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Vulcans' Academic Success Rate Best in PSAC

here's more to Vulcan athletics than success on the playing field. Cal U ranks first among the 16 PSAC schools for its Academic Success Rate, according to a report released late last month by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Introduced in 2005, the NCAA Division II Academic Success Rate, or ASR, is a rolling average of the graduation outcomes for student-athletes competing at this level.

Nationally, the latest figures show that 73 percent of the Division II class that entered college in 2004 graduated within six years of initial enrollment. The figure is comparable to last year's overall ASR, and it represents the highest graduation rate to date.

With 89 percent of its 2004 cohort graduating within six years, Cal U far exceeded the national average. The Vulcans also topped the 76.3 percent overall graduation rate for schools in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference.

The top three PSAC schools following the Vulcans in ASR were Millersville, at 87 percent; West Chester, 82 percent; and Gannon, 80 percent.

"I am very proud of our athletes, coaches and academic support staff whose efforts contribute to our great showing in the Academic Success Rate standings," said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

"While we are certainly proud of our



Kelly Collins, director of academic support (right), reviews coursework with Cal U women's volleyball middle hitter Gabriela Follmer, a sophomore.

athletes and coaches in terms of wins and losses, we are even more proud of them in terms of their academic success and high graduation rate."

Division II athletes graduate at a higher rate than their peers who do not compete in varsity sports, the report

Even when using the less-inclusive federal rate, which does not include transfer athletes and mid-year enrollees, Division II student-athletes perform significantly better than the general student body. The federal rate for Division II student-athletes is 55 percent, 6 percentage points higher than the overall student body at Division II colleges and universities.

The ASR data for Division II is similar to the Division I Graduation Success Rate (GSR), but it also includes student-athletes who do not receive

athletic scholarships, to account for use of the partial-scholarship model in Division II. The result is that the ASR provides a more accurate depiction of Division II student-athlete academic outcomes.

Grade reports

The academic success of Vulcan athletes is reflected not only in their graduation rate, but also in their grades.

Last spring the Cal U athletic teams collectively achieved a 3.17 cumulative grade-point average. This marked the 10th consecutive semester when the Vulcans' cumulative GPA stood at 3.00 or higher.

More than one-third of Vulcan athletes — 155 of Cal's 423 student competitors, or 37 percent — were named PSAC Scholar-Athletes for maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher.

More than 53 percent of those student-athletes were named to the Spring 2011 Athletic Director's Honor Roll for having a GPA of 3.00 or better.

And since last summer, five Vulcan teams — softball, women's swimming, women's tennis, and men's and women's track and field — have earned recognition as Academic All-Americans.

Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's associate athletic director and senior woman administrator, says the Athletics Department embraces the NCAA Division II philosophy of balancing academics and athletics.

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Cal U Among 'Best Colleges for Vets'

al U is ranked No. 4 in the nation for its commitment to helping military veterans pursue higher education.

Military Times EDGE magazine ranks Cal U behind only Concord (W.Va.), Eastern Kentucky and Rutgers (N.J.) universities in its second "Best Colleges for Vets" survey, a supplement to its November issue.

Cal U is the only school in the State System of Higher Education to be included in the 2011 "Best for Vets" list. The only other Pennsylvania school among the top 40 this year is the University of Pittsburgh, ranked No. 15.

Last year *Military Times EDGE* ranked Cal U at No. 37, which placed it among the top 1 percent of the 4,000 schools surveyed.

The magazine annually ranks institutions based on programs, policies and resources for veterans. Input from student veterans helps to establish the criteria, which include financial assistance for veterans, academic accreditation, graduation rates and the presence of a central veterans office with a knowledgeable staff.

The rankings are published online at www.militarytimesEDGE.com .

"Our Cal U veterans take pride in all we do, whether here on campus or online," says Capt.

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Indigenous Peoples Institute Aims to Expand Understanding

s she began her keynote address on Cal U's second annual Native American Day, activist Dr. LaDonna Harris promised her support for a new University institute that bears her name.

