

California University
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A formal investiture ceremony for President Geraldine M. Jones at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre will highlight a weeklong series of inaugural events.

Special Events Celebrate Presidential Inauguration

Momentum is building for the Oct. 14 investiture of Geraldine M. Jones as California's seventh President.

Leading up to the celebration, the University's three undergraduate colleges, as well as community members, have organized presentations celebrating Cal U's academic diversity and the intellectual engagement of faculty, staff, students and community.

Students also will participate in a "Day of Responsibility" to service and celebrate campus life.

The theme for the inaugural celebration is "Honoring Tradition, Rising to the Future."

The centerpiece of Inauguration Day will be a formal investiture ceremony for President Jones at 2 p.m. Friday,

Oct. 14, in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend the ceremony, which will be followed by a reception in the Natali Student Center's Heritage Lounge.

"This is a big event, and a history-making moment for Cal U and our new President," said Larry Maggi, chair of the University's Council of Trustees.

"I sense a lot of exuberance on campus for what will be a very exciting week, culminating with a special inauguration ceremony."

Inaugural events

In keeping with President Jones' focus on academic excellence, a series of free presentations will be held from

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'Concussion' Author to Share Insights

Cal U and its Noss Lecture Series will present a conversation with award-winning writer Jeane Marie Laskas, author of *Concussion*, at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 in the south wing of the Cal U Convocation Center.

A New York Times bestseller, *Concussion* is the story of Nigerian immigrant Dr. Bennet Omalu, a Pittsburgh pathologist whose research uncovered the traumatic effects of repeated concussions on the brains of NFL football players.

Concussion was published in December 2015 to coincide with the release of a film by the same name, starring Will Smith. The book is based on Laskas' 2009 article for *GQ*, "Game Brain," which addressed the National Football



Jeane Marie Laskas

League's response to the findings of Omalu and other researchers.

Laskas will discuss her reporting and writing, as well as the response to her work. After her talk, the audience may participate in a question-and-answer session.

Dr. Shelly DiCesaro, director of Cal U's graduate athletic training program, proposed bringing Laskas to campus.

"I thought this would be intriguing, for not only the community and our alumni, but also for faculty and students in multiple disciplines, including athletic training, exercise science and sport studies, even biology, English and library services," she said.

"The topic really spans all of these

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Homecoming Has Carnival Atmosphere

A weeklong "Cal U Carnival" is planned to mark Homecoming 2016.

On Oct. 22, Homecoming Day, prep-ade activities begin at 10 a.m. on the main campus, where inflatables with a carnival theme will add to the family-friendly fun.

Balloon art and a petting zoo are planned, and various clubs and organizations will offer food, T-shirts and other items for sale. Our California neighbors are encouraged to attend, along with alumni from all class years.

At 11 a.m. the Alumni Relations Office holds its annual "Picnic on the Patio" at the Kara Alumni House.

Graduates and their guests are invited to enjoy picnic fare and socialize with friends and former classmates.

The annual Homecoming Parade begins at noon. The lineup of bands, floats and marchers will step off from the Convocation Center courtyard and travel down Third Street. Marchers will turn right at Union Street and return to campus on Second Street.

Along with the Cal U Marching Band, visiting high school bands from Bentworth, Bethlehem Center, Brownsville, California, Charleroi, Morehead High School (Eden, N.C.), and Allerdice (Pittsburgh, Pa.) high

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Many Cal U groups and organizations, such as members of Delta Zeta sorority, will march along with their floats during this year's Homecoming Parade, which begins at noon Oct. 22.



Cal U seniors (from left) Claudia Pehowic, Kirra Lent, Ellen "Mari" Boyle and alumna Courtney Cochran '12, '13 share their election-year experiences during a Constitution Day panel discussion in the Performance Center.

Politics Was Personal for Panelists

As they shared their election-year experiences during a Constitution Day panel discussion, Cal U seniors Claudia Pehowic, Kirra Lent and Ellen "Mari" Boyle, along with alumna Courtney Cochran '12, '13, emphasized the importance of community engagement and the student vote in this year's presidential election.

"Pennsylvania is the third highest state that will have an impact on this election," said Cochran, regional organizer for the Campus Election Engagement Project, a nonpartisan initiative that encourages college students to register, volunteer in campaigns, educate themselves and cast their ballots.

"I would encourage you to register with your on-campus address. Participate in making a difference in a state that could make or break an election."

