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**JOURNAL**

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Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Dr. Sugata Mitra led the Mission Day XIII activities, which focused on Mitra's idea of 'minimally invasive education.'

## Mission Day Explores 'Self-Organized Education'

**D**r. Sugata Mitra understands the motivational power of technology. In fact, he can envision using the popular online game Angry Birds to launch a lesson about project management skills.

Mitra's research into "minimally invasive education" and the use of technology in teaching and learning was the focus of discussion Oct. 26, at Cal U's 13th annual Mission Day.

Nearly 400 students, faculty and staff attended the event, which included Mitra's keynote address, a dozen breakout meetings and a question-and-answer session.

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. opened Mission Day XIII with a reminder that last year's Mission Day discussion focused on the Cal U Fusion initiative.

"The fusing of technology with learning and life was an important step forward in our thinking, since it opened up the possibility of student learning occurring not just 15 to 18 hours

per week in class, but actually 168 hours a week, which is 24/7," he said.

"As we saw last year, mobile technology has the power to enhance both the quantity and the quality of learning."

Calling Mitra's theory that "education is a self-organized system" both provocative and liberating, the President issued a call to action.

"An immediate goal today is to develop ideas and plans for how minimally invasive learning can advance our mission of building character and careers and propel Cal U to new heights of academic achievement as exemplified by distinguished teaching and inspired learning," he said.

Mitra is a professor of educational technology in the School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences at Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. This semester he is engaged in research and teaching at the Massachusetts

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## 'Extreme' Event Promotes Entrepreneurship

**S**tudents who dream of starting their own business can hear practical advice when the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour visits Cal U from 1-5 p.m. Wednesday.

The high-energy event in Steele Hall will introduce would-be business owners to the opportunities of entrepreneurship and explore ways they can help change the economy, create jobs for themselves and pursue their passions.

Hosted at Cal U by the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and Student Incubator, now based in Coover Hall, the event includes keynotes, exhibits, workshops and question-and-answer sessions led by some of the country's most successful young entrepreneurs.

In partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Campaign for Free Enterprise, the tour is intended to inspire students to look at entrepreneurship as a viable career path.

The Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour was created in 2006. In more than 200 events in 35 states, it has featured many of the country's top young entrepreneurs — including some who have built or sold successful companies for more than \$1 million before the age of 30.

"Our goal is to create a culture of entrepreneurship here on the Cal U campus," says Kelly Hunt, executive director of the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center.

"We want students to realize that starting a business can be one way to build a successful career."

Prospective entrepreneurs should be inspired, not intimidated, by the current economic climate, according to Michael Simmons, co-founder of the Tour.

"More than half the companies on the 2009 Fortune 500 list were launched during a recession or bear market," he said. "Technology and globalization have made it very inexpensive to start a business. Now is the best time to become your own boss."

The free program is open to the public, as well as the campus community.

Doors open at 12:30 p.m., and participants may attend all or part of the event.

Registration is requested; to register, visit [www.extremetour.org](http://www.extremetour.org).

To learn more about the event, or to view speakers' biographies or a video clip, check the "News" carousel on the Cal U homepage, [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).



## Sale of Clocks Boosts Scholarship Funds

**S**ales of neon clocks sporting the original Pittsburgh Penguins logo will support scholarships at Cal U, the hockey team's official education partner.

The one-of-a-kind, limited-edition wall clocks were created exclusively for the Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation.

Depicted on the clock face is the very first Penguins logo, created in 1967. This original logo was used on official pucks and team stationery, but

it first appeared on a jersey this year, when Pens players wore it during the Winter Classic game.

The logo on each 20-inch wall clock is illuminated by a long-lasting neon tube. Each timepiece has a spun aluminum bezel and a sweep-style second hand that rotates smoothly around the face.

