

California University  
**JOURNAL**

Volume 13, Number 21 SePT. 12, 2011

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President Angelo Armenti, Jr. addresses the faculty inside the Learning Resource Center auditorium in Morgan Hall.

## 'We Choose Our Decisions,' President Says

**"I**f you want to be successful, put your effort into controlling the sail, not the wind." Urging faculty to work within their "circle of influence," University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. used that aphorism as the theme of his State of the University address, delivered Aug. 30 at the Fall 2011 faculty convocation.

Noting that Cal U faces a "gathering cloud of great challenges," especially in terms of finances, he vowed to "make the necessary choices to remain financially viable" and to protect the "academic core" of the University — teaching, research and service.

State funding for higher education is experiencing a permanent decline, the President said, and as a state agency the University remains subject to a host of political and legislative decisions. Still, Cal U competes in the open marketplace for students, grants, private donations, public image and productive partnerships.

"The mission of higher education must not go away — we cannot allow that," the President said. "We must not be timid now. ... While we may not choose our conditions, we can certainly choose our decisions."

This year, those decisions must be made in the context of drastically reduced public funding. Total appropriations to Cal U are about \$8 million less than in 2009-2010, when federal stimulus dollars supplemented state funds.

The expiration of the federal stimulus program, coupled with the decline in state appropriations and sharply higher expenses for health care benefits and retirement contributions, totals \$15.6 million over the past two fiscal years.

"We're back where we were (budget-wise) in 2006-2007, not taking inflation into account," the President said.

The University must respond by being more

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## Constitution Day: 'Kids Talk Democracy'

**S**ixth-graders will share their views on a variety of politically themed topics when the Cal U community observes Constitution Day with "Kids Talk Democracy II," a panel presentation at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 20 in the Old Main Chapel.

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the U.S. Constitution. The late Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia authored legislation that requires all schools that receive federal funding to hold a Constitution Day event each year.



The 2011 Constitution Day program at Cal U will begin with welcoming remarks by President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

Then a group of sixth-grade students from Ben Franklin Elementary School in Uniontown, Pa., will answer a series of questions about democracy, freedom, and their hopes and dreams.

Moderator will be Dr. Holly Diehl, an associate professor in the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education.

"It's refreshing to see young students interested in our country and in democracy," said Diehl. "Although their insights make us smile, they often give us food for thought."

The students' lighthearted, yet sophisticated take on government and politics is what previously drew the attention of Cal U faculty.

Last year, the American Democracy Project Advisory Board enlisted the help of Diehl and Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, to interview young students about the meaning of democracy and other topics.

"The students demonstrated an

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Cal U students listen to Forever the Sickest Kids perform at Party in the Park on Sept. 1.

## Party Time, Vulcan Style

**R**oadman Park was the place to be Sept. 1 when Cal U kicked off both the Labor Day weekend and the 2011 Vulcan football season with the sixth annual Party in the Park.

The pre-game party at Roadman Park featured a Welcome Back Picnic hosted by President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and free performances by the Pittsburgh-area band Beyond Daylight and Dallas-based pop punk group Forever the Sickest Kids.

After the pre-game festivities more than 5,000 fans watched the PSAC-West champion Vulcans open the season with a tough defeat at the hands of nationally ranked St. Cloud State (Minn.).

Despite that setback, students, alumni and community members said they enjoyed the event.

"I thought it was pretty cool," said Steve Poorbaugh, a senior justice studies major who lives in Vulcan Village. "I liked the atmosphere with the crowd, the music and the picnic. The park area is a nice to place to hang out."

Cal U's scenic south campus and the enthusiastic audience made a positive impression on Jonathan Cook, lead singer of Forever The Sickest Kids.

"It was absolutely incredible playing here at Cal U," he said. "A lot of times we come to

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# 'We Choose Our Decisions,' President Tells Faculty

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entrepreneurial, he said. As examples, he cited Cal U Global Online, which continues to grow, and the potential of the River's Bend executive conferencing initiative.

## Enrollment uptick

Student enrollment also plays an important role in University finances. Citing figures for the first day of classes, the President reported a 1 percent increase in the undergraduate headcount and a 3 percent increase in graduate enrollment, for a total increase of 1.4 percent.

If the figures hold through the 16th day of classes, when the official headcount is reported, Cal U will mark its 14th consecutive year of enrollment growth.

