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Cal U Joins Partnership for STEM Education

Cal U is joining the Carnegie Science Center and Chevron Corp. as a founding partner in the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development.

Launched Nov. 30 at the Science Center in Pittsburgh, the new “center without walls” is dedicated to improving education in the subject areas collectively known as STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“The Chevron Center ... encompasses the Science Center’s existing STEM education programs and brings together teachers, students, parents, corporations, universities, foundations and legislators to collectively address STEM education challenges,” said Ann Metzger, the Henry Buhl Jr. co-director of Carnegie Science Center.

In a news release announcing the launch, Metzger called the STEM subjects “key to maintaining our global competitiveness and driving our future economic growth.”

The new center will manage many of the Carnegie Science Center’s current programs for preschool through high school students, including its Science on the Road outreach programs. Among them is “Rockin’ Robots World Tour,” a



Cal U is a founding partner in the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development, which was launched Nov. 30 at the Carnegie Science Center.

hands-on exploration of robotics sponsored by Cal U.

“Our faculty members are excited about this partnership,” said Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations. “It aligns with the University’s special mission in science and technology, as well as our historic

role in preparing high-quality teachers to work in our public schools.

“We believe it will create opportunities for synergy, both with the Science Center and with industry, that can benefit our Cal U students and K-12 students throughout the region.”

Cal U has partnered with the

Carnegie Science Center in the past. In addition to sponsoring the “Rockin’ Robots World Tour” program, students in the Earth Sciences Department created StormFest, a hands-on exploration of geoscience hosted by the Science Center.

The University also provided educational programming in *roboworld™*, the Science Center’s permanent robotics exhibit that opened in June 2009.

“Cal U has built a reputation for world-class affiliations, and the Carnegie Science Center has certainly been among them. We look forward to working with all the partners in this new enterprise,” said University President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

“Cal U has long been a leader in STEM education. This new center directly addresses the need to engage both teachers and learners in these important subject areas, and it reflects Cal U’s mission of building careers in science, technology, engineering and math.”

Other founding partners in the Chevron Center for STEM Education and Career Development are Duquesne Light, Eaton Corp., LANXNESS Corp., NOVA Chemicals and the PPG Industries Foundation.

Convocation Center Ready to Host Commencement

Commencement ceremonies will be held for the first time in the new Convocation Center this week.

Graduate students will receive their master’s degrees and be vested in their academic hoods at 7 p.m. Friday.

Undergraduates will be awarded their diplomas at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Both ceremonies will take place in the arena of the new Convocation Center, which offers comfortable seating for family members and guests. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday.

The speakers

Dr. Barbara Chandler-Wright ’88 will address the master’s degree candidates. A longtime educator with a background in social work and counseling, she volunteers with a nonprofit organization that coordinates services for criminal offenders as they return to the community.

Chandler-Wright is the former executive director of East End United Community Center, which provides homework assistance and a safe, educationally stimulating environment for children and teens in Uniontown, Pa. The center also



Barbara Chandler-Wright



Teri Gass

offers programming for seniors and a Caring Corner for grieving children, adolescents and their families.

Before joining the community center in 2008, Chandler-Wright was director of Library and Learning Services at Community College of Allegheny County. She has been director of the Learning Assistance Center and Advisement Center at CCAC, an admissions coordinator at Westmoreland County Community College, and a case manager at Fayette County Mental Health/Mental Retardation and later at Goodwill Industries of Fayette County.

In addition to teaching at the community colleges, Chandler-Wright has taught graduate-level courses at Carlow University, in

Pittsburgh, and at Cal U.

She holds a bachelor’s degree from Marietta College, Ohio; a Master of Social Work from West Virginia University; a master’s degree in counselor education from Cal U; and a Doctor of Education in Administration and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

Insurance industry specialist Teri Gass ’77 will address the undergraduates.

A director at Aon Global Risk

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Cal U introduced the public to its new Convocation Center with festivities and an exciting afternoon of Vulcan basketball on Dec. 3.

Fans Wowed by New Home for Hoops

A new era in Vulcan basketball began Dec. 3 when Cal U introduced the public to its \$59 million arena at the New Convocation Center Tip-Off.

Both the men’s and women’s teams defeated Mansfield University in the first games played inside the 142,000-square-foot Convocation Center — the largest indoor venue between Pittsburgh and Morgantown.

A “grand opening” event will be held in April, University officials said, but a brief dedication ceremony for the new arena was held between the men’s and women’s games.

