California University

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Vulcan Fest Homecoming Set

Homecoming Weekend Oct. 11-13. The University is teaming up with the Washington County Tourism and Promotion Agency for the event, a community celebration of Cal U connections and hometown

New this year, the Vulcan Fest 5K Run/Walk will be at 8 a.m. Oct. 12. Suitable for athletes of all ages and abilities, the 3.1-mile course will take participants around and through Cal U's scenic campus. Free on-campus parki: Race-day registration opens at 6 a.m. Fee is \$20 in advance; \$25 on race day. Proceeds benefit scholarships for Cal U students and legacy projects on campus. Registration is available at calu.edu/vulcan-fest.

Other Events

At 1 p.m. Oct. 11, members of Cal U's class of 1969 will

Grand Marshals with Cal U **Ties**

omecoming at Cal U is both a campus tradition and a community event.

The 70th annual Homecoming Parade, which begins at noon Saturday, Oct. 12, will be led by three men who each have an amazing 50 years (and counting) of service with the California Volunteer Fire Department

The grand marshals —
Tom Hartley Jr., Jon Bittner '68, and
Wesley "Chuck" Sheets — also have interesting ties to the University.

They were honored with a surprise

party in August at the Convocation husband, Jeffrey.

"Seeing the impact they've had on so many with their unprecedented years of volunteer service made me realize they were the ideal people to be invited to be our grand marshals, President Jones said.

The Chief

Hartley, the borough's fire chief since 1981, retired from Cal U in 2013 after more than 40 years as a

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Transformed Coover Hall Rededicated

al U rededicated Coover Hall on Sept. 17, inviting members of the campus community inside for a look at the transformation of a campus landmark

The building was ready for the start of the Fall 2019 semester after a two-year, \$11 million project added more than 4 200 square feet to the former strial arts building, constructed in 1938

"Coover Hall has been transformed into a thoroughly modern facility, with all the latest technology," said President Geraldine M. Jones in her remarks at the ceremony. "It's an ideal home for our Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, and for some of our hands-on courses in art and graphic design."

Specialized areas include an automated controls lab, a fluids lab, a heavy fabrication lab, a jewelry/ metals studio, a printmaking studio, a sculpture/3D design studio, a senior projects lab, a STEM/clean prototyping lab, and a strength and materials lab. The physical technologies lab allows students to learn about light fabrication and to

work with metals, plastics and woods Students studying mechatronics engineering technology, industrial technology and technology education

programs will be at home in Coover Hall as they work with 3D printers, laser engravers, a digital flatbed cutter and a small-format CNC milling machine

"Smart" classrooms equipped with the latest technology and instructions computer labs are also located in the renovated Coover Hall.

"These are all spaces that will enhance all of our programs," sai Dr. Joseph Schickel, chair of the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology. "Our students will benefit from the hands-on learning experiences they will get in the labs."

President Jones acknowledged the input from Steve Whitehead, associate provost, and Brenda Fredette, dean of the Eberly College of Science and Technology, who helped plan the academic components of the project.
Faculty members shared their expertise
as well — Schickel and Arcides Gonzalez, chair of the Art and Languages Department; Jennifer and Brent Wilburn, from mechatronics engineering technology; Scott Lloyd and Jim Bove, from Art and Languages; Greg Harrison and Spencer Norman, from graphic design "Your specialized knowledge

played a big part in creating this center for excellence in teaching and



learning." President Jones said. Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance managed the project with Mike Kanalis, director of Facilities Management, and Jeff Amos, assistant director of planning and construction

As the upgrades were made Thorn called the project "a significant investment in our instructional core.'

"Thanks to these folks, and many more, Coover Hall is once again a point of pride for our campus," President Iones said

McLean Earns Carter Award

ot so surprisingly,
Jesse. J. McLean Jr. '83, '94
thought of others when he
received the Jennie Carter Award on
Sept. 20 during a luncheon in Kara
Alumni House.

"This is humbling to receive this award from the university I attended, and to me the Jennie Carter Award is a very special award," he said. It is named for Elizabeth "Jennie"

It is named for Elizabeth "Jennie" Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the University's first African-American

graduate.

"As I thought and read about her I would have loved to know who her champions were, because I think anytime you deal with issues around race and being the first of an institution I always believe you need champions to help nurture your spirit, resilience and leadership."

leadership."

