implemented. All parts of

the complex legislative process become necessary."

Pehowic, of Northumberland, Pa., returned to campus in August. She took part in a Constitution Day panel on Sept. 16 and the Cal U Council of Trustees meeting, as secretary of the group, on Sept. 21.

"The legislative process now reminds me of Chockablock Clock (a large and intricate timepiece) in Strawberry Square," she said laughing. "This has been a great experience."

For information about THIS, students may contact the program's Cal U faculty coordinator, Dr. Melanie Blumberg, at blumberg@calu.edu, or call the Dixon University Center in Harrisburg at 717-720-4089. Details are available at www.pashe.edu/this.



Claudia Pehowic



Taylor Barta, a member of Delta Chi, works in a flood-damaged home in Connellsville, Pa.

Students Tackle Flood Cleanup in Connellsville

Cal U fraternities and sororities joined together earlier this month to reach out to a nearby community in distress.

On Sept. 10 more than 60 students from 10 Greek organizations volunteered to clean up, rebuild and help to salvage houses in Connellsville, Pa., and neighboring Bulskin Township, where flooding on Aug. 28 caused heavy damage.

According to published reports, about 50 families were displaced by the flooding, and at least 29 properties have been condemned.

Senior roommates Nicole Stephens, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, and Laura Owens, a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, organized the event. Members of Sigma Kappa, Delta Zeta, Alpha Sigma Tau, Delta Chi, Acacia, Theta Xi, Sigma Tau Gamma and Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) also participated.

Students used power-washers to clean houses, tore down water-damaged walls, put up insulation, shoveled mud out of sheds and even helped to salvage the remnants of a house occupied by a person with disabilities.

"The unity that these organizations

showed was phenomenal," Stephens said. "It made me really proud to call myself part of the Greek community at this school."

"We just felt that we should be on the front lines, putting in the work, because that is much more important to some of these people than receiving a check and having to rebuild their home by themselves."

The project also fostered unity among the students involved in Greek life.

"We saw students become friends during this event while they were knocking down walls or power-washing mud off the sides of houses," Owens said.

One of the homes belongs to Kim Schomer's mother-in-law, who has lived on Connellsville Avenue since 1968. Much of the house had to be gutted before repairs could begin, and Cal U students jumped in.

"The Cal U students were very eager to give a tremendous amount of help," Schomer said. "We are very grateful."

Cleanup efforts in Connellsville are ongoing. For more information on how to help, contact Connellsville City Hall at 724-628-2020.

Grad School Holds Open House

Graduate programs are an investment in one's future, and earning a degree can be affordable in terms of both time and money.

That's the message Cal U is delivering when the School of Graduate Studies and Research holds an open house from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 3 in Eberly Hall, Room 202B.

The program will highlight both Cal U's traditional master's degree programs and the array of degree and certificate programs offered through Cal U Global Online, which gives busy students the flexibility to complete their studies 100 percent online.

Visitors also will learn how graduate assistantships and scholarships can reduce the cost of earning an advanced degree.

Counselors will be available to discuss career and financing options.

To register, contact Nikki Popielarscheck at 724-938-5490 or popielarscheck@calu.edu. Visit www.calu.edu/grad for a complete list of academic programs.

Princeton Review: Cal U Again Among Region's Best

For the 12th year in a row, 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 228 institutions "academically outstanding and well worth consideration" as part of a student's college search, according to The Princeton Review.

The institutions named in the regional "best of" lists are considered "academically outstanding and well worth consideration" as part of a student's 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 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 opinions of its staff and of college counselors and advisers.

Respondents said 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.

Students also raved about the university's spacious residence halls: "The housing is perfect, like your very own place!"

The "good mix of every kind of person" on campus also drew praise, along with the school's services for commuter students. "Cal U is very good for students who want to commute, especially people who are non-traditional students," one student said.

The Princeton Review's 228 "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.

Opportunities Focus of Convocation Address

— Continued from page 1

about academic programming with the Enrollment Management Planning group led by Dr. Stan Komacek.

"We have an opportunity to change our enrollment picture, and your input is essential if we are to succeed."

Enrollment growth is key to stabilizing University finances, since tuition and student fees supply more than two-thirds of the revenue in Cal U's Education and General budget.

The University ended the 2015-2016 year with an E&G budget surplus, largely due to a one-time infusion of funds from acquiring six on-campus residence halls.

"This is very good news ... but that situation will not be repeated," the President warned.

Based on early enrollment figures, the University projects a drop of about \$2 million in revenue from tuition and fees alone, compared to 2015-2016. Ongoing negotiations with the faculty union mean that personnel costs are uncertain, as well.

To balance the current year's budget, the University will implement a financial plan that again looks for savings and lower-cost options, "a discipline that is essential to managing our expenses."

At the same time, the University Development Office is seeking additional funds for student scholarships. Cal U students received nearly \$5 million in scholarship aid last year, "but we need to do more," the President said.

"We are using scholarships as tools — not only to attract the most qualified students, but also to help them stay at

Barnhart is Provost

— Continued from page 1

athletic trainer, from 1983-1992, and the athletic trainer for Cal U's 2004 NCAA national champion women's basketball team. He is a former winner representative to the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society Board of Directors.

In 2014 he received the Alumni Association's Pavlak/Shutsy Special Service Award, which recognizes years of dedication and service to Cal U and its students.

Barnhart had served as Cal U's acting provost since 2012. His appointment as the University's chief academic officer was effective Aug. 29, the start of the fall semester.

Cal U until they finish their studies."