“The Convocation Center was built with the Mon Valley and all of southwestern Pennsylvania in mind,” said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

“This facility is a regional asset, as well as a substantial investment in the

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Tech Ed Students Win at Conference

Cal U captured seven awards, including two first-place finishes, when 34 members of the Technology Education Association of California (TEAC) competed last month at the Technology Education Collegiate Association Eastern Regional Conference.

TEAC is a professional organization for "tech ed" majors. The Cal U students took part in 11 contests, facing off against nearly a dozen East Coast schools during the Nov. 13-15 conference in Virginia Beach, Va.

TEAC students earned first-place honors in both Problem Solving and the Manufacturing contest, where Cal U has taken the top prize 11 times in the past 14 years.

TEAC members scored second-place finishes in Technical Challenge and K-5 STEM contests, and they took third place in Automated Systems, Instructional Modules and the poster contest.

As a result, TEAC members will compete March 13-15 at the largest technology conference in the world, the International Technology Education Association Conference in Long Beach, Calif.

In addition to competing, TEAC is committed to community service. Members recently assembled an indoor playground at The Village, a nonprofit child-care facility at the Center in the Woods.

Members also help to maintain a walking trail at the Center, participate in various community cleanups and work with Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Laura Hummell and Mark Nowak are TEAC's faculty advisers.



Coming Soon

Malarie Munden, an elementary and special education major, touches up one of the pieces that will be part of 'Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion,' which will be on display Jan. 2 through May 6 in the south wing of the Convocation Center. For more information, visit www.calu.edu

Cal U's Service to Vets Recognized

For the fourth consecutive year, Cal U has been named one of America's Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by *Military Advanced Education*, a magazine for service members who are continuing their studies.

MAE recognized Cal U for its convenient online offerings and GoArmyEd participation, tuition discounts to military students, dedicated Veterans Affairs Office and "world-class" service to veterans.

The *MAE* recognition is one of many honors Cal U has received recently for its service to veterans and military members.

Earlier this year *Military Times EDGE* magazine ranked Cal U fourth in the nation for its commitment to helping military veterans pursue higher education. Cal U is the only school in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to be included in the 2011 "Best for Vets" list. For three consecutive years, *G.I. Jobs* magazine has named Cal U one of the nation's top Military Friendly Schools. And since January 2009, Cal U



has been among an elite group of colleges and universities designated as "eArmyU schools" — preferred providers of online education for soldiers through the GoArmyEd portal.

About 230 military veterans attend classes on Cal U's campus in southwestern Pennsylvania. An additional 260 service members around the world are enrolled in Global Online, Cal U's Internet-based learning community.

The University's Office of Veterans Affairs provides military veterans and their families with assistance in many areas, including financial aid, academic advising, counseling and career guidance. An active Veterans Club offers information and opportunities for networking and community service.

"Cal U is proud to serve both veterans and service members on active duty," said University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "Cal U is committed to helping military members and their families meet their educational goals, whether they study on campus or complete their courses online."

AET Faculty Present at 2011 TEEAP Conference

Cal U administrator and faculty from the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology contributed to the 2011 conference of TEEAP, the Technology and Engineering Education Association of Pennsylvania.

• Associate Provost and past AET chair Dr. Stanley Komacek conducted an overview of how technology and engineering education can contribute to Pennsylvania's economic and workforce development efforts. At a Cal U alumni reception held during the conference, Komacek also received the TEEAP Lifetime Achievement Award.

• Dr. Laura Hummell presented "Instructional Technology Action Research: What Do Your Students Own, Operate, Want and Need." Attendees discussed using action research techniques, implementing technology assessments and incorporating instructional technologies in the classroom.

• Dr. Mark Nowak presented "Bio-Related Technology: What's New at Cal." He also distributed a compact disk describing lab activities developed to meet state Education Department and ITEA standards.

• Dr. Mark Bronakowski presented "Low Cost and Alternative Microcontrollers" and "Non-Robotic Applications of Microcontrollers." He compared and contrasted the microcontrollers' characteristics and



Dr. Stanley Komacek

discussed their use in non-robotic applications such as games, radio-frequency identification and greenhouses.

• Department chair Dr. John Kallis incorporated a live robot demonstration into his presentation on "RobotC-Problem Solve with Programming Tools."

Fifty Cal U students also attended the conference, which Nowak said

was not only a terrific networking opportunity, but also a chance to visit commercial exhibits showcasing state-of-the-art tools that students someday might use in their own classrooms.