A human services professional with more than 30 years of experience in Pittsburgh's nonprofit sector. McLean serves as executive director of Western Pennsylvania for Pressley Ridge, where he is responsible for overseeing the fiscal, operational, and clinical integrity of programs throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Active and popular during his

Active and popular during his undergraduate days, McLean was vice president of the SAI Board of Directors and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, student congress, student cohiner and the Black Student History

Fratermy, student congress, student cabinet and the Black Student Union.

For McLean, his Cal U "champion" was the late Elmo Natali '53, who held many positions at the University before retiring as vice president of Student Development in 1992.

"Dean Natali was always on me to make sure that I graduated and achieve the goals I wanted to do," McLean said. "So, when I think of Jennie Carter, I find myself thinking about who her forward to say you can do this, to encourage and support her, because those people should be recognized as well."

McLean has not only successfully recommended his alma mater to more than 150 students over the years, he comes to campus a few times each



Jesse. J. McLean Ir. '83, '94 displays the 2019 Jennie Carter Leadership Award outside Kara Alumni House with Sheleta Camarda-Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, and University President Geraldine M. Jones.

month to check in on their progress.
"I am very connected to and love
California University." McLean said.

California University," McLean said.
"I continue to mentor and work with
them because I want to make sure they
graduate. If they have barriers or issues
I refer them to the proper channels so
they can have that resolved."

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

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

McLean received the William H. Moore Award for Excellence in Education for his development of the V.U.L.C.A.N. program, which prepared middle schoo students for college. He also received the YWCA Racial Justice Award for his work with the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Jewish Committee at

Reizenstein Middle School.

"Through his work and in his life,
Jesse McLean had exemplified the
spirit of Jennie Carter," President Jones
added.

McLean, who came to Cal U, sight unseen, from Philadelphia, appreciates Cal U's commitment to diversity.

"I was led here by faith, and coming to California University was the best decision I ever made," he said.

"Over the past 36 years since I've been here, efforts have been made to increase diversity and eliminate some of the systematic barriers that prevented students of color from graduating from California University. I think President Jones, who I remember working here when I was a student, has been a staple with that."

McLean and his wife, Charlette, live in Penn Hills, Pa. His son Jesse III '08, '10 and daughter-in-law Ashley '10, are also both Cal U graduates.

Panelists Tackle Polarized Politics

r. Melanie Blumberg got straight to the point as moderator for a panel discussion — "Uncivil Wars: The New Normal?" — on Constitution Day:

"Many of you are too young to remember when there was civility in politics and when those on opposite sides could resolve their differences amiably," the political science professor and director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U, told the audience.

Project at Cal U, told the audience.
Faculty experts at the Sept. 17
discussion weighed in on the causes and
consequences of the current polarized
political climate.

political climate.

Dr. Laura Tuennerman, from
History, Politics, Society and Law,
likened today's climate to an event in
1856, when a member of the House
of Representatives entered the Senate
chamber and beat a senator into
unconsciousness.

"The inability to call people out and recognize that this behavior is inappropriate can cause a lot of trouble," she said. "I'm not sure what he answer now is, but if they don't recognize uncivilized behavior and say that we won't allow it, we are really heading down a dark road."

Social work professor
Dr. Sheri Boyle, who worked on Capitol
Hill, fears polarization causes younger
people to be uninvolved in politics.

"When I worked in Washington, people on opposite sides respected each other and would compromise and come together to work for their constituents," she said.

Dr. Justin Hackett, from the Psychology Department, discussed the "echo chamber" of social media, "where you only encounter the information that already confirms your beliefs, and if you do encounter other ideas, it's often in a very minimized sort of way designed to cast negative light," he said.

Dr. Joseph Heim, from History, Politics, Society and Law, discussed the consequences of polarization.

consequences or polarization.

"I believe it's a generational problem, and I think people under 30 are much better than people over 70," he said. "I'd like to see a president one time in my life who's younger than me. The real consequences I see is no accountability and adaptability, especially in foreign policy."

While uncertainty lies ahead, especially with a contentious presidential election next year, Slaven emphasized the positive.

"We are much more openly debating issues that came up in the 60s. We're still resolving them, but it takes a generation or two."

generation or two."

Cal U's Constitution Day activities concluded Sept. 18 with two morning presentations, "Fake News: Uncivil Wars," from William Meloy and Loring Prest, faculty members in the Department of Library Services.

Department of Library Services.
Constitution Day activities were
presented by the American Democracy
Project at Cal U and sponsored by the Office
of the President, the Office of the Provost/
Academic Affairs, the College of Liberal
Arts, and the Department of History,
Politics, Society and Law.