The LaDonna Harris Indigenous Peoples Institute will add another multicultural element to the Cal U experience and align with Harris' decades-long advocacy efforts on behalf of Native Americans, including her own Comanche people.

"The mission of the institute will be to expand the awareness and understanding of indigenous issues throughout the Cal U community by means of research, teaching, experiential learning and cross-cultural dialogue," University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. told an audience of about 300 who gathered for Harris' talk.

"The Institute will be guided by Dr. Harris' philosophies and world view."

Dr. Clarissa Confer of the Department of History and Political Science will lead the new institute. A specialist in Native American and U.S. social history, as well as the Civil War, she is the author of *The Cherokee Nation in the Civil War* and *Daily Life in Pre-Columbian Native America*. A third book, focusing on the Indian Wars, is under way.

In her talk, Harris described growing up in Oklahoma during the Great Depression and living in Washington, D.C., during the early days of the feminist movement.

Her address, "The Power of Indigenous Female Leadership," expanded on themes she had discussed with students earlier in the day, when she and four "ambassadors" from the advocacy group Americans for



Indian Opportunity visited Cal U classes.

Harris explained that she was reared by her grandparents, a situation that was not uncommon in her rural community. Her grandmother was a practicing

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Great American Smokeout is Thursday

'EART — Cal U's Health Education Awareness tobacco. Here's why: Resource Team — wants you to know that tobacco use remains the single largest preventable cause of disease and premature death in the nation.

That's the message of the Great American Smokeout event set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday in the Natali Student Center. Representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Health are expected to attend.

The Great American Smokeout is a nationwide event held annually on the third Thursday of November to encourage Americans to stop smoking

• An estimated 46 million adults in the United

States currently smoke, and about half of them will die prematurely from an illness related to smoking.

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for men and women, and more than 80 percent of lung cancers result from smoking.
- Smoking causes nearly one in five deaths from all causes.

The American Cancer Society held its first smokeout in 1977. The event challenges people to stop smoking cigarettes for 24 hours, hoping their

decision not to smoke will last forever.

At Cal U, HEART will distribute "quit kits" that include toll-free numbers to call for smoking cessation support, along with lollipops and other giveaways.

Examples of a healthy lung and a lung damaged by smoking will be on display, and information about the dangers of smoking and chewing tobacco will be available.

Smokers will receive literature about the Great American Smokeout, asked to refrain from smoking for just one day and to consider donating the day's "cigarette money" to charity. Non-smokers will be invited to sign an "I won't smoke" contract. For help quitting smoking, call 1-800-QUITNOW.

Vulcans Have Best PSAC Academic Success Rate

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She praised the department's academic support staff, which consists of Kelly Collins, director of academic support; Dr. Tony McGrew, an emeritus professor and academic adviser; and graduate assistant Mallory McCune. Collins was hired last spring after serving as a work-study student and graduate assistant under McGrew.

"Both Tony and Kelly have a passion for what they do and sincerely want to see every student-athlete be successful," Hjerpe said.

"They are tracking student-athletes on a daily and weekly basis to see if they are going to class and attending study halls, making sure tests are completed, and keeping them on track to graduation."

Their work pays off, said Dr. William Biddington, Cal U's NCAA faculty athletic representative and the former chair of the Health Science and Sport Studies program.

"The ASR is reflective of the support the student-athletes are receiving in the classroom from the efforts of many individuals who are involved in the academic preparation, study skills and mentoring programs," he said.

Team concept

Last winter the men's basketball team advanced to the post-season for the 11th time in 15 years. More important, said head coach Bill Brown, is the fact that 10 players earned a GPA of 3.00 or higher last spring.



Senior catcher Alyson Johnson, a Capital One Academic All-District II First-Team selection last spring, has helped Cal U's athletic program rank first among the 16 PSAC schools for its Academic Success Rate.

"These young men 'get it.' They realize that one day they will have to put their sneakers in the closet and pursue another path," Brown said. "However, it's truly a team concept at Cal U. From the President and the administration to our faculty and support staff, all of these people help our student-athletes develop a commitment to academics and a desire to earn their degree. All of us involved in Cal athletics are especially grateful to the faculty."

