

California University
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Trustees Approve Presidential Search Committee

At its Sept. 16 meeting, the University's Council of Trustees approved the members of the search committee that will seek a permanent University President.

The University's top leadership position has been filled since May 2012 by Geraldine Jones, who served first as acting, and now interim, President.

As outlined in State System Policy 1983-13-A, which governs the "Process for Recommending Presidential Appointment," the committee consists of three Trustees, one executive, two faculty members, two non-instructional personnel, one student, one Cal U graduate, and one current or former president of a comparable university who serves in a non-voting capacity. The Cal U homepage includes a

link to information about the search, including the names of the committee members.

"Obviously this is a big endeavor, and we wish the search committee all the best," said Larry Maggi, the council's chairman.

In her report to the Trustees, President Jones noted that as of Sept. 15, the official census date, the University's enrollment had decreased by 1.5 percent, or 124 students, compared to last fall's headcount.

The number of undergraduates dipped by 4.79 percent, while the graduate student headcount increased by 8.78 percent.

"Although our headcount is still decreasing slightly, this is a smaller decline than in either of the past two years," President Jones said.

However, an increasing number of students are attending classes part-time, she reported, and the Full Time Equivalency (FTE) enrollment is 3.22 percent less than last year's official total. This is important because the University's budget allocation from the State System hinges on the number of credit-hours accrued by students.

With an eye toward changing the enrollment picture, President Jones reviewed for the Trustees an administrative reorganization that will emphasize enrollment management. The plan first was announced at the fall Faculty-Staff Convocation.

"By reorganizing our administrative structure, we will bring together key areas focused on recruiting and retaining students," the President said.

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THIS Interns at Work in Harrisburg

Cal U students Jessica Slabon and Cameron Cochran are working in Harrisburg this fall as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

They are among 14 students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program, which gives students the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits.

THIS invites students from each of the State System universities to participate. Slabon, Cochran and their fellow interns will attend academic seminars and complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

Slabon, a senior majoring in psychology, is working in the Senate Democratic Research Center under State Senate Democratic Leader Jay Costa.

Cochran, a junior majoring in political science, is working for House Democratic Floor Leader Frank Dermody.

A 2012 graduate of Philipsburg-Osceola High School, Slabon does research for all of the Democratic Senators. Among her duties, she analyzes and writes summaries of bills, attends news conferences, writes news releases, and writes summaries of events she attends for the public to read.

"So far this internship has taught me more than I could have ever imagined," she said, noting that work in the state Capitol puts her in contact with a number of influential people.

"The internship is significantly improving my writing, social and critical-thinking skills. But most importantly, this internship is a real-world experience that will absolutely help me get into graduate school or have the skills I need to start a job right away. I couldn't be happier to be here."

A 2012 graduate of Oil City High School, Cochran said he is responsible for reviewing messages from constituents and making sure they get a

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Slabon



Cochran



A balloon drop in the Heritage Lounge celebrates the rededication of the Natali Student Center on Sept. 16.

Campus Celebrates Natali's Renewal

Three hundred red, black and white balloons tumbled into the Heritage Lounge as the campus community celebrated a new era at the Natali Student Center. Students, faculty, staff, University Trustees and other dignitaries gathered Sept. 16 to rededicate the building and celebrate the completion of a two-year renovation project.

"This facility has been through a number of transformations over the years, but it has always played a central role in campus life," said interim University President Geraldine M. Jones.

"It is a hub for educational, cultural and social activities that complement the academic experience of our Cal U students. It is the heart of our University community, where students can find support and opportunities to grow through volunteerism and service."

In a 2011 referendum students agreed to pay higher fees to support the project, and they outlined the amenities they wished to see in the revitalized building. President Jones thanked students, past and present, who "not only envisioned a more functional and welcoming student center, but also agreed to support the renovation."

Brendan Garay '15, a graduate student who is serving a second term Student Government president, spoke on the students' behalf.