Chancellor's Open Forum Oct. 10

r. Dan Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, will speak to the Cal U community at an open forum from II a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center. Chancellor Greenstein is visiting all

Chancellor Greenstein is visiting a 14 State System Universities. At each campus, he is meeting with a variety of university stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff and administrators. The entire Cal U campus

The entire Cal U campus community may attend the open forum. After a short presentation, which will include an update on the progress of the System Redesign, the chancellor will take questions from the audience. The redesign process began with

a strategic review of all State System operations. During Phase 1, small groups worked on objectives related to three strategic priorities: ensuring student success, leveraging university strengths, and transforming the governance/leadership structure. In the current Phase 2, a Student Success



group, a University Success group and a "Systemness" group are working on specific tasks that support the three priorities.

Eight employees at Cal U are either

leading or serving on redesign teams that meet in Harrisburg on

Read more about the State System Redesign at passhe.edu/systemredesign

Distinguished ROTC Cadet Commissioned

OTC cadet Daniel Mraz was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army at a Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony Sept. 18 in Kara Alumi House.

Before taking the oath of office and receiving the gold bars signifying his new rank, the cadet and guests heard remarks from University Presiden Geraldine M. Jones and Faith Chamberlain, professor of military science with the Three Rivers Battalion. "I feel confident that the strong

"I feel confident that the strong leadership skills and exemplary conduct that have epitomized your time as a cadet will continue to flourish as you become an officer, and it warms my heart to know that our country and the preservation of our freedom is in your capable hands," President Jones said.

Mraz was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate, one who ranks in the top 20% of more than 5,500 Army ROTC graduates nationwide on the basis of scholarship, moral character, military aptitude and leadership ability.

"Through the pursuit of his academic and physical discipline Cadet Mraz has developed into a leader of character ready to selflessly serve the nation and ensure our collective defense," Chamberlain said

Mraz earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in May 2019 and hopes to further his education. He was commissioned as an active duty Army Medical Service Corps officer.

Also attending the ceremony were Capt. Robert Prah, director of Veteran and Military Affairs at Cal U; and Sgt. First Class Jesse Maund, who administered the first salute. Mraz's parents, Kelly and Greg Keenan, pinned the gold bars signifying his rank on his uniform.





Grand Marshals Have Cal U Ties

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maintenance repairman. He missed the Homecoming festivities for 41 years as he tended to Adamson Stadium on busy football game days.

He saw his first Homecoming Parade since he was a youngster in 2014, when he served on the fire department's standby crew in case of fire incidents. Last year he drove the truck that carried the 2007 national semifinalist football team, which was honored at Homecoming.

Both of his children — Tom '97 and Lisa Adams '04 — are

Cal U graduates.

Though grateful and very loyal to both the town and
University, the straightforward Hartley is looking forward to

again being behind the scenes.

"Let's put it this way. I am ready for the 50th-year celebration to be over," he said with a laugh. "The guys are getting out of hand with everything, but I guess you don't see too many people having 50 years with any organization."

Are you Kidding?

Bittner, the safety officer and past assistant chief, has 53 years of service with CVFD.

A longime member and past president of California Borough Council, he spent more than 37 years as a teacher in California Area School District's elementary and middle schools after earning his Cal U degree in elementary education. One of his two children, Amanda Lansey, is a 2007 Cal U graduate. More than 20 years ago, he helped to start a student

membership program that recruits Cal U students as volunteers.
Did he ever think he'd be leading the parade?
"If you would have asked me that this was possible, that would the furthest thing from my mind," he said. "It was an honor to be asked. The University has always been supportive of the fire department, which we greatly appreciate."

From Engineer to Center Stage

As the fire engineer, Sheets is the one who transports the firefighters, carries equipment and pumps the water at fire

He also drove the fire truck at many Homecoming parades in the 1970s and 1980s, before his children's activities began to occupy the day.

occupy the day.

Adrienne Fletcher '00, Wendy Shinsky '04, and Wesley
Sheets '13 are all Cal U graduates. His father, Wesley, was a
longtime maintenance superintendent at Cal U as well as a
firefighter for 28 years.

Now retired after a 45-year career in information technology, Sheets echoed the sentiments of Hartley, who is also his brother-in-law.

"It's something you look forward to, but with a little apprehension," said Sheets about the parade. "Because what we do as firefighters is something we want to do, and we're not looking for any accolades.

"Our pay is the gratification of helping others, but the banquet and being in the parade is certainly very nice."

Homecoming: Getting Around Campus

Parking

Oct. 12-13 in Lot 4 (River Lot). Parking at Roadman Park is \$10.