It makes a real difference, said senior Jerica Sneddon, an elementary education major and a PSAC Scholar Athlete who

competes with the women's track and field team.

"Everyone offers support in helping us find the time to be successful in both academics and our sports," she said. "I am proud to be a student-athlete at California University."

Dr. Tom Mueller, a professor of earth sciences and a Vulcan sports fan, credits the student-athletes for their academic commitment.

"They are the ones who have to work hard, acquire information after the fact, sometimes take exams at a later date and then stay up to date for the next

information," he said. "These students are mature and learn to have great timemanagement skills."

In the spotlight

The individual success of studentathletes puts the entire University in the

On the fields, courts and pools, Cal U has finished in the Top 15 in the national Learfield Directors' Cup in each of the last four years. The Directors' Cup annually honors institutions maintaining a broad-based program in both men's and women's sports. The Vulcans placed 12th last year in the Directors' Cup standings after finishing a conference-best No. 2 nationally two years ago.

For the past four years, Cal U has finished among the top three in the race for the Dixon Trophy, which is awarded annually to the PSAC member institution with the most successful all-around program. The Vulcans won it in 2009.

A former collegiate athlete, Hjerpe believes that Cal U's top-notch coaches, along with a caring faculty and effective academic support staff, are a winning combination for student-athletes and the Cal U athletics program.

"I think anytime that we can state that our student-athletes are graduating at a high rate, it's something to be very proud of," she said. "We are trying to build an all-around program of excellence, and this shows that Cal U is doing a great job of turning out student-athletes who are equipped to succeed in the workforce after they've graduated."

Soccer Player Captures PSAC Scholar Award

al U soccer player Kristen Orrett became the second Vulcan student-✓ athlete this fall to receive the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Champion Scholar Award.

Orrett, a senior defender, accepted the award Nov. 4 before the PSAC semifinals, where the Vulcans scored a 5-1 victory over Edinboro at the new Phillipsburg Soccer Facility.

Last month senior Tim Lahmers received the same award before the cross country championships at Lock Haven University.

New this year, the award is presented at each of the PSAC's 23 team championship finals. It honors the male and female athlete at each contest with the top cumulative grade-point average.

The selection criteria for the Champion Scholar Awards is identical to that of the NCAA Elite 88 awards, which recognize the student-athlete with the top GPA at each of the 88 NCAA championships.

A pre-education major, Orrett is already a three-time PSAC Scholar Athlete. A two-

time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District selection, she received first-team honors last fall. She currently has a 3.98 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) as a secondary education major with a concentration in social studies.

Orrett is a graduate of Pickering (Ontario) High School and a four-year starter at Cal U. Heading into the PSAC Final Four, she was fourth on the team in scoring, with six goals and one assist for 13 points.

Orrett has helped Cal U compile a 65-12-10 cumulative record during her four years on the team. The Vulcans reached the NCAA Division II national quarterfinals in her sophomore year and placed second at both the PSAC and NCAA Atlantic Regional tourneys

In the season before Orrett's arrival, the team won only four games.

She has helped the 2011 squad and fifthyear head coach Al Alvine make the program's third consecutive NCAA II postseason appearance.

Earlier this season, the team was ranked No. 2 in the nation.



Women's soccer standout Kristen Orrett is the second Vulcan student-athlete this fall to receive the PSAC Champion Scholar Award. The award was presented Nov. 4 at the PSAC Women's Soccer Championships, which Cal U hosted for the first time in school history.

Scholarship Dinner: A Time to Say 'Thanks'

early 500 guests attended the 15th annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner held Oct. 27 in Gallagher Hall.

"This evening is very special," said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "We are here to honor our students and the donors who contribute to their education."

President Armenti pointed out that Cal U is blessed to have such hard-working, committed and dedicated students, and he said the same holds true for those who support student scholarships.

"Our donors have all chosen to make a difference in the life of a student," he said.

The Scholarship Recognition Dinner is an annual event designed to give students an opportunity to thank their benefactors.