"You can help by recruiting good students to Cal U, and by always having a positive attitude," President Armenti said. "Our students deserve our best efforts."

During his presentation the President also:

- Joined Provost Geraldine Jones in congratulating faculty who received tenure or a promotion, and welcomed new faculty members.
- Noted that this year's Mission Day speaker will be Dr. Sugata Mitra, whose "hole in the wall" project demonstrates the power of curiosity to stimulate self-instruction and peer-shared knowledge.
- Provided an update on the Cal U Fusion initiative. Dr. Joe Zisk will head the new Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), which initially will focus on helping faculty make optimal use of mobile devices and "smart classroom" technology. In addition, a new application suite, powered by Blackboard, is available in the iTunes and Android app stores, and robust attendance, "flash card" and polling apps soon will be available to faculty.
- Announced that 27 percent of the campus Wi-Fi

project has been installed, with "hot spots" in residence halls, Natali Student Center and the Eberly Science and Technology Center. The \$7 million smart classroom project also is under way, with completion slated for next year. So far, 20 rooms have been finished.

- Gave updates on construction progress at the Phillipsburg soccer facility, scheduled to open Sept. 5 and to be dedicated on Family Day, Sept. 24; the Convocation Center, scheduled for use during basketball season with a grand opening event in spring; and other ongoing projects.

- Discussed Cal U's designation as the first FranklinCovey Leadership University and the new Cal U *Leader for Life* program, which offers multilevel training for students, faculty and staff in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. The program was introduced to about 1,500 potential participants during New Student Orientation.

## APSCUF report

Before the President's address, Dr. Michael Slavin, president of the faculty union, reported that little progress has been made in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement between the State System and APSCUF. Members will continue to follow the old agreement, which expired June 30.

"Nothing has changed" regarding parking on campus, Slavin added. Current policies and fees remain in effect while the Labor Relations Board looks into the union's concerns.

A pilot program for faculty evaluations will begin this year, and Slavin has set a goal of creating a conflict resolution committee to help iron out "faculty vs. faculty issues."

"You are the people who touch our students' lives on a daily basis," Slavin told the faculty. "All of you make a difference. You help shape the future."



At top, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. urges the faculty to work within their 'circle of influence' during his State of the University address at the Fall 2011 faculty convocation. Above, Drs. John Nass (left) and Michael Hummel react to Dr. Armenti's remarks during convocation.

## Party in the Park 'pretty cool'

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college campus and won't know what to expect, but today we got asked for a two-song encore. I would come back here tomorrow morning if they asked us. I loved it."

Known to fans as FTSK, the band did not disappoint partygoers.

"My favorite part of Party In The Park was seeing Forever The Sickest Kids," said senior Jenna Geary. "It is great that the University does this. It brings the students together and everyone has fun."

Local businesswoman and alumna LaRae Dillon '01 said the annual party had something for everyone.

"This is a great way to start the new school year," she said. "With the alumni tent and all of the activities, this event really offers a lot to the community."

Cal U football returns home for a 3:30 p.m. Family Day clash against Clarion on Sept. 24. For information about all of Cal U's varsity athletic teams, visit [www.calvulcans.com](http://www.calvulcans.com).



At top, Cal U students Andrea Kusiolek (center) and Emily Smalich (right) volley back beach balls and listen to the performance by Forever The Sickest Kids at Party in the Park on Sept. 1. Above, Cal U students Krista Wineland, a secondary education and history major, and friend Cole McLaughlin, 20, a secondary education and history major, relax with a picnic lunch and listen to the band.

## Annual Health Fair Set for Wednesday

Cal U students and other members of the campus community will find "A Wealth of Health" at California University's 24th annual Health Fair, set for 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center.

The free event is open to the public, as well as to Cal U students, faculty and staff.

This year, more than 30 representatives from the health care industry will present information about various health and wellness topics, including diabetes, smoking cessation, orthopedics and more.

Health screenings and giveaways are planned, and a local disc jockey will provide music.

For a fee, attendees also can receive flu shots administered by staff from Centerville Clinics.