Flat-rate meter parking is available from 3 p.m. Oct. 12 to 11:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the pay-by-license lots behind the Natali Student Center (Lot 17) and Gallagher Hall (Lot 11). Lot 8, 11 and 21 will be closed from

4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10, until 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 to accommodate parade vehicles. Lot 2 will remain open to accommodate permit holders and those attending the President's Circle brunch.

Road closures

Beginning at 8 a.m. Oct. 12, traffic on campus will be restricted and police will direct vehicles to the River

In the borough, no parking will be permitted from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 12 on Second Street (200 to 500 blocks), Third Street (200 and 400 blocks) and Union Street (200 block).

Borough police will ticket vehicles parked along the parade route beginning at 9 a.m. Oct. 12.

After 10 a.m., vehicles parked along the route will be towed.

Shuttle service

Vulcan Flyer shuttles will operate from 9-11:30 am. Oct. 12. Service will resume at the conclusion of the Homecoming Parade. Extra buses will be in service beginning at 2 p.m. to transport students, visitors and alumni to the football game, which starts at 4 p.m. New his year: Stops in the borough at Third and Unoin streets and at Third and Wood streets. Service will continue until 11 p.m.

Service on Sunday, Oct. 13, will be from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. with hourly Walmart service from 1-6 p.m. The last bus will return to campus at 7 p.m.

5K Highlights Vulcan Fest, Homecoming

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gather at Kara Alumni House for their 50th reunion. At 7 p.m., graduates of all classes will reunite at The Meadows in North Strabane Townshin

Meadows in North Strabane Township.

The Cal U women's volleyball team plays Bloomsburg at 6 p.m. Oct. 11 at the Convocation Center.

On Oct. 12, a Parry on the Patio Brunch for alumni at Kara Alumni House will be followed by the Homecoming parade, which begins at the Convocation Center at noon and proceeds along Third Street in California's business district. Kids' Zone activities on the main campus begin at 9 a.m. Also at noon, the Cal U

Also at noon, the Cal U
women's soccer team plays IUP at
the Phillipsburg soccer field. Cal U
volleyball plays Lock Haven at 1 p.m
at the Convocation Center.

After the parade, activities move to Roadman Park on Cal U's upper campus. Food trucks will be availabl and a Kids' Zone with games and activities will be open until 4 p.m. Vulcans football kicks off at

4 p.m. vs. the Clarion Golden Eagles. Admission is \$10, \$5 for students, free to those with CalCards.

Free entertainment will be provided by three DJs. DJ Bonics, aka Brandon Glova, best known for his work with rapper Wiz Khalifa, will perform at 3 p.m. Alumna Bria Thomas, known as DJ Femi, will entertain at 2:15 p.m. WCAL student DJ Nick Rae will be on

at 1:30 pm.
Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend
wraps up 4-6 pm. Oct. 13 with the
Young and Girled Gospel Choir's fifth
annual Scholarship Dinner and Benefit
Concert at the Donora Banquet Hall.
Cost is 320 person and \$10 for student
Proceeds benefit the Almeda Pryce
YGGC Scholarship Fund, named
in honor of the choir's founder.
For reservations email choir director
Dr. Randy Tillmut at

Council of Trustees Elects New Chair

elected a new chair during a reorganizational meeting before the regular quarterly meeting of the group on Sept. 18.

group on Sept. 18.

James T. Davis '73 will serve as chair and Larry Maggi '79 as vice chair through June 2021. Student member Alex Arnold will serve as secretary until he graduates.

Davis, a founder and partner of Davis

and Davis Attorneys at Law, and Maggi, chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, have been members of the Council of Trustees since 2009

A senior majoring in history and parks and recreation management, Arnold was appointed by the Gov. Tom Wolf as Cal U's student trustee last fall.

"I congratulate trustees Maggi and nold," Davis said. "I look forward to the challenge of serving as chair and hope to continue the high standard that those previous chairs have set."

In her report, University President Geraldine M. Jones updated the Trustees on enrollment, budget, upcoming events and the State System Redesign.

"The State System Redesign is a transformational plan to make the State System more flexible and responsive. she explained. "The chancellor's vision calls for a 'sharing system, where students have a broader range of opportunities, and certain business, administrative and academic functions are combined to gain efficiencies of

Eight employees at Cal U are either leading or serving on redesign teams that meet in Harrisburg on a regular basis.

More information about the redesign is available at passhe.edu.