The alumni reception at the conference enables current AET faculty to update alumni about growth.

"Our biggest recruiting tools are our graduates themselves. That's how we get most of our students to come, and we are proud to maintain a 100 percent placement rate for our graduates," Nowak said.

The TEEAP conference was held last month in Camp Hill, Pa.

The presiding TEEAP president is Dr. Daniel Engstrom, Cal U's director of student teaching and associate dean in the College of Education and Human Services. Immediate past presidents are Brandt Hutzel '00 and AET faculty member Dr. Peter Wright. The newly elected president is Michael Cichocki '96. Kallis is TEEAP's deputy president

Campus BRIEFS

Cadets in Line for Commissions

Lt. Col. Andrew Loeb will be the guest speaker when the Department of Military Science holds a commissioning ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

ROTC cadets Joseph Andrew Sinclair and Daniel Michael Brim will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Loeb has been ROTC commander and a professor of military science at the University of Pittsburgh since June. He was commissioned as an engineer officer in 1995 at the University of Dayton. He has served with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division (AASLT), and most recently with the 10th Mountain Division. He served three tours in Iraq and was stationed in the Republic of Korea. In more than 16 years of active service he has been a platoon leader, executive officer, assistant professor of military science, company commander, and battalion/brigade/division staff officer.

Loeb is a graduate of the Engineer Officers Basic, Advance Course, and the Command and General Staff College. He holds a masters degree in engineering management from the University of Missouri.

Spring Semester Starts Jan. 23

Students, faculty and staff are reminded of these important dates on the academic calendar:

- Jan. 23: First day of classes for spring semester.
 - Jan. 24: Spring Faculty Convocation, 11 a.m., Learning Resource Center auditorium in Morgan Hall.
 - March 12-16: Spring break for faculty and students.
- All University offices will be closed Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Writing Center Tutors Make Presentations

Cal U was well represented at this year's National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing (NCPTW), held last month at Florida International University in Miami.

Dr. Kurt Kearcher, associate professor of English and director of the Cal U Writing Center, and four Cal U students made presentations at three sessions during the conference.

Kearcher's presentation was titled "From Problem Solvers to Problem Finders: Developing Practicing Scholars and Practicable Scholarship in the Writing Center."

It described how the Cal U Writing Center is developing staff members' critical understanding of their tutoring work by encouraging them to think about teaching writing in innovative ways. This approach adds a critical, scholarly dimension to the "service" role often assigned to tutors and the writing center, Kearcher said.

Nate Folkemer, a senior political science major, addressed specific issues that arise when tutors and student writers meet.

His presentation, "The Initial Consult: An Alternative to 'Triage Tutoring,'" suggested having a student submit his or her paper to the tutor via e-mail before their face-to-face writing conference. The tutor then spends time becoming familiar with the writer's work and generating



Participants at the 2011 National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing included (from left) Dr. Kurt Kearcher, Leann Orris, Theresa Bush, Adam Kavulic and Nate Folkemer.

responses to that work before meeting with the writer in person.

"Being familiar with the paper prior to meeting allows the tutor and student to focus their discussion on specific revision strategies," Folkemer said.

Theresa Bush, a senior English and secondary education major, joined graduate students Adam Kavulic and Leann Orris, both in the Master of Arts teaching program, in a presentation inspired by the Cal U Fusion initiative.

The trio shared the results of their

research using the iPad 2 tablet computer to support their work in the writing center. The group evaluated available apps and explored effective ways of using the tablet as an alternative to traditional means of accessing information before, during and after tutorials.

Crista Colantoni, another graduate student in the MAT program, also contributed by submitting a video produced on an iPad 2.

In addition to presenting, members of the Cal U group attended several sessions

on topics related to writing centers and tutoring.

"I met a lot of dedicated people who shared my goals but approached them from a different point of view," said Kavulic. "I listened to a lot of presentations on ways to improve my tutoring and better help Cal U's Writing Center. It was an honor to contribute at this conference."

Kearcher currently serves as a member of the NCPTW's steering committee. Having staff members participate in such scholarly activity improves their service to the hundreds of Cal U students they work with each semester, he said.

"Not only were we able to make contributions to writing center scholarship, but we also were able to experience people and cultures different from those we are used to at home. In the writing center, where we work with students from a variety of cultural and writing backgrounds, this appreciation of differences is invaluable."