Boyle is Pennsylvania's student delegate to CollegeDebate16, a national, non-partisan initiative to engage young voters in the presidential election.

In June she joined 150 delegates from all 50 states at Dominican University of California, where they attended workshops focused on various political issues.

"Many of us are going to vote for the first time," said Boyle, a political science major. "I really encourage you all to not take that opportunity for granted, because your voice really does matter."

While you may not change the election singularly, you'll be shocked to see how much millennials can have an impact."

This summer Pehowic interned with Talk Media News at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Lent traveled to Philadelphia, where she was a Fox News intern at the Democratic National Convention.

Lent, an education major, said she enjoyed the hectic pace of a newsroom in the midst of a closely scrutinized national event.

"It was insane, the incredible speed that a newsroom operates at. The smallest of details always matter to someone. It was shocking, but it made you perform at a higher level."

Overall she found media representations surprisingly friendly, but that was not always the case with some of the candidates' supporters.

She recalled an encounter with Bernie Sanders supporters who were protesting outside the convention site's security perimeter. Because of Lent's media credentials, the protesters assumed she didn't share their liberal views.

"They said they wanted peace, but it was a bit scary being screamed at because I was with Fox News," she recalled.

Pehowic got a "reality check" when she watched other reporters covering a protest in a park near the convention center.

"With the different photography

angles they use, what you see on TV comes across as much more dramatic than what really happens at times," said Pehowic, who has dual majors in communication studies and political science.

"I learned that media members each have their own goals or agendas, and that writing a newspaper article is so different than writing an essay."

Witnessing the convention gave Pehowic a confidence boost, she said.

"I felt more powerful as a human being after the convention than when I was there. I wish I could go back there now with the confidence I gained from this experience."

Political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg reminded the audience that Cal U students compete capably with students across the country.

"It's difficult, and even intimidating, to enter an arena and do something you've never done before, as these four have done," Blumberg said.

"Now all of sudden they've blossomed in those environments, and they realize they're as smart, bright and talented as their peers. You just have to push yourself to do that."

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

Author to Share Insights

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disciplines. And Dr. Omalu's journey from discovering this novel disease and linking it to repetitive hits — as well as his native's in a very competitive world of research and his complete unfamiliarity with the NFL — makes for a fascinating story."

DiCesaro said she believes Laskas and the media have helped to spark progress in understanding concussions and their long-term effects. Other initiatives, such as the Center for Disease Control's HEADS UP to Youth Sports program, also have contributed to changing attitudes about contact sports.

"Subsequent to the release of (Omalu's) findings in the media, there has been a visible drop in the number of kids participating in youth football programs, as well as an increase in (concussion) awareness in other sports," said DiCesaro, the athletic trainer for the Vulcan women's basketball team.

Laskas teaches at the University of Pittsburgh, where she is a professor and director of the creative writing program.

She is a former syndicated columnist for The Washington Post Magazine and the originator of the "Ask Laskas" column in Reader's Digest. Her work has appeared in The New York Times Magazine, Smithsonian Magazine, O, The Oprah Magazine, Allure, Ladies Home Journal and other publications, as well as *Best American Magazine Writing 2008* and six annual editions of *Best American Sportswriting*.

In addition to *Concussion*, she is the author of five books.

Copies of *Concussion* will be available for sale in the Convocation Center, and a book-signing will follow the author's presentation.

Noss Lecture Series presentations are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and parking is available on campus.

Cal U Helps Students Register to Vote

The American Democracy Project at Cal U marked National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 27 with a voter registration drive in the lobbies of Manderino Library and Eberly Hall and in the kiosks outside the Natoli Student Center.

One student who took advantage of the opportunity was Hayden Michael, a freshman from Homer City, Pa. A graphics and multimedia major, he stopped outside the student center to pick up a change-of-address card so he could vote in California Borough on Election Day.

"I feel it's important to vote, because if everyone decides not to, then the whole democratic process falls apart," he said.

"I voted in the primary at home last April, and do not want to miss out or have to go back home to cast my vote" on Nov. 8.

Sophomore Selina James, a political science major, provided the paperwork.

She was helping students to register as part of a campaign management course taught by ADP campus coordinator Dr. Melanie Blumberg.

"Getting students registered to vote is our goal," James said. "Data show when youths register to vote, they will go and vote more so than other age groups."