Off-campus sponsors of the event include 1<sup>st</sup> Stepp Family Chiropractic; Adagio Health; Aetna CHIP; AVI FoodSystems; Avon; Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region; California Cosmetic and Family Dental; California Family Medicine; Canonsburg General Hospital; Central Blood Bank; Centerville Clinics; Coffee Connections; Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control; Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania; Dr. Bernard Dolobach; Fayette Podiatry Associates Inc.; Greenbriar Treatment Center; Highlands Hospital; Highmark Blue Shield; Jeffreys Medicine Shoppe; Making Strides Against Breast Cancer; Mary Kay Cosmetics; Martinelli Eye & Laser Center; Mon Valley YMCA; Monongahela Valley Hospital; Orthopedic & Sports PTA Inc.; Porreca Chiropractic Center Inc.; American Red Cross; SPSHS C.A.R.E. Center STTARS; Washington County Health Partners Inc.; Washington Drug & Alcohol Commission Inc.; and Washington Ob/Gyn Associates.

For more information about the Health Fair at Cal U, contact nurse practitioner Fran Fayish at 724-938-5922.

# Interns Experience Chile

Six students recently traveled to Chile to begin an educational partnership between Cal U and two schools in that South American nation.

Andrea Cencich, an instructor of Spanish in Cal U's Modern Languages and Cultures Department and a native of Santiago, Chile, accompanied the students who participated in the three-credit internship.

The group stayed with Cencich's parents, Maria Angelica Valdes and Mario Valcarce.

Maggie Fike, Bethany Romano, Charisse Varga, Sarah Martik, Justine Fartini and Valerie Wortley served as teachers' aides at two different schools during the 17-day trip. They helped out at The English Institute in Santiago and at Colegio Villa Aconcagua in Concon.

"Our purpose was to begin establishing what will be a long-term relationship with both schools," Cencich said. "Our students were immersed into both school systems and were exposed to the language, because speaking English was not an option in communicating."

Students at The English Institute hope to continue their education at the college level or to study abroad. At Colegio Villa Aconcagua, students are looking for jobs in the tourism industry.

The Cal U students wore the same uniforms that Chilean teachers are mandated to wear, and they experienced Spanish classes being taught much as English courses are in America. They also saw the need for teaching English as a second language.

"The students and teachers at both schools were very different, which was very important for our students to observe," Cencich said. "Our students also provided a service to a group of people who do not have many resources."

Cal U's group consisted of three Spanish Education majors, two Spanish majors and one International Studies student. Three students received financial assistance for the trip through the Rutledge Internship Awards.

The experience and memories of the trip were priceless.

"It was a really good experience and I did get to practice my language, but I also saw different teaching styles and different pedagogical approaches," said Fike, a senior Spanish Education major. "I could apply what I learned in my Spanish classes, and I could also apply what I learned in my education classes."

The journey to Chile has enhanced Fike's portfolio significantly, she said.

"I can go apply to teach at a school



Above, Valerie Wortley enjoys a good time with the students from The English Institute in Santiago. At left, Maggie Fike shares a moment with students from Colegio Villa Aconcagua. She said the summer trip was an invaluable real-life experience.

and tell someone that not only do I have an education, but I also went and taught at a Spanish-speaking school."

Working for the full school day and then discussing their experiences with Cencich consumed most of the students' time.

They did find time to visit the Museo La Sebastiana in honor of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who won the 1971 Nobel Prize for literature. Neruda's works are part of the readings Cencich uses in her summer class, and the museum is housed in a building associated with the poet. The students also visited the Museo de Arte Precolombino, Museo de Bellas Artes and Cerro Santa Lucia Fort.

For Fike, the most memorable site was the Naval Museum Valparaiso, where she stood inside the capsule that was used in October 2010 to rescue 33 miners who were trapped underground for 69 days.

"You could see how the Navy has evolved and how the town is kind of built around the Navy," she said. "We took pictures and even videotaped that

exhibit. It was cool to see recent history in real life."

The real-life experiences for Cal U students in Chile are just beginning. Through Skype videoconferencing, Cencich is connecting more Cal U students with the classroom in Colegio Villa Aconcagua. The sessions emphasize teaching English, practicing speaking and explaining English concepts.

A service project also will provide training to Chilean faculty. Through videoconferencing, they will learn more about how to implement technology in their language classes.

The Cal U students will prepare final reports about their internship experience and give presentations at next spring's Academic Excellence Days. At other events throughout the year, they will encourage their fellow students to travel to Chile.