The clocks are manufactured by Perryopolis-based Image Time Inc., whose founder and owner,

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# Trafficking Summit Set

Please care. That's the message that Dr. Peg Christopher and a group of students in the Department of Social Work used in February 2010 to grab the attention of the National Center for Mission and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

After a year and a half of hard work by more than 100 students, NCMEC is partnering with Cal U to present "Shatter The Silence: A Campaign Against Child/Adolescent Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking."

The free summit will take place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday in the Performance Center.

"The purpose of this event is to draw attention to a growing epidemic of sexual exploitation and trafficking among children and adolescents and to build multidisciplinary community-based coalitions to identify, rescue and rehabilitate victims and survivors," said Christopher, an associate professor in the Social Work Department.

Pennsylvania is known as a "pass-through state" for traffickers, and communities need to be aware of the problem, she said.

The core information to be discussed at the event stems from student-created training material designed to help build community awareness about child/adolescent sexual exploitation and trafficking.

The training material grew from humble beginnings.

In February 2010, Christopher presented a poster on the topic at the Association of Maternal Child Health Programs Conference in Washington, D.C.

The poster featured the phrase "please care," with each letter representing an action local communities could take to stop the epidemic.

After receiving many compliments on the poster's topic, Christopher started incorporating the message into her Human Sex and Society class.



"The most difficult part for faculty in assigning these projects is to stay in the background, offering just enough help to get the students organized and then, like a fly on the wall, silently observing without becoming intrusive," Christopher said.

"When we do this, we are sometimes amazed at the synergy that a group of students can generate."

Students participating in her fall class created a small presentation that Christopher shared at Cal U's Academic Excellence Day last year. NCMEC then invited the summer class to develop presentations to carry the message to local communities.

The organization even sponsored an online webinar so students could share their ideas with others. The students continued to develop more than 200 slides of training material to reach multiple demographics.

"Children are one of the most vulnerable populations in the world, and they depend on adults to guide them and provide for them," said Liz Gordon, a senior social work major who is involved in the project.

"As a social worker, a concerned citizen and a mother, I take this personally and want to educate those around me when I can."

The students' passion for the subject impressed NCMEC, which offered to partner with them in hosting a summit at Cal U.

At the event, students will hold an open forum to discuss their training materials. Guest speakers will represent various segments of the campus community, as well as local, national and international organizations involved in putting a stop to this new form of slavery.

"My favorite part of this assignment will be being part of 'Shatter The Silence' and the forum that is happening on campus," said Gordon.

"It is exciting when people want to know more about such a silent subject."

For more information, contact Dr. Peg Christopher at 724-934-5358 or christopher@calu.edu.

## Cal U to Join National Veterans Day Roll Call

Cal U will mark Veterans Day on Friday by participating in the Remembrance Day National Roll Call.

The names of the more than 6,200 military members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in the 10 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks will be read outside the Natali Student Center and at schools nationwide starting at 8 a.m.

At 2 p.m., Cal U will join with these schools for a minute of silence to honor the fallen service members.

The Roll Call is expected conclude at approximately 4 p.m.

Names will be read in chronological order, starting from 2001.

The Remembrance Day National Roll Call is sponsored nationally by the Veterans Knowledge Community of NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. NASPA is a 12,000-member association for the advancement, health and sustainability of student affairs professionals.

At Cal U, the event is being organized by the Veterans Club.

Cal U is inviting the relatives and friends of fallen service members to participate in the Roll Call by reading the name of their loved one.

"We want to rally our campus and local communities to send a powerful message to the troops currently serving that we have not forgotten their service and sacrifice, and we certainly have not forgotten the fallen," said Robert Prah, a captain in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and director of Veterans Affairs at California University of Pennsylvania.

"The reading of each individual name is extremely powerful because it emphasizes the significance of each and every life lost in the last 10 years."

To participate in the reading of a loved one's name, please contact Prah at 724-938-4076 or veterans@calu.edu.

## 'Self-Organized Education' Mission Day Focus

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Institute of Technology.

He began his keynote address by reminding the audience that a decade ago, devices such as tablet computers and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter did not exist.