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and the Office of Academic Affairs provided funding for the students' trip.

The Cal U Writing Center in Noss Hall provides free tutoring to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information about the writing center and other academic support, visit www.calu.edu; click on "Information for ... Current Students" and choose "Academic Resources."

New Facility Wows Hoops Fans

— Continued from page 1

future of our University."

Music, family activities and giveaways gave the Tip-Off a festive air, and two \$1,000 scholarships were among the prizes awarded to Cal U students who attended.

Guests had fun with a photo booth set up in the spacious lobby, where the Student Government Association organized a collection of holiday toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots of Washington, Pa.

Basketball boosters may have come for the games, but the building itself was an early holiday treat for many Vulcan fans.

"It's awesome — even nicer than I ever imagined," said Jodie Dovec '03, who returned to her alma mater from North Huntingdon, Pa. "To have this on our campus is amazing."

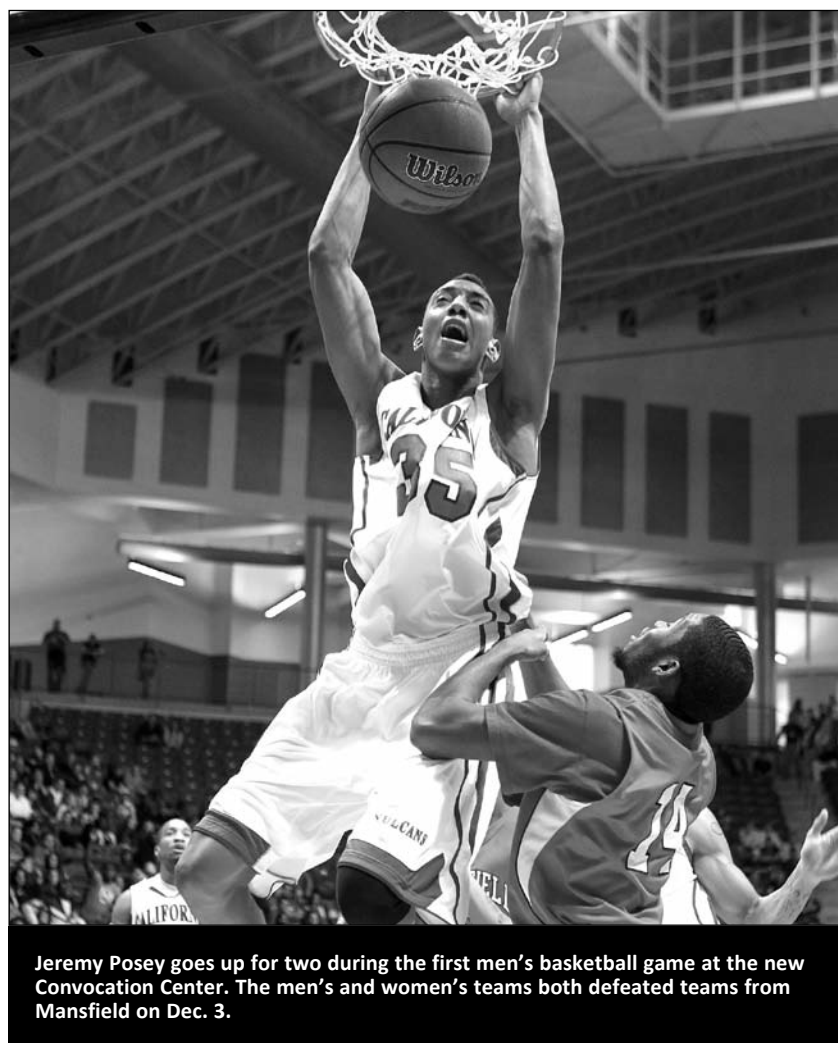
The state-of-the-art facility undoubtedly will help the Vulcans retain their home-court advantage. Over the past 10 years, the basketball teams combined have a 264-39 cumulative home record, with four undefeated home seasons.

"We are honored to call one of the premier facilities in the country our home," said men's head basketball coach Bill Brown, now in his 16th year.

"Anyone who plays in here or simply comes into the Convocation Center will realize California's commitment to excellence. Everything about it just beams class."

The pride of playing in the Convocation Center was evident.

"As a women's basketball student-athlete, I congratulate President Armenti and the administration for making this beautiful Convocation Center possible," said Stephanie Michaels,



Jeremy Posey goes up for two during the first men's basketball game at the new Convocation Center. The men's and women's teams both defeated teams from Mansfield on Dec. 3.

a junior biology major and team captain. "The students always come first here."