In other business: Thirty-four Cal U faculty and staff members received grants totaling more than \$12 million, reported

Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. Dr. Sheri Boyle, from the

Department of Social Work, and Dr. Elizabeth Gruber and Molly Jenkins, both from the Department of Counselor Education, presented information on two of these grants. They are for an opioid workforce expansion program and behavioral health workforce

education and training program, which both provide stipends directly to Cal U stude

T. David Garcia, vice president fe Enrollment Management, reported that Cal U exceeded its fall 2019 enrollment goal for first-year students.

Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, reviewed the 2018-2019 budget and presented a nearly \$117 million budget plan for the current fiscal year.

He also reported that the Campus Master Plan, which will shrink the University's footprint by 111,000 square

feet, was recently completed.

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, introduced one graduate student and three University Honors Program students who shared their

nmer learning experiences. They included: Kathyrn Elliott, who participated in an education/social work program to Cape Town, South Africa, with One Heart Source; Jeromy Mackey, who traveled to London for the Estill World Symposium for voice training and Amanda Considine and Maria Dovshek, who attended the

Institute for Leadership Education and Leadership national conference at the University of Vermont.

Highlighting the refreshed calu.edu homepage, Christine Kindl, vice president for Communications and Marketing, introduced Jeff Bender, director for Digital Communications.

He presented details of an updated homepage that completes the online rebranding of calu.edu, a multiphase project that captures the spirit of Cal U's current Build You advertising campaign.

The new design conveys the value of a Cal U degree and provides navigational waypoints so users can access important information, such as admissions events and news items, with ease.

Cal U's home page receives 2 million views per year. Bender said.

Tony Mauro, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that the University raised more than \$4 million in cash, pledges and deferred gifts for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This was 4% higher than the seven-year fundraising average

University Trustees are scheduled to hold their next quarterly meeting Dec. 4.



A Fun Family Weekend

Skits and dance routines from the Cal U women's basketball team, pumpkins to decorate, inflatables that are super fun to bounce in.

It was all part of Family Day 2019, e centerpiece of a weekend Sept. 20-22 filled with family, friends and a lot of fun.

"Family Weekend has become a tradition for us," says student Frances Edlestein. "I don't make it home for Halloween during the semester, so we celebrate the holiday here at SAI Farn by decorating pumpkins as a family.

The pumpkins also were a hit for Ashley Lewandowsky's family: "My mom, aunt and cousins all came in for Family Weekend," she says. "It's nice making new memories together, and

a pumpkin!" In all, more than 600 peop registered for Family Day on Saturday, according to Melissa Dunn, director of Student Activities, Programming and Leadership. Events included a performance by the University Choir, guided kayaking, yoga, yard games and the Wildlife Society's annual Family

Field Day.

For some, it was a good time to check in with students.

"This is my son Ryan's first year at Cal U," says Ryan Frankenberry's mom, Colleen Wallace. "We wanted to support him as he studies mechatronics engineering technology.

Campus BRIEFS

Graduate School Information Sessions

California University's School of aduate Studies and Research will hold information sessions for those interested in master's or doctoral

programs: · Noon and 6 p.m. Monday,

Oct. 14 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 26 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, June 24
 The graduate school at Cal U
 offers both face-to-face classes and

degree programs delivered 100%

At the information session future students can meet with faculty, financial aid staff, current students and alumni to learn about the benefits of a Cal U graduate program. There will also be tours free applications and information on

duate assistantships.
Certificate and licensure
ograms are available in a variety of disciplines. Doctoral programs are offered in criminal justice, health science and exercise leadership, and education and administration

dership.
All information sessions are free, but online registration is requested at calu.edu/visit. A list of programs is available at calu.edu/academics. For more information about the School of Graduate Studies and Research, call 724-938-4187 or email gradschool@calu edu

Open House Oct. 14

On Oct. 14, Cal U welcom families to the second Open House of the fall semester. This open house is an Academic Experience Day, where visiting students will sit in on classes taught by Cal U faculty. Registration is at 9:30 a.m. in the

Natali Student Center. All students receive a free Cal U T-shirt at the end of the day. To register for an Open House

and see a schedule of events, go to calu.edu/visit or call 724-938-4404. The last scheduled open house will be Nov. 9

Alumnus to Give Reading

read from his book, Send Judah First. The Erased Life of an Enslaved Soul, from 4-5:30 p.m. Oct. 10 in Old Main Chapel.

Johnson earned his bachelor's

and master's degree in English at Cal U in 1994 and 1996. He has served as a faculty member in the department of academic enrichme at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and was director of the Frederick Douglass Institute for Academic Excellence. He is a founder of the Pennsylvania Association of Liaisons and Officers of Multicultural Affairs

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Geraldine M. Jones

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