"It's really hard to imagine ... what we used to do with computers then and what we do with them now," he said. "And 2021 is going to be at least as different. ... When that happens, all of education has to change."

Mitra went on to describe his landmark "hole in the wall" project, which demonstrates the power of curiosity to stimulate self-instruction and peer-shared knowledge. He and his research partners placed an Internet-connected computer behind a hole in a wall in urban slums and rural villages in India, and then repeated the experiment in Cambodia and South Africa.

A hidden camera showed children playing with the device, although they never had been taught to use a computer. Soon they were looking up information online — and teaching each other what they had learned.

"Everywhere on Earth there are places where there are no schools and good teachers will not go," he said.

"Learners left without a learning method have invented a better way. Groups of students can teach themselves if motivated by their peers and curiosity, regardless of who they are or where they are."

After late-morning breakout sessions, President Armenti and Mitra returned to Steele Hall to host an interactive plenary session where the Mission Day discussions were reviewed.

Despite the emphasis on technology and self-motivated learning, President Armenti noted there would always be a need for teachers, and for libraries where information can be housed.

Before giving away a few door prizes, including two



\$500 scholarships, the President introduced Dr. Joseph Zisk, director of Cal U's new Teaching and Learning Center, and invited Mitra to return next year to see how the University's technology initiative has progressed.

Dr. Pratul Pathak, a Mission Day coordinator, said he believes the event was successful.

"The turnout was impressive, and it shows an appreciation of the President's commitment to raising awareness of the changing pedagogy with its serious implications for Cal U, and the need for an appropriate response from the campus community," he said.

Pathak also expressed his thanks to the facilitators and recorders who guided the Mission Day breakout sessions.

For a look at photos from Mission Day XIII, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).



At top, keynote speaker Dr. Sugata Mitra offers insight during a breakout discussion during Mission Day XIII. Above, Monica Ruane leads a discussion during a breakout session.



# Security Expert Stresses ‘Personal Resilience’

During her keynote address at Cal U’s fifth annual Conference on Homeland and International Security, retired Maj. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch ’84 emphasized the need for individual strength as she discussed the state of U.S. security 10 years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The theme for this year’s conference was Transnational Crimes and Security.

“Yes, we have made significant progress with our intelligence and security personnel,” said Barbisch, president of Global Deterrence Alternatives and director of the Institute for Global and Regional Readiness.

“But we must continue to improve our personal resiliency.”

In her keynote address, Barbisch touched on natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, as well as recent developments such as last month’s earthquake in Turkey, Hurricane Rina in Florida, and pandemic diseases such as encephalitis, which has killed more than 460 people, mostly children, in northern India.

It takes at least 72 hours to plan a disaster relief effort and begin bringing in



Retired Maj. Gen. Donna F. Barbisch ’84 emphasizes the need for individual strength while delivering the keynote address at Cal U’s fifth annual Conference on Homeland and International Security.

aid, said Barbisch, who had a 38-year career in the U.S. Army before she retired from the military. During that time, she said, people must be self-sufficient.

“Natural disasters provide

opportunity for terrorist groups,” she said. “They cannot be stopped, but by being resilient we can mitigate the losses.”

Barbisch offered a R-E-A-L Time

Approach to attaining resiliency: Reality-based planning and execution, Engaging with all stakeholders, Adapting to the environment, and Leadership and timeliness.

“The people with shared roles and responsibilities must connect the dots with everyone so they know who has what resources,” she added. “In an emergency, more time is not an option.”

Also speaking was former special agent Mark Camillo ’76, a law enforcement and security professional who specializes in emergency preparedness operations. He is senior vice president of strategic planning for Contemporary Services Corp., the world’s largest event security firm, and president of Apex Security Group, an affiliated executive security company.

The conference was sponsored by the Department of Justice, Law and Society at Cal U.

Co-chairs of the event were Dr. Michael Hummel, associate professor of Leadership and Security Studies, and Dr. Emily Sweitzer, associate professor of Justice and Behavioral Crime and director of the Justice Studies program.