"It seems like just yesterday we were voting on this, and now this dream has become a reality," Garay said. "Student interest and needs were clearly put forward with this project. This is our student center. We need to treat it like home."

Cal U alumnus Larry Maggi spoke both as chair of the

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Student Studies with Former FBI Agents

Two weeks of specialized training confirmed Kelly Brennan's career aspirations.

This summer the Cal U graduate student attended classes offered by The Academy Group Inc., the world's largest privately owned forensic behavioral science firm.

Brennan, of Allentown, Pa., was one of six individuals — and the only graduate student — accepted for the summer program, which focused on violent crime.

She traveled to Virginia to study with former FBI supervisory special agents and other law enforcement veterans. Her instructors combined expertise in clinical and behavioral science with law enforcement and investigative experience.



Brennan

"Meeting, listening and interacting with these agents while getting a look at what they have done confirmed to me that this is what I want to do," said Brennan, who expects to complete her Master of Applied Criminology degree in December.

Dr. John Cencich, program coordinator for Cal U's online applied criminology program, said the in-depth training focused on aberrant criminal behavior and the tools needed for effective criminal investigation and analysis.

"I heard nothing but positive comments about (Brennan's) work with these profiles and other practitioners," he said. "We're happy to provide these types of collateral programs of study for students in our program."

Brennan's class, which included several mental health professionals, was led by Richard Smerick, a 24-year veteran of the FBI's National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime. He and many other practitioners gave presentations on topics such as threat assessment, letter and voice analysis, and equivocal death analysis.

"The people presenting were always open to questions as we went along, and everyone was very involved in the class," Brennan said. "Everyone seemed to bring a different perspective to the table. It was great meeting all these people and learning from the best."

Brennan, who has a full-time job and two children, began taking Cal U Global Online classes in fall 2014. "I was looking around for something that would work for me, and Cal U had what I wanted," she said.

The summer program complemented her applied criminology studies and reaffirmed her career path.

"My goal is to go into law enforcement and, eventually, the FBI. The specialized training was very well worth it. It was an experience like no other."

Panel Discusses Money, Politics

Are unlimited, anonymous campaign contributions threatening our democracy?

This was among the questions raised during a panel discussion held to mark Constitution Day, Sept. 17. The annual event, mandated at all schools that receive federal funds, commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

This year attorney Patrick J. Brier joined Cal U faculty members Dr. Sheri Boyle, Dr. Craig Smith and Dr. Pamela Twiss to discuss points where money and politics intersect.

Brier is a specialist in Pennsylvania election law and compliance, as well as health care regulation. His presentation centered on the Supreme Court's 2010 "Citizens United" ruling, which tossed out previous corporate and union bans on making independent expenditures and financing electioneering communications.

The 2012 presidential election was the first following Citizens United, and political spending was more than twice the total for all previous elections.

"A common theme in all elections since this ruling is the influence of money," said Brier. "We are out on a

whole new frontier."

Smith, a professor in the Department of History and Political Science, discussed the upcoming state Supreme Court elections and the role of judges.

Pennsylvania is one of just seven states where judicial elections include a partisan ballot, and some campaigns spend heavily to catch the attention of voters.

In 2007, for example, nearly \$8 million was spent on two judicial seats; in 2009, another vacant seat drew nearly \$5 million in spending.

"The last two contested elections broke records in money spent, and we are sure to break records again this year," he said. "Money equals free speech."

Boyle, chair of the Social Work Department, described her prior experience working for Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Democratic leader of the U.S. House of Representatives. Since winning a special election in 1987, Pelosi has raised more than \$400 million.

Hefly campaign contributions may provide access to an elected official, but it doesn't buy his or her vote, Boyle said. "Elected officials with good

consciences don't always vote where the money comes from."

Twiss, a professor of the Department of Social Work, discussed "dark money," a term for funds given to nonprofit organizations, such as social welfare groups, that can receive unlimited donations from corporations, individuals and unions. In Citizens United, the court ruled that these nonprofits can spend funds to influence elections, but they are not required to disclose their donors.