"This internship gives our students the best learning and methodology possible," Cencich said. "The Chilean faculty is excited and thrilled to have us. They want us back permanently, and this is win-win for everyone."

## Campus BRIEFS

### Soccer Facility Dedicated Sept. 24

Cal U will hold a dedication ceremony for the new Phillipsburg Soccer Facility at 1 p.m. Sept. 24 at the soccer field on Orchard Street, three blocks from the main campus. Open to the public, this Family Day event will dedicate the \$4.4 million facility renovated for use by the Vulcan men's and women's soccer teams.

The state-of-the-art facility includes a new artificial turf field, a programmable lighting system, a multi-sport electronic scoreboard and renovated locker rooms, bleachers, press box, restrooms and concession stand.

Brief remarks, giveaways and other activities are planned for the dedication, which will be held between the women's and men's games against East Stroudsburg.

Shuttles will transport students, families and visitors between the main campus, the soccer facility and the stadium at Roadman Park.

### Remembering 9/11

Cal U will mark the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, by playing music across the campus Monday morning in memory of those lost in the attacks. A moment of silence was also held before the national anthem was played at Adamson Stadium on Sept. 10 when the Vulcan football team hosted C.W. Post.

### Young Alumni Network

A Young Alumni Networking Happy Hour will take place Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Bossa Nova in Pittsburgh. Alumni are urged to bring business cards and prepare for speed networking and other career building social events. Cal U Career Services Alumni Career Counselors will be present.

Cal U faculty and staff are also welcome. Cost is \$10. To register, contact Ryan Jerico at 724-938-4620 or e-mail [jerico@calu.edu](mailto:jerico@calu.edu).

# PASSHE Alumnus Leads Board of Governors

Guido M. Pichini made history in June, when he was elected chair of the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

PASSHE's fourth Board chair in 28 years, Pichini is the first to have graduated from one of the 14 State System universities, earning a degree in political science from what was then Kutztown State College in 1974.

"I am extremely proud to be the first alumnus to serve as Board chair," he said. "It means a lot to me individually, and I think it's a huge opportunity for the System. I've been to all of the campuses. I've worked for a number of years with the foundations and the trustees. I know all of the various constituencies."

PASSHE is at a crossroads in its history, Pichini said. Faced with unprecedented fiscal challenges, it will be incumbent upon the System leadership to find ways



Guido M. Pichini

to help PASSHE "regroup, restructure and become stronger in the future."

Pichini is president and CEO of Security Guards Inc. and its subsidiaries, WSK and Associates Consulting Group and Vigilant Security Services Inc. He served two terms as a borough councilman and four as mayor of Wyomissing Hills, Pa., and has been appointed to numerous boards of directors of community and civic organizations.

He previously was chair of both the Kutztown University Council of Trustees and the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees (PACT), which comprises the trustees from each of the 14 PASSHE universities.

"I truly believe the System reaches out and makes it possible for students who would not otherwise go to college, for financial or other reasons, to get a quality education and to become leaders," he said. "I'm a perfect example."

A former tennis player for Kutztown, Pichini said he "lost touch" with his alma mater for many years after graduation.

"After I got into business, I received an invitation to the Decision Makers Forum," he said, referring to the university's popular speaker series. "I accepted and wrote back a note thanking them for finally finding me."

A few years later, after helping to raise funds for Kutztown's Foundation, Pichini was appointed to a seat on the university's Council of Trustees. He has served ever since, including as Council Chair.

Yet his initial appointment to the Board of Governors in 2005 came "out of the blue," he said.

The Board will face many tough decisions in the months and years ahead, he added. The universities and their foundations will have to work harder to raise private funds on behalf of students and the institutions.

"We have a lot of successful alumni," Pichini said. "We need to take advantage of that."

# Former Cal Catcher Now Sits in GM's Office

**Editor's Note:** Cal U will hold its 17th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 21 at the Performance Center in the Natali Student Center. For reservations, contact Montean Dean at 724-938-4418. Throughout the fall, The Journal will profile each of the 2011 Hall of Fame inductees.

Before going on to a distinguished career in Major League Baseball that would eventually see him land the prestigious role of general manager, Jack Zduriencik '74 was a two-year starting catcher for the Vulcan baseball team, in 1972 and 1973.

He received first-team, all-conference honors both seasons and was Cal's second leading batter in 1972, with a .359 average.