The President closed the convocation by asking faculty and staff to think about students first and foremost, and to recognize the University's strengths.

"We can define ourselves by our achievements instead of our difficulties," she said. "We can recognize, and emphasize, all the good that is happening here."

"This university changes lives for the better — we have all seen it happen. That is the story we should be telling. Because that is the real Cal U."

Vulcans Host 8th Annual Coal Bowl

The eighth annual Coal Bowl will take place Saturday, Oct. 8, when the Cal U Vulcan football team hosts IUP at Adamson Stadium. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The Coal Bowl began in 2009, when Cal U alumnus Bob Lippencott '66 and his brother Barry, a 1967 graduate of IUP, established football scholarships at their respective alma maters. As part of their initiatives, the families donated a "coal pall" trophy that is presented to the winner of the rivalry between the two PSAC-West teams.

Originally from Brownsville, Pa., the Lippencott family has a long history of working in the coal industry. The brothers felt this game would be an excellent platform for honoring their families, their universities and the coal industry.

"This trophy is to honor the coal mine," said Bob Lippencott, a 2002 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee. "Coal miners are a special breed who every day face danger, routine hardships and difficult work. They work underground doing a job that many do not envy."

Both brothers credit the universities for playing a major role in their personal and professional lives.

"The work ethic reinforced in the football programs, combined with the work ethic we gained working in the coal mining area, certainly carried over into our lives," Bob Lippencott said.

Following the game, the winning team will receive the Lippencott Brothers Coal Miner's Pall Trophy, which will be presented by the Lippencott brothers. If weather permits, fireworks are planned.

The Vulcans have been victorious in five of the previous seven Coal Bowl matchups, including a 21-13 victory in 2014, the last time the game was contested at Adamson Stadium.

"This is an awesome tradition the Lippencott brothers have created, and I am honored to be taking part in it this season," said Gary Dunn '94, '96, Cal U's first-year head coach. "I hope we can keep the trophy in California."

Tickets are available at the gate. Cost is \$10; students and employees with valid CalCards are admitted free.



Enjoying the 2014 post-game Coal Bowl activities are (from left) Cal U President Geraldine M. Jones, Bob Lippencott, Barry Lippencott, defensive back Jordan Bowman, Bob Lippencott '66 and Moira Lippencott. The Coal Bowl returns to Adamson Stadium Oct. 8.

Collaborative Project Revitalizing Coal Run

— Continued from page 1

other features in the stream between Coal Center and the Route 43 overpass.

Workers have planted trees and removed fencing and non-native plants, such as Japanese knotweed, to make more space for fishing and recreational use.

A trail with steps at either end is being constructed so anglers and hikers can walk safely from Mechanic Street down to the stream and along its banks.

Plans also include a gated road and crossing to make it convenient for borough workers to mow grass and keep up the park.

"But this is not just a beautification project," Taracido stressed. "We must show improvement in the fish and insect habitat, as well as the water quality. The potential is there now. Before, it was nothing more than a gravel bar with 3- to 4-inch-deep water."

"When this is done, it will be like a national park for the borough and the community."

The impact of each element in the park project has been carefully planned. To make the dams, for example, hemlock logs were drilled and fastened together, then dug into the stream so only the top log is visible. This creates a waterfall that alters the stream's flow to reduce erosion along the bank and create a deeper, better-oxygenated pool for fish.

"Nothing we've put in ever obstructs the movement of fish," said Taracido. "The fish must be able to come out of the river (at Coal Center) and go upstream and jump these dams if they want to spawn."



James Bruner, of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program at Cal U, clears shrub land in Rotary Park as part of the stream mitigation and streamside restoration project.

Student follow-up

As part of the project, Cal U will monitor the stream and provide PennDOT with an annual report about its water quality, aquatic life and insect communities.

Students from the American Fisheries Society and Cal U's ichthyology (fish science) and ecology classes will be involved, Argent said.

"We need to give the stream a couple of weeks to settle down. Then we'll go out this fall, and again in the spring and so forth over the next couple of years to keep track of things."

"I do expect a reduction of sediment in there, which will be good because that

will increase the habitat complexity."

The ongoing project, just a short walk from campus, will be a valuable learning experience for students, Argent added.

"This will provide them some hands-on experience and the opportunity to participate in a bio-monitoring and assessment project. Obviously it will give them some ideas about macroinvertebrate and fish identification, too."

The project also will give students material for research projects and presentations on campus or at conferences.

"I think all of us are looking forward to seeing what the finished plan looks

like," Argent said.

"Come the first day of trout season when the fishermen arrive, it will be very interesting to see how well the trout hold in some of these areas."

Senior Austin Hess, an environmental studies major with a concentration in fisheries and wildlife biology, is excited to monitor the changes.

"Due to my major and loving fishing, I would love to see improvement on the stream. It already looks great," said Hess, a member of the Americana Fisheries Society. "Having gone to school here for four years now, I know how important Pike Run is to this community."

"The work being done on Pike Run is very exciting and I am really looking forward to sampling it again once the work is done."

Community effort

Pat Alfano, president of California Borough Council, praised Cal U for its role in the collaborative effort.

"It was so encouraging to see many different departments come together to make this happen," he said. "It's a huge improvement."

The Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival, a popular event for more than 20 years, also will benefit from the improvements.

"The kids are going to just be absolutely thrilled and amazed" when they see how much area has been cleared along the stream banks, Alfano said.

"Any type of recreational opportunity we can provide our community is great. This is something we will showcase and be proud of."

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