"I find this an affront to democracy," said Twiss. "As a social worker, I find it obscene that organizations posing as social welfare agencies can funnel huge amounts of money to politicians without disclosure."

The campus chapter of the American Democracy Project, the Office of Academic Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts, and the Department of History and Political Science presented Cal U's Constitution Day program.

Dr. Emily Sweitzer, of the Department of the Department of Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies, served as moderator for the discussion. Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus director of the American Democracy Project, coordinated the event.



Register Soon for Winter College

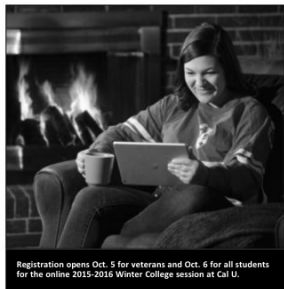
Registration opens in October for Cal U Winter College. Students who attend any college, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, may register for the 100 percent online classes offered during the break between the fall and spring semesters.

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

This year, Cal U's Winter College offers 27 undergraduate and 14 graduate courses on a wide variety of topics.

More than 1,300 students took courses during Cal U's second Winter College session last year. "Winter College is one way we continue to increase enrollment and encourage our students to remain enrolled until they earn a degree," said Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U's acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"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." A complete list of winter online courses is available online, along with information about tuition and fees, financial aid, library services and technology support. Online registration also is available.



Registration opens Oct. 5 for veterans and Oct. 6 for all students for the online 2015-2016 Winter College session at Cal U.

To learn more about Winter College, visit www.calu.edu. Look for a link on the homepage, or search for "winter college."

Campus Celebrates Student Center

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University's Council of Trustees and as a Washington County commissioner.

"This is an exciting time for Cal U and Washington County," he said. "Higher education is very competitive, and students have choices. This improved facility shows that Cal U continues to move forward." Larry Sebeck, associate vice president for Student Affairs, served as emcee for the event. Other speakers were Doug Shuck, representing WTW Architects; Dr. Nancy Pinard, vice president for Student Affairs; Dr. Bruce Barnhart, acting provost and vice

president for Academic Affairs; and Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance.

During his remarks, Thorn thanked the many contractors and Cal U employees who contributed to the project. He made special mention of Cal U project coordinator David Wyne, who died in February.

"As he did with many projects, Dave played an important role with the Natali upgrade. Although he passed away before its completion, I am confident he would be very pleased with the results," Thorn said.

The student center is named in honor of Elmo Natali, an emeritus vice

president who served the University in an assortment of faculty, administrative and coaching roles for more than 30 years.

Following the ceremony, students, faculty and staff toured the building and sampled food offered by AVI, the University's dining services provider.

President Jones encouraged the campus community to make the student center a part of their campus lives.

"This is a facility all of us can be proud of, and I encourage our students to take full advantage of the opportunities here in this magnificent student center."

Hotel Opens

Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones joins Anthony Pavlavis (left), president and CEO of AVI Foodsystems, and Washington County Commissioner Larry Maggi, chair of the University's Council of Trustees, at a ribbon-cutting event celebrating the Hampton Inn & Suites hotel that opened recently at California Technology Park. In her remarks at the event, President Jones made note of the hotel's red-and-black color scheme and the photos of University scenes that decorate the 85-room hotel, which is located just a mile from campus.



Students Think About Ink

At a discussion hosted by the Sociology of Deviance Club, students sought to dispel the stereotypical view that tattoos are a sign of rebellion.

A live demonstration capped off "Tattoos and Society," held Sept. 15 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

A panel consisting of students Natalie Barrick, Jeron Corley, Taylor Dunn, Clairissa Harris, Karer Hudock, Ashley Kelley, Brendan Lenning and Dallas Washington discussed this contemporary art form while Jeremy Plance, a tattoo artist for 15 years, inked a design and discussed his trade.