Ryan Sittler, shown above working with Cal U students Liz Lynerd and Nick Thomas, was a guest lecturer last month at Alvernia University’s Greater Reading Literary Festival.

## Poet-Librarian Guest at Festival

He’s a poet, a videogame designer, a librarian and a self-described “creative eclectic.”

Last month Ryan Sittler added “guest lecturer” to the list.

An assistant professor of instructional technology and an information literacy librarian in the Department of Library Services, Sittler spoke Oct. 26 at Alvernia University’s Greater Reading Literary Festival in Reading, Pa.

The three-week festival, held Oct. 3-28, was part of the countywide Reading Reads program. This year’s theme was “Strengthen Our Values.”

The poet laureate of Berks County, Pa., from 2002-2008, Sittler discussed the creative endeavors that have led to his career in writing, book publishing, award-winning educational game design, and teaching for a handful of universities and community colleges.

A native of Berks County, Sittler

lived in Oley and then briefly in Muhlenberg before coming to Cal U in 2007.

Growing up near his grandfather’s farm shaped his view of the area and its people. His perception is reflected in much of his published poetry, especially “Child’s Forest” and “Seeds,” which was commissioned for the opening of a new building in the Oley Valley School District.

“Ryan has proven to be a great addition to the Library Services faculty,” said Douglas Hoover, dean of Library Services. “He is a scholar in the truest sense of the word, and he continues to impress us with his enthusiasm and knowledge.”

“This guest lecturer invitation was just the tip of the iceberg of the great things he is doing for the library and for the University.”

Last year, Sittler and five of his fellow doctoral students at IUP produced an educational videogame that was awarded first place in the

Caspian Learning Co.’s Serious Game Challenge.

Caspian Learning, based in the United Kingdom, launched the challenge at the 2010 Game Based Learning Conference in London. Sittler’s group used Caspian’s Thinking World technology to create a literacy information game called “A Planet in Peril: Plagiarism.”

In the game, a student uncovers the secret of a group of aliens who are disguised as academics at his university campus. The aliens have prophesied the end of the world, which is set to occur because of a student’s excessive plagiarism. It’s up to the hero to prevent disaster.

While working through the challenges, players learn about what constitutes plagiarism and ways to avoid it.

The game is targeted at college and university students, but it has found an audience among high school students, as well.

## Clocks Benefit Scholarships

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Bob McKeown, graduated from California in 1980.

Retail price is \$299.99 — and every sale benefits Cal U students. For each clock purchased, Image Time will donate \$25 to a Cal U scholarship fund. The Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation will make an additional \$50 donation to a scholarship for students seeking teacher certification in early childhood or elementary education.

Sales of the clock also support Pittsburgh Penguins Foundation projects such as Heads Up Pittsburgh, which provides baseline concussion testing and education; Explore Series, a free educational series for kids ages 7-14 at CONSOL Energy Center; Project Power Play, which brings multi-sport deks to communities in the region; and programs that provide free hockey equipment and playing opportunities for young people.

“The mission of the Penguins Foundation is centered around development of our region’s youth, and there is no better way to have an impact than supporting the development of teachers,” said Dave Soltesz, president of the foundation.

“With this in mind, we are creating a scholarship fund at Cal U as an enticement for students to pursue a professional career in early childhood and elementary education. This scholarship, offered through Cal U’s Department of Early, Middle and Special Education, will help deserving students prepare to become successful educators.”

As public support for higher education wanes, universities must look for creative ways to help students, says Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations at Cal U.

“This is one more example of how the University’s ongoing partnership with the Pittsburgh Penguins benefits Cal U students,” Butzine said. “And we are pleased to collaborate with Image Time, a local business owned by an alumnus, to make this product available to Penguins fans.”

“This three-way partnership puts Cal U’s entrepreneurial spirit to work on behalf of our most important customers — our students.”

The Pittsburgh Penguins logo clock will be sold for a limited time only. Cost is \$299.99; to order online, visit [www.pittsburghpenguinsfoundation.org](http://www.pittsburghpenguinsfoundation.org).