James, of Greensburg, Pa., changed her address last spring in order to cast her primary vote in California Borough.

Elections are typically held on Tuesdays, which can make it difficult to travel far from campus in order to cast a ballot. "This is more convenient," she said. "When I graduate, I will just change my address back to (Greensburg), which will take a couple of seconds."

Candidates in the 2016 elections have very different views on issues that matter to many college students, and the youth vote could have an impact, especially in swing states like Pennsylvania.

"Voter turnout, especially among



Freshman Hayden Michael (left) reviews change-of-address information with sophomore Selina James in front of the Natoli Student Center during a voter registration drive on Sept. 27.

younger voters, will make a difference," Blumberg said.

Voters have until Oct. 11 to register if they wish to vote in this year's presidential election. Information for student voters is online at calu.edu.

Co-sponsors of the drive included the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of History, Politics and Society, the Women's Studies program, and the Frederick Douglass Institute.

Trustees Review Student Census, Budget Figures

Despite an overall decline in student enrollment compared to last fall, the number of freshmen and transfer students arriving at Cal U held steady, and enrollment in the University's Summer College continues to rise.

The enrollment report was delivered to the University's Council of Trustees at its quarterly meeting Sept. 21, just one day after the official census date.

University President Geraldine M. Jones reported a 3.83 percent drop in headcount. Students also are taking fewer credit hours, resulting in a drop of 5.95 percent in full-time equivalent, or FTE, compared to fall 2015-2016.

"We are in an extremely competitive environment," commented Trustee Aaron Walton '68, who also is vice chair of the Board of Governors for the State System of Higher Education.

"We must be creative and increase our attractiveness to students. ... If you don't have students, you don't have jobs." Online Summer College courses are growing in popularity, Provost Bruce Barnhart noted in his detailed enrollment report. The headcount for this year's summer session rose by 3.4 percent compared to last summer. Although most of the 3,794 students enrolled were from Cal U, 125 students from other universities took summer courses.

Enrollment is key to stabilizing the University's finances, President Jones said.

She told the trustees that Cal U ended the 2015-2016 fiscal year with a surplus of \$4.4 million in its Education & General Budget, a positive outcome aided by a one-time infusion of funds from the acquisition of Cal U's six main-campus residence halls from the Student Association Inc.

Although a preliminary budget is in place, the 2016-2017 spending plan cannot be finalized until the State System of Higher Education and the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties complete contract negotiations.

Nevertheless, the President pledged to balance the budget, by implementing a financial plan submitted to the Chancellor's Office last year. That plan identifies potential savings in personnel costs; services, supplies and contracts;

and internal capital projects.

"The plan also encourages us to define and then implement low-cost options, a discipline that is essential to managing our expenses," President Jones said.

In other business:

- Barnhart, in his role as marketing director, reported on Cal U's efforts to recruit students left in limbo by the shutdown of ITT Technical Institute. The University targeted displaced students with online and radio advertising promoting Cal U's Finish Line degree completion program, and recruiters held a special admissions session at the Southpointe Center in Conansburg, Pa.

- Barnhart also introduced Keli Henderson, who joined the staff as director of marketing on Sept. 26.

- Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, reviewed the budget in greater detail and reported on activities within University Technology Services.

- The new myCALU app has been downloaded onto more than 2,000 mobile devices since its Aug. 1 launch. The app offers access to campus news, videos, live sports results and more. Students who log in can access the D2L learning management system, review schedules and grades, and check their financial accounts.

- Thorn also noted that UTEch staff replaced 130 faculty computers and 150 student computers this summer.
- Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, focused on the success of a new "hive" program for incoming freshmen.

- She introduced Dr. Dawn Moeller, a clinical psychologist in Cal U's Counseling Center, who led a research project to determine whether freshmen benefit from close interaction with a peer group, or "hive," as they adjust to college life.

- Tony Mauro, associate vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office raised nearly \$3.8 million in donations and pledges for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The year-end total includes more than \$2.5 million in cash donations.

- University Trustees are scheduled to hold their next quarterly meeting Dec. 7.



Inejih Abied (right), Cal U's first Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant, discusses Arabic language and culture with Dr. Razak Abdalla-Surrey, an instructor and adviser in the Arabic program.

Arabic Program Adds Fulbright Teaching Assistant

He's "taller than most of you," is his bio says, and has written a poem about his favorite drink, Mauritanian tea.