"These people care so deeply about California University and our students that they have donated a significant portion of their hard-earned money to invest in your future," the President told the scholarship recipients. "You earned that trust, and you deserve their support and faith. Tonight, you have the opportunity to share a meal with them and thank them personally for their benevolence."

For giving opportunities, call 724-938-5775.

Cal U Among 'Best Colleges for Vets'

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Robert Prah, director of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

"Being ranked No. 4 in the nation is an exceptional honor. It shows that Cal U is committed to helping students meet their educational goals and assisting veterans as they return to our campus."

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 Internetbased 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



'Military Times EDGE' magazine ranks Cal U fourth in the nation for its commitment to helping veterans pursue higher education. Shown above is Cal U student and veteran Joseph Hummel.

and career guidance. An active Veterans Club offers information and opportunities for networking and community service.

California University has been honored previously for its service to veterans and military members. 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. A gateway to higher education for soldiers stationed anywhere in the world, GoArmyEd.com gives service members easy access to programs offered through Global Online.

Institute Aims to Raise Awareness

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Christian, while her grandfather practiced "eagle medicine" and used peyote.

"It was a very interesting household to grow up in," she said. "My grandfather drove us to the mission church every Sunday and sat in the car while we were there. When we came home, he would sing his peyote songs as the sun went down, and that was his way of praying."

Although her grandparents' beliefs differed, "they always knew who they were and had a sense of self that shaped me as an individual," Harris said. That acceptance of differences led her to speak out not only on Native American issues, but also for women's rights, environmental causes and world peace.

She reminisced about the time she spent in Washington as the wife of U.S.

Sen. Fred Harris. There she joined women such as Rep. Bella Abzug and feminist leader Gloria Steinem in demanding equal rights.

"I was not involved because I was discriminated against as a woman, but I was patronized as a woman a great deal," she said. "I was kind of patted on my shoulder and not taken seriously, which was very frustrating. So I became an activist."

A founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, she also was a founding member of Common Cause and the National Urban Coalition.

As she described her early years, Harris emphasized Indian values she labeled "The Four Rs"— relationship, responsibility, reciprocity and redistribution.

"Relationship is the most important," she said, explaining that it encompasses community, national and global connections, as well as family ties.

"When you think about it, that's all there is," she said, noting that she refers to President Armenti as her "Italian brother" and he calls her his "Comanche sister."

"Kinship is so important. You have a responsibility to those relationships."

The Indian values of reciprocity and redistribution echo the University's frequent call to "pay it forward."

"The more you accomplish, the more you should give back," she said.

Harris first came to Cal U in 2007, when she presented a lecture in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition "Booming Out: Mohawk Ironworkers Build New York."

She returned to Cal U to receive an honorary doctorate in 2009,"and I consider myself an alumna now," she said.

Business Showcase Wednesday in Performance Center

The Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce is offering a Chamber Business Showcase from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday in the Performance Center.

Admission to the expo is free and open to the public. For more information, call 724-483-3507 or e-mail info@mvrchamber.org.

Cal U Hosts VEX Robotics Contests

ustom-designed robots will be playing games when Cal U hosts a pair of VEX Robotics competitions from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Performance Center.

Collegiate teams will compete on Friday, and teams from 10 regional high schools will participate in a world championship-qualifying event on Saturday.

The 2011 VEX Collegiate Challenge will feature teams from Muhlenberg College (Pa.), College of Southern Maryland, Alfred University (N.Y.) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

This competition is one of just three VEX Robotics collegiate contests in the United States.

On Saturday, 19 teams from 10 regional high schools will square off in the Western Pennsylvania VEX Robotics Competition.

The top two teams will qualify to participate in the 2012 VEX Robotics World Championship April 18-21 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif.

"By hosting this event, Cal U provides opportunity for regional high school teams to advance to the World Cup Event," says Mike Amrhein, director for the Office of Outreach and Integration of T.E.A.M.S. (Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Science) at Cal U.

Last year, a high school team from Connellsville, Pa., designed a robot that qualified at the Cal U event and went on to place fourth at the world championship.