Lenning noted that permanent body art dates back thousands of years. In 1991, scientists uncovered the 5,200-year-old "Iceman" mummy with primitive tattoos clearly visible on his wrinkled skin.

According to a 2013 Pew research study, Hudock reported, 45 million Americans now have at least one tattoo.

"It comes as no surprise that the tattoo industry is the sixth fastest-growing retail business in America, as determined by *U.S. News & World Report*," she said. "Tattoos are a statement of who we believe we are."

Plance said the tattoo industry has changed dramatically since he broke into the field in 2001. His clientele no longer consists primarily of "rebels against society."

"Artists are taking this art form to new levels, and the clientele includes people from all avenues. The technology now is phenomenal. I'm still learning every day."

Dunn, who is studying both psychology and social deviance, kept smiling as Plance inked a geometric design onto her leg.

"Tattoos explain something about you or hold a story for you," she said. "It's not a form of destruction if you appreciate what you've done."

Dr. Emily Sweitzer, director of the new B.A. in Sociology: Deviance program, emphasized the importance of getting students involved in discussing compelling issues. She anticipates future panels addressing topics suggested by students themselves.

"We want these to be something different, not just students listening to someone from Generation X speaking," she said. "We want to take an interactive look at issues that concern this generation."

Trustees OK Search Committee

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President Jones also outlined the University's budget situation, noting a projected deficit of \$5.4 million. She added that "our financial planning includes some pretty big question marks" because a state spending plan — which includes funding for the State System of Higher Education — has not been finalized.

"We will need to continue our vigilance in operational areas such as department budgets and personnel, leaving some positions vacant when employees retire or resign," she said. The President also set a goal of reducing faculty and staff travel by at least 30 percent.

Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, also discussed the budget during his presentation, making note of significant cost increases for healthcare and retirement benefits for University personnel.

Because the state appropriation to the University remains unknown, the Trustees voted to postpone action on approving the 2015-2016 budget at this time.

In other business:

• Dr. Bruce Barnhart, acting provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, reported that Cal U welcomed 1,603 new students — 932 freshman and 671 transfers — this fall. This is the second highest total in recent history, he said.

Barnhart also reported that 10 new tenure-track faculty members have begun working. "We are pleased to have these wonderful additions to our already high-quality faculty."

• Barnhart also updated the trustees on Marketing and University Relations, explaining that the Elias Savion agency, of Pittsburgh, will present Cal U with a



A search committee has been formed that will seek a permanent University President.

strategic marketing plan later this month.

"Our primary aim with marketing is to drive enrollment," Barnhart said.

• Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, updated the Trustees on capital projects, including a \$10.9 million renovation of Coover Hall that is tentatively scheduled to begin next fall.

The University also is awaiting final approval for construction of a 61,000-square-foot science building to replace Frich and New Science halls. The State System's Board of Governors is expected to address the project at its October meeting. Funding would come from the System, with construction expected to start in 2019-2020.

• Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, highlighted Cal U's Computer and Non-Traditional Student Services, now under the direction of Sheleta Webb.

Nearly two out of three Cal U students commute to campus, Webb said in her presentation, and about one-third of the student population consists of non-traditional students, defined as those older than 25.

"This is a specific group, with specific needs. We are doing things to let these students know they are valued and to help them succeed academically and socially."

• Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office raised more than \$3.3 million in donations and pledges in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015. This total includes \$1.78 million in cash donations.

The Annual Fund raised \$482,801 in donations and pledges during the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Council of Trustees is scheduled to meet again on Dec. 2.

Campus BRIEFS

'Woman in Energy' Honored



Dr. Christina Toras is among 30 women who will be recognized Oct. 15 as a recipient of the 2015 Women in Energy Leadership/WING Awards presented by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*.

Toras was instrumental in developing Cal U's land management programs, which prepare students for roles in the oil and gas industry. In addition to teaching, she serves as chair of the Department of Professional Studies and director of the Institute for Law and Public Policy.