And, he adds with a smile, "I am a good player in soccer."

Meet Inejih Abied, from the African country of Mauritania, Cal U's first Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. He is a tutor during the 2016-2017 academic year for the Global Online Bachelor of Arts in Arabic.

The Fulbright FLTA Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, with support from the Institute of International Education. The program brings early-career educators from around the world to U.S. colleges and universities to study and to teach their native languages, to assist in language instruction and to serve as cultural ambassadors on campus.

Abied has a bachelor's degree in English literature and spent two years in training in Mauritania as an English teacher at a secondary school.

This fall he is taking two courses at Cal U, in oral communication and African-American history, and will take two more in the spring. He plans to return to Mauritania to teach next year.

In addition to his own studies,

Abied will provide support to students in the online Arabic program.

"Inejih will create a Skype account and also develop short videos on grammar and other aspects of Arabic language and culture," said Dr. Razak Abdalla-Surrey, an instructor and adviser in the Arabic program and a 2005 Fulbright Scholar from Iraq.

"He will also lead the Arabic conversation table in our Arabic classes. He will be able to help our students with speaking, reading, writing, listening and cultural awareness — especially with practicing the speaking component to improve proficiency."

Abdalla-Surrey said the Fulbright programs play an important role in today's society.

"When I came to the U.S. as a Fulbright Scholar from Iraq in 2005, people I interacted with had a little knowledge about that world. It's the same with people in the Arab world. They lack the knowledge about our culture here. The knowledge is what people hear or see in the media, (and) that only covers politics.

"These programs help to educate people in both worlds for better understanding, to clear up misconceptions, and to share their culture, language and heritage."

Homecoming Has Carnival Atmosphere

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schools will perform.

A Vulcan Huddle tailgate party begins at 1 p.m. in the pavilions at Roadman Park, outside Adamson Stadium.

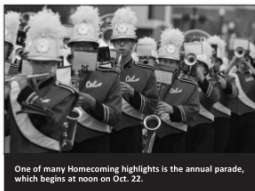
At 3 p.m. the Cal U football team hosts Gannon University in Adamson Stadium.

The Cal U Marching Band will perform at halftime, when winners of the Homecoming Parade float competition will be announced and the Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned.

Football ticket price is \$10; visiting students pay \$5; Cal U students, faculty and staff with valid CalCU are admitted free, along with children ages 12 and younger.

Other events

The announcement of the 2016 Homecoming Court



One of many Homecoming highlights is the annual parade, which begins at noon on Oct. 22.

will be made at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 18 in the Natali Student Center's Food Court. Special guest performer is the pop/acoustic/folk duo Shane & Emily.

On Oct. 19, a one-ring, 10-act circus will perform in the Convocation Center. A pre-show begins at 6 p.m., with the main show at 7. Clowns, a face painter and concession stands are all part of the fun. Admission is free, and the event is open to the public.

A variety of other students- and community-focused events are scheduled during Homecoming weeks including an office decorating contest, Cal U Hockey Night at Rostover Ice Garden on Oct. 18, and a special Underground Café featuring '90s cover band Nine Deez Nite at 9 p.m. Oct. 20 in the Performance Center.

Throughout the week, students, faculty and staff can take Cal U Carnival selfies at various locations through the Natali Student Center and hope to win prizes by tweeting them to @CalUSuAffairs.

For a complete Homecoming schedule, visit the Cal U homepage, www.calu.edu.

Advocate of Equality

University President Geraldine M. Jones presents the 2016 Jennie Carter Leadership Award to former administrator Alan James '62 during a ceremony on Family Day, Sept. 17. The award is named for Elizabeth 'Jennie' Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the University's first African-American graduate. Alan James has been an advocate of equality and fairness, the President said. "He certainly typifies the qualities we have known to represent Jennie — a sense of responsibility, a love and duty to serve others, and the need to ensure that all are treated with respect and dignity." Also participating in the ceremony was Sheleeta Webb '89, director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education at Cal U. She said James "has spent his career blazing a path for young folks and challenging each of them to take an active role in their education and their character building."



Annual Fair Offers Healthy Start

Cal U's 29th annual Health Fair gave students, faculty, staff and the community a healthy start on the new school year.

More than 1,000 people visited the Convocation Center Sept. 21, where more than 50 health care representatives shared information, conducted screenings and offered giveaways at the event coordinated by Cal U's Health and Wellness Education Center.