Each year, VEX Robotics competitions change the games rules to ensure original robotic designs. This year's game, VEX Gateway, was developed by Innovation First Inc., a leader in educational and competitive robotics products.

In VEX Gateway, robots work in teams to score points by moving objects of various sizes across the playing field and through goals.

Hosting the contests at Cal U introduces students and teachers to the University and highlights Cal U's robotics, science and technology programs.

"When students from these teams come to campus, they see firsthand what a great University has to offer as they pursue their post-secondary education," Amrhein said.

VEX Robotics competitions are the largest and fastest-growing robotics programs in the world, with schools in more than 20 countries participating in some 200 tournaments around the globe.

"It gives students a chance to apply STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in a fun way and provides teachers with a focal point for their robotics education programs," Amrhein said.

"In robotics competitions, students must also apply leadership, teamwork, problem solving and gracious professionalism."

For more information, contact Mike Amrhein, director for the Office of Outreach and Integration of T.E.A.M.S., at 724-938-5906 or amrhein@calu.edu . To learn more about VEX Robotics and to see a video about the competition, visit www.calu.edu .

Lee Passes His Way into Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: Cal U held its 17th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 21. The Journal is profiling each of the 2011 Hall of Fame inductees.

Strong-armed Bill Lee was Cal U's starting quarterback from the end of his 1963 freshman season into 1966. With his induction last month into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame, he became the first quarterback in 10 years to receive the University's most prestigious athletic honor.

"I am very honored and humbled," Lee said. "When you take a look at some of the quarterbacks who have preceded me into the Hall of Fame, it's quite something to be in with that elite company. This is special."

Lee guided the Vulcans to a 21-14 victory over Edinboro in his first collegiate start, the season finale of 1963. Two years later the Vulcans and innovative head coach Bill Hepner ranked among the nation's top 10 in passing offense, and the 1965 team produced the program's eighth winning season in nine years.

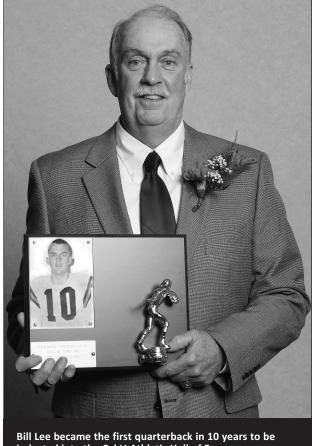
"I don't know if I could have played at many colleges other then California, because Bill Hepner had an offense I could fit into," said Lee. "He developed the insight in me to read defenses, and we were way ahead of the curve with the passing game for that era."

During his 1966 senior season, Lee passed for 367 yards, then a school record, and he earned PSAC Player of the Week honors in a 27-20 home victory over Lock Haven. (The previous school record was set by Ed Zielenski, who threw for 353 yards in 1953 against Washington and Jefferson College.)

At that time Lee ranked second in total offense among all NAIA players, but he suffered a seasonending separated shoulder the following week at Waynesburg. He was replaced at quarterback that season by Jeff Petrucci '69, also a member of the Hall of Fame.

Petrucci, who went on to be an All-American and later to coach the Vulcans for 12 years, credits Lee for changing the attitude of the team. The two were also high school teammates.

"He brought stability to the program, and he was very sincere," said Petrucci. "Lee was an exceptional thrower, if not the most mobile person, and he always got the job done."



Bill Lee became the first quarterback in 10 years to be inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

Petrucci said Lee could have held a grudge about his injury. Instead, he became Petrucci's mentor, the consummate team player and a very important figure in his personal life.

"I would have never played as a sophomore if 'Wort' had never gotten hurt," Petrucci said. "He took me under his wing and was very supportive. When I would come off the field, he would come up to me and tell me what the defenses were doing — because, quite frankly, I was a clueless young kid just trying to get things done.

"I never forgot that. I have always valued our

Lee, who was given his nickname by the paperboy at age 5, watched Petrucci lead the NAIA in total offense in both 1967 and 1968.

"He broke all my records, including interceptions," Lee joked. "God gave me a pretty good arm, but also very slow feet. I would run sprints with the tackles, and half of them would beat me. Jeff was so fast, so defenses could no longer just stay in a zone.