The arena can accommodate about 5,000 fans in comfortable fixed and retractable seating, with room for 1,000 more seats on the floor. It features a suspended electronic scoreboard and sound system, NBA-caliber baskets, and a premium hardwood floor that can be removed for events such as farm shows and trade shows.

The building also features two wings equipped with "smart" classroom and videoconferencing technology for academic use and executive-level conference services.

The University is poised to open a major exhibition in the south conference wing. *Leonardo DaVinci: Machines in Motion* will be open to the public through early May.

Outside the Convocation Center, electronic messages spiral around an 80-foot tower "painted" with digital images — a high-tech feature that's visible from the campus gates.

"The sturdy bell towers of Old Main remind us of the University's past," said President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "This new tower with its up-to-the-minute digital display speaks of the progress we have made to date and our aspirations for the future."

Center Ready for Commencement

— Continued from page 1

Consulting in Atlanta, she is responsible for developing pre- and post-loss mitigation strategies for major corporations.

Gass brings a financial focus to her work with clients. She has multi-line claims experience and special expertise in Workers' Compensation issues.

During her career Gass has worked in marketing and as a manager of customer service for insurance accounts throughout the southeastern United States, including 40 nationally ranked accounts.

A certified teacher of motivational and coaching courses for supervisors and front-line workers, she has developed improvement plans and audited both technical proficiency and interpersonal skills for employees.

Ms. Gass is a native of South Heights, Pa. Before moving to Atlanta in 1981 she worked as a child advocate for Beaver County Children and Youth Services, then entered the insurance industry as a multi-line claims adjuster for a major carrier.

Ms. Gass earned executive secretarial certification at Bradford Business School in Pittsburgh before enrolling at Cal U, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology with minors in political science and sociology. She also served as president of Cal U's chapter of the Delta Zeta sorority.

A licensed broker and counselor in Georgia, Ms. Gass has been a chartered property and casualty underwriter (CPCU) since 1990. She and her husband, Jim, have a daughter, Dina, who is a sophomore at Louisiana State University.

Free parking

Free parking is available on campus for graduating students and their guests. University Police will direct traffic, and Student Ambassadors will be on hand to guide visitors through the new building.

Cal U's 173rd Commencement recognizes students who completed their studies in August and December.

Nearly 720 undergraduates and more than 730 graduate students will receive their degrees, although not all will attend the ceremonies.

For more information, including directions and parking maps, visit www.calu.edu/commencement.

UTech Analyst Wins Fellowship

Eric Hartman, a systems analyst with University Technology Services, has been awarded a Jane N. Ryland Fellowship to attend an EDUCAUSE professional development event in the coming year.

The grant program was established to expand professional development opportunities for information technology professionals. It bears the name of Jane N. Ryland, president of EDUCAUSE from 1986 to 1998.

Hartman was recommended for the fellowship by his supervisor, Andy Caudill, and by Dr. Charles Mance, vice president for University Technology Services.

"As we convert to more of a customer service organization, we look for our team members to have these kinds of development opportunities," said Mance. "I think is great to see Eric recognized for his hard work, especially in helping with all the changes we are making with our Help Desk.

Formerly the lead for UTech's customer computing experience team, Hartman recently was appointed to the systems analyst's post. He will attend the EDUCAUSE New Managers IT Program, which focuses on providing first-time managers, or those aspiring to management roles, with basic management and supervisory skills.

The program will be held in conjunction with the 2012 EDUCAUSE Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Jan. 10-13 in Baltimore, Md.

Hartman, of Greensburg, Pa., worked for Westmoreland County Community College before coming to Cal U in April 2005.

"My background is more from a technical side," he said. "This program will benefit me considerably since my focus will be more project management-oriented now, as opposed to task management."

According to Dr. Diana G. Oblinger, President and CEO



Eric Hartman has been awarded a Jane N. Ryland Fellowship to attend an EDUCAUSE professional development event next month in Baltimore, Md.

of EDUCAUSE, Hartman was selected from a large number of strong applications.

"Our Fellowship Advisory Committee was impressed with the well-focused, practical commitment reflected in his application," she said. "Eric was selected by the Committee to receive this award based on their belief that his participation in the program will have a significant impact on his own career as well as a positive impact for his institution and for our profession."