Relaxing chair massages, offered by staff from Chaney's Natural Salon & Spa of Monongahela, Pa., were especially popular with students.

"I have four tests this week, so I thought it would be a good idea to try this," said sophomore Kristen Koch, a psychology major.

"It felt awesome. I'm having fun at this fair."

A multifaceted educational experience, the health fair also gives students an opportunity to earn service hours.

"This looked like a cool thing to do," said Michael Pelligrini, a member of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society who was distributing health bags with pens in them for people to use to collect information at the various booths and exhibits.

Students from the Cal U's Women's Center and the End Violence Center called passers-by over to the Health Fair Spinning Wheel. Each student who spun the wheel and answered a trivia question related to sexual assault awareness

received a prize.

"I've never been to one of these (fairs) before," said freshman Emily Fiffik, who accepted a trinket and listened to statistics.

"There are a lot of activities going on with useful information. I'm glad I came."

Event coordinator and Cal U nurse practitioner Fran Fayish said the fair is successful because it combines learning with fun.

"Recreation is when a person frequently has a chance to make healthy decisions," she said.

"We're glad that our event continues to provide a strong link between health and leisure for our students and everyone else who stops by."

Events Planned for Inauguration

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11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Oct. 10-12, in the Heritage Lounge rotunda inside the Natall Student Center.

Among the highlights are a production by theater students that depicts milestones in the President's life and career; a presentation by members of the Langston Hughes Poetry Society; and a daylong celebration of international food, music and culture in Manderino Library.

The inaugural theme plays out with two events on Oct. 13, the "Day of Responsibility."

"Rising to the Future — Make a Difference Day" is Cal U's contribution to a nationwide day of community service led by USA WEEKEND magazine. Cal U is partnering with local businesses and churches to address

their needs, with a focus on sprucing up California's downtown business district.

"Honoring Tradition — The Underground Café" celebrates a Cal U entertainment tradition that dates back more than 20 years. Special performances on the campus Quad are planned from 6-9 p.m. The public is invited to the free event, and refreshments will be served.

Get the schedule

A complete schedule of inaugural events is available online at www.calu.edu/inauguration. All events are free and open to the public.

Visitors to the website also are invited to leave a congratulatory message for President Jones.

The Oct. 14 investiture ceremony can be viewed live online at www.calu.edu, as well as on the Armstrong Cable television system (Channel 61).

Campus BRIEFS

Two More Fall Discovery Days

To introduce prospective students to the University, Cal U will hold two more fall Discovery Days programs: from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15, and Friday, Nov. 11.

Check-in at Steele Halls begins 30 minutes before the start of the programs. On Discovery Days, high school students who are beginning their college search may tour the campus and learn about Cal U's academic offerings, housing options and student activities.

For more information or to register online, visit www.calu.edu/discoverydays.

Faculty or staff members who are interested in leading tours should contact the Welcome Center at Ext. 1626 or email Carrie Pavits at pavits@calu.edu.

Annual Charity Appeal Under Way

Through Oct. 28, members of the campus community can show they care by participating in the annual SECA campaign.

This year's theme, "One Team — One Commonwealth," encourages employees to make a big difference for those who are less fortunate. For example, \$1 per pay would provide seven days' worth of groceries for a family experiencing food insecurity.

SECA, the State Employees Combined Appeal, supports a number of local, regional, national and international charities. Contributions help families and individuals in need of shelter, medical care, food, job training and other services.

Employees can make a single donation or bi-weekly deductions through the ESS system.

For more information, contact SECA on-campus co-chairs Doug Hoover and Dana Turic at hoover@calu.edu or turic@calu.edu.

Procurement Fair Set for Oct. 26

The 29th Annual Procurement Opportunities Fair, sponsored by Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO), will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 26 at the DoubleTree hotel in Washington, Pa.

Any business interested in selling their products or services to federal, state and local government agencies and prime contractors should attend.

Focused on providing companies with contracting and subcontracting information, the fair will feature 54 booths occupied by government agencies, corporations, regional service organizations and area businesses.

The admission fee for the fair is \$35 per attendee if registration is paid by Oct. 12, fee includes a buffet lunch. If paid after Oct. 12 the cost per attendee is \$45.

For information on the fair contact Tracy Julian at [724-938-5881](tel:724-938-5881) or julian@calu.edu.

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