"I have the utmost respect for him."

Lee's primary receiver was another Hall of Fame inductee, Ettore Perri '66, who scored 27 career touchdowns, another school standard at that time.

Cal won four of five divisional games in 1966 and finished second in the PSAC-West. In all, the Vulcans achieved three divisional winning seasons during Lee's collegiate career.

Originally from Charleroi, Lee is a 1963 graduate of Charleroi High School. He was an all-conference quarterback under legendary coach Rab Currie and helped the 1962 squad win the section title with a final 8-1-1 overall record.

Lee was also a pitcher for the Cougars baseball team. His father, the late Frank J. Lee '24, played football and basketball at Cal and later was an assistant coach under Currie.

"I've been blessed to play for coaches like Rab Currie and Bill Hepner," Lee said. "I always played with an intensity that Rab Currie instilled in me at Charleroi. I just played to the best of my abilities and expected everyone else to do so."

During his undergraduate days, Lee became a PIAA licensed football official.

After earning his bachelor's degree in social studies and economics in 1967, he taught and coached football for nearly two years at Monongahela High School.

He stopped coaching at Mon City and for 28 years officiated football at the high school, junior high and midget league levels, including numerous WPIAL playoff games.

After leaving the classroom Lee worked for 13 years in pharmaceutical sales and management before joining his cousins' business, Lee Supply Co. He worked for 30 years as the company's environmental sales manager.

Now semi-retired, he still serves as a consultant. In 2009, Lee was inducted into the Solid Waste Association of North America's "Hall of Flame" for his many years of dedication to the solid waste

Lee is in his 11th year as the mayor of Speers, Pa.

Cal U for Life Campaign **Builds Awareness This Week**

ampaign-style signs and big, red bows tied around buildings will play a part in promoting awareness, appreciation and giving during Cal U for Life Awareness Week.

Today through Friday, 15 signs, each with the Cal U for Life logo, will deliver information about the University. Messages highlight the Student Association Inc., the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and campus landmarks, such as the statue of the late philanthropist Robert Eberly poring over a book in front of Manderino

Some buildings will be wrapped in ribbon with tags that read, "To the students from the taxpayers of Pennsylvania." Others tags will credit private donors for their role in constructing the building.

"The signs and ribbons basically help make people aware of where things on campus come from and how they were funded," said Ryan Jerico, coordinator of Student and Young Alumni Programs. "Although the students are targeted, we hope this week also carries over to the faculty and staff. We want the campus community

to be aware of our financial situation and our traditions. We hope the awareness will result in appreciation."

Throughout the week members of the Senior Gift Drive Committee will promote student philanthropy by offering information and games at tables in the Natali Student Center.

In 2010, the inaugural Senior Gift Drive raised more than \$8,000. The kickoff for the 2011 drive was held on Feb. 15, Tuition Freedom Day, when students thanked state legislators and Pennsylvania taxpayers for their support of state-owned universities.

This year's Senior Gift Drive already has raised more than \$7,000.

Jerico hopes Awareness Week also increases student engagement with their University.

"Any involvement that students have on campus is involvement in the Cal U For Life program," he said.

"President (Angelo) Armenti has said for years that all of PASSHE is being privatized without a plan, but Cal U has a plan — and Cal U for Life is a big part of

Archives, Special Collection Tour Set

s part of the Manderino Library Workshop Series, the campus community is invited to take a half-hour tour of the Archives and Special Collections that highlight Cal U history.

The fourth-floor archives — a delight for any individual with an interest in Cal U's nearly 160year history — may be one of the University's bestkept secrets.

The tour will begin at 11 a.m. in room 412 of Manderino on Tuesday.

Time will be available at the end of the session for those who would like to get an up-close view of special items or to learn more about the collection.

Library Workshops are informal, 30-minute ssions open to Cal U students, faculty and staff. Workshops provide more general assistance than class-specific sessions and count toward Education Seminar credit and noted on students' Activities Transcripts.

For more information, e-mail reference@calu.edu.

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