Laser Lights, 'Fog' Urge Crows to Depart

Like the famous swallows that return each year to Capistrano, the crows came back to Cal U.

And University officials wasted no time in sending them on their way.

Beginning Nov. 26, Cal U began taking humane measures to move the large flocks of roosting birds off campus — before they created unpleasant and unsanitary conditions, as they did last fall.

By Nov. 30, staff from Facilities Management had sounded the "all clear," but they warned that the pesky birds might not be gone for good.

The crow dispersal program mirrored efforts that were successful in relocating the birds in 2010.

Trained and licensed pest removal technicians carried out the program, which is approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The technicians used bright lights and a natural, plant-based "fog" to disperse the flocks before they began to congregate on the Quad.

The anti-roosting measures do not harm the crows; they simply change the birds' roosting habits and encourage them to relocate. The laser lights and natural grape-extract mist employed by the technicians are not harmful to humans or other animals.

Ken Grzelak, assistant director for campus support services, asked campus police to keep an eye out for returning crows.

"Since crows are an intelligent bird and can be very persistent, there is no assurance that they will not return," he said in an e-mail.

"However, we are asking Public Safety to remain vigilant in their observation of the campus, as we are prepared to respond immediately."

Based on conversations with pest-removal technicians and wildlife experts, University officials had anticipated the crows' return. In Harrisburg, for example, a similar crow dispersal program is employed annually on the grounds of the Capitol Complex.

Last year the crows arrived at Cal U somewhat later in the season, and the relocation effort began in late December.

This year, the anti-roosting measures began while the University was closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Athlete Reflects on International Games

After helping the Canadian national senior softball team earn a silver medal at the 2011 Pan American Games, Cal U senior infielder Jillian Russell is hoping the experience can lead to PSAC and NCAA gold this spring.

Russell, along with former Vulcan standout Megan Timpf, represented Canada at the XVI Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. Canada won seven of nine games before bowing to Team USA in the gold medal game.

The two Vulcans combined for seven hits and four runs. Timpf scored the first run in Canada's 4-0 semifinal victory over Cuba, and Russell had one of the team's three hits in the championship game.

Russell, a two-time PSAC-West Player of the Year and 2011 third-team National All-American, said she enjoyed the ceremonies surrounding the Games.

"It was amazing," she said. "All of the Canadian athletes took part in a flag-raising when we got there, and the opening ceremony for me was the best part. It was just like what you see on TV, and I always dreamt about being a part of it. That was awesome."

Still, Russell said she was glad to return to Cal U, where she majors in justice studies.

"(My professors) were all very supportive and made sure I could do



Cal U senior infielder Jillian Russell helped the Canadian national senior softball team earn a silver medal at the 2011 Pan American Games.

everything I needed to before I left and when I got back," she said. "They were very understanding and very good to me."

This was Russell's second experience with international competition. In July she and Timpf helped Canada win the bronze medal at the World Cup of Softball, held in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Russell said the level of play is faster at international games. Primarily a shortstop at Cal, she played several positions for Canada and was in right

field for the title game.

Russell also did some bullpen catching and was used as both a pinch-hitter and pinch-runner.

She said playing for Canada can only enhance her game as she prepares for her final season as a Vulcan.

"Without a doubt, this gives me more confidence," said Russell, whose hometown is London, Ontario. "Being on that team helps you set a high mental standard for yourself."

Last spring Russell tied Cal U Hall of Fame inductee Jen Wagner's 1994 school record with 14 home runs in a single season. She batted .366, with 50 RBI.

Although the Vulcans captured the PSAC title last year, they won just one of five post-season games in 2011. Russell said she's determined to lead Cal to a better finish this spring.

"I love this team, and we are ready to go out and end on a good note this season," she said.

Head softball coach Rick Bertagnolli believes his senior captain's international experience benefits the entire team.

"Having this kind of world experience obviously helps her and brings notoriety to the program," Bertagnolli said. "But she also brings this back to share with the other players, and it just creates a championship atmosphere."

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Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.
University President

Geraldine M. Jones
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Lenora Angelone
Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Charles Mance
Vice President for University Technology Services

Ron Huiatt
Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Robert Thorn
Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance

Craig Butzine
Vice President for Marketing and University Relations

Christine Kindl
Editor

Bruce Wald, Wendy Mackall, Jeff Bender
Writers

Office of Communications and Public Relations 250 University Avenue California, PA 15419 724-938-4195 wald@calu.edu

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