Discovery Days Continue Oct. 3

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

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

Discovery Days allow high school students to learn about academic offerings, housing, activities, athletic programs, tour the campus and more.

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

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



Carol Earlwine, a registered nurse from Canonsburg Hospital, checks Cal U freshman Robert Milan's blood pressure during the annual health fair in the Convocation Center.

Students Enjoy Health Fair

Always a popular campus event, the Cal U Health Fair continues to be both an educational and extracurricular experience.

More than 1,600 people visited the Convocation Center Sept. 16 for the 28th annual fair.

Coordinated by the Cal U Health and Wellness Education Center, this year's event, "Cal U Health for Life," featured screenings and information from more than 50 vendors, agencies and Cal U offices.

Robert Milan, a freshman majoring in computer information systems, attended the fair as part of his requirement for a Recreation and Leisure class.

"For the class I need to attend several

health fairs and write what I do and learn from them," he said while having his blood pressure taken at the Allegheny Health Network booth. "This is very interesting."

Junior Jessica Zang, a sport management major, had attended the fair for a freshman class and returned on her own this year.

"I wanted to see all the stuff about how to staying healthy through college," Zang said. "There are so many free samples, and I like reading all of the billboards and other reading material available."

Alumna Rachel Michaels, Cal U's new alcohol and other drug (AOD) education specialist, had her students preparing and distributing smoothies at a

tiki bar at the fair.

"These are yogurt and frozen fruit, with some liquid, on ice," she said. "This is just a way of showing the students how to have a good time without alcohol. Everyone likes doing this."

This was the fourth year that the fair was held in the Convocation Center, and the first time the arena was used along with the lobby.

"I believe our uppersmen look forward to this every year," said nurse practitioner Fran Fayish, of the University's Wellness Center.

"We look to add some things each year, such as the free STD testing this time. The attendees seemed engaged, we'll use the feedback from the evaluations to continue to improve."

Interns at Work in State Government

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satisfactory response. He also helps out with research and sits in on meetings of task forces that oversee policy-driven legislation.

"This internship gives me an insider's view of state politics and the chance to apply what I've learned in the classroom," Cochran said. "I have tested notions that were explained in school and confirmed them by seeing government operate in practice."

"Career-wise, the program ... gives me the experience

desired by any employer. This has been an invaluable experience for me."

More than 600 students from State System universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989. Interns have worked with dozens of state agencies, as well as in the offices of the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the attorney general.

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

One-Acts Spotlight Student Directors

The Department of Theatre and Dance presents "An Evening of One-Acts" at 8 p.m. Oct. 8-9, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Oct. 10.

The short plays will be performed in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall.

For the department's first performance of the Fall 2015 semester, student directors Jessica Jacobs, Autumn James and Trevon Kiser have selected works that will make audiences laugh — and challenge their beliefs.

Student actors will bring the works by Amiri Baraka, Alice Gensterberg and Julie Marie Myatt to life onstage. Ryan Johnson is the costume coordinator, with sound design by Kyle Henry and lighting design by Mike Rogers.

Ticket price is \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Cal U students with valid CalCards pay 50 cents, plus a \$5 deposit to be refunded at the show.

For ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, in collaboration with a team from Intermediate Unit 1, has been awarded \$380,824 for the fourth year of the Cal U/IU 1 English as a Second Language Professional Development Project.
- Dr. Thomas Mueller, Dr. Kyle Fredrick and Dr. Daniel Harris, of the Department of Earth Sciences, have been awarded six licensed software titles for each of the 25 computers in the Cal U Geology Computer Lab. The licenses from Golden Software are valued at \$77,850.
- Dr. Sheri Boyle, of the Department of Social Work, has been issued a \$16,848 contract from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Under the contract Cal U will provide education, training and professional development to two student interns who are enrolled in the University's undergraduate social work program and in the Allegheny County Social Casework Interns Program.

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