The clocks are displayed on Penguins’ home game nights at the foundation’s booths in the main and upper concourses of CONSOL Energy Center.





## Happy Homecoming at Cal U

Under sunny skies, Cal U celebrated its 2011 Homecoming on Oct. 22 with a parade that took viewers 'Around the World.' A variety of campus activities concluded with an afternoon of Vulcan football at Roadman Park. Students Cory Strennen and Ashley Gill, seen at left with President Angelo Armenti, Jr., were crowned King and Queen during halftime festivities. Then the Vulcans rallied for an exciting overtime victory over conference rival Mercyhurst to cap off the annual celebration. Above, Jasmin Runner get hugs and gives Ava Martinec a stuffed bunny during the parade festivities.

# ROTC Cadet in Top 10 Percent Nationwide

Cal U senior Ben Snyder has been ranked among the top 10 percent of ROTC cadets nationwide.

Snyder, who is majoring in geographic information systems and emergency management, with a minor in leadership, ranks 589th among nearly 5,900 cadets across the country.

The national ranking is compiled by the U.S. Army Cadet Command, headquartered in Fort Monroe, Va. — the organization in charge of all ROTC programs throughout the United States.

Snyder achieved his ranking based on the Order of Merit, a list comprising factors such as cumulative grade-point average, a Leader Development and Assessment course that must be completed by all cadets during the summer before their senior year, and a cadet's ranking in the battalion based on the observations of the professor of military science.

Snyder has achieved a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average and is a member of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, where he is his unit's acting executive officer. He also is involved in Cal U's Army ROTC program and Sigma Alpha Pi, the National Society of Leadership and Success.



Shown here conducting the 'Table of Remembrance' ceremony at the 2010 Cal U Veteran's Day Luncheon, Ben Snyder has been ranked among the top 10 percent of ROTC cadets nationwide.

For the past two summers he has interned with Pittsburgh's National Energy Technology Laboratory. NETL, one of the U.S. Department of Energy's

national labs, focuses on providing secure, reliable energy at reliable prices.

Last year Snyder was awarded a 2010 Excellence in Environment, Security, Safety and Health Award presented by the Office of Fossil Energy. He was part of a team recognized for its work on "Incident Response Pre-Plan," an emergency response tool created as part of the NETL internship, which is funded by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Snyder and the team created a field-use tool based on information extracted from site maps in a GIS platform. Designed to be used for incidents involving NETL facilities, the tool addresses the need for emergency response personnel to retrieve physical data about those facilities quickly.

He continued working on this project last summer. "Ben is very passionate about his learning and everything he does," said Dr. Tom Mueller, Snyder's internship faculty adviser. "Clearly his hard work is paying off."

Snyder is on track to graduate this May and will be receiving a National Guard commission into the Field Artillery Branch as a second lieutenant.

# Senior Runner Captures PSAC Scholar Award



Successful on the course and perfect in the classroom, Cal U senior Tim Lahmers (25) was one of two students to receive the inaugural PSAC Champion Scholar Award.

Cal U senior Tim Lahmers was one of two students to receive the inaugural Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Champion Scholar Award.

Presented at each of the PSAC's 23 team championship finals, the award honors male and female student athlete at each contest with the top cumulative grade-point average.

Lahmers accepted the award Oct. 22 at the PSAC Cross Country Championships at Lock Haven University. Student-athlete Lisa Lower, of East Stroudsburg University, also received the award.

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

across divisions I, II and III.

After accumulating 118 credit hours, Lahmers owns a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average as a double major in earth sciences and mathematics.

He has been a two-time U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic recipient in his career, and he was named a Capital One Academic Second-Team All-District selection last spring by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

"Tim symbolizes what a student-athlete is all about," said Daniel Caulfield, Cal U's head cross country coach.

"He succeeds athletically and academically because of his commitment, discipline and talent. Tim has earned this honor and is most deserving of any accolades he receives."

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Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.  
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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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