A member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, Zduriencik transferred to Cal from Middle Georgia College and served as a junior varsity coach while he was ineligible for the 1971 season.

He then played as team captain under the late Cal U Hall of Fame coach and emeritus professor Mitch Bailey '53. Joining the coaching staff his final season was another eventual Hall of Fame coach and emeritus professor, Chuck Gismondi '64.

"Mitch was a big influence because he was my coach, and Chuck was fun to be around," said Zduriencik. "They were different personalities for sure, but you would look to see what they were doing because you could see yourself being a college coach someday. They were both a big part of our lives, and I have great respect for both gentlemen."

The admiration is mutual, said Gismondi, who was Cal's head baseball



coach from 1980-1996. He and Bailey frequently took Zduriencik to coaching meetings to demonstrate catching fundamentals.

"Jack was a great athlete and a super guy personally," Gismondi said. "He did everything right and played with what I call good baseball sense. He never made mental errors and was a true leader on the team. He never gave us a moment of anxiety off the field, and he was willing to do anything to help the team. I am so proud of Jack's success now. I can't say enough about him."

The Chicago White Sox signed Zduriencik after his junior year, and he played two seasons of minor league ball. He returned to Cal and earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1974.

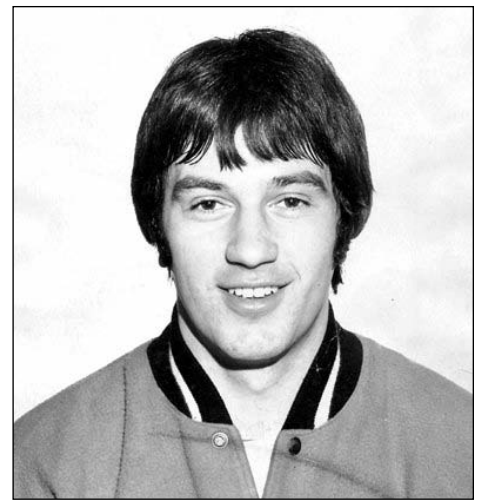
Zduriencik earned an additional bachelor's degree in physical education,

plus master's degrees in education, from Austin Peay University between 1975 and 1977. He taught and coached at high schools in Pennsylvania and Florida for five years.

"I always loved coaching and teaching," he said. "In those positions you are working with the best asset of a community, which are the young kids, and you're responsible for raising them and instilling in them life's ethics."

In 1983 Zduriencik accepted a scouting job with the New York Mets, beginning a 28-year career in scouting and front office roles. His many executive positions in baseball also included stints with the Pirates, Dodgers and Brewers.

With the Brewers he rose to the position of vice president and special assistant to the general manager. In 2007



**Now and then:** A two-time all-conference catcher for the Vulcans, Cal U Hall of Fame 2011 inductee Jack Zduriencik '74 is completing his third season as executive vice president and general manager of baseball operations for the Seattle Mariners.

he was the first non-GM to be named Baseball inherited a team that had lost 101 games in 2008.

"It's been great. Seattle's a terrific city," said Zduriencik. "Rebuilding an organization is a process that has to take place. Once you set your direction and know what you want to do, you just stay the course."

Originally from New Castle, Pa., Zduriencik was inducted into the Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. He said he is proud to be part of this year's Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame class.

"Anytime you're recognized by your alma mater, it means a lot," Zduriencik said. "Playing at Cal State, now Cal U, was a big part of my life, and I enjoyed my time there. It was a steppingstone to the rest of my life."

## Kids to Talk Democracy as Cal U Observes Constitution Day

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understanding of concepts extremely well," Koury said. "They had hope for themselves and their country, and it was refreshing."

A video of the interview was shown during the 2010 Election Analysis Forum, and the elementary students became an instant hit.

"Listening to the youngsters' thoughts on government and politics and hearing about their hopes and concerns both reaffirms what is right with the world and lets us know what can be improved," said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, director for the American Democracy Project at Cal U.

"What struck me most when we piloted the series was their grasp of theoretical concepts, their concern for the global community, and their kindness."

Organized by the American Democracy Project, the program is co-sponsored by the Office of the President, Academic Affairs/Office of the Provost, the College of Education and Human



Services, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education, and the Department of History and Political Science. All members of the Cal U community are welcome to attend.

For more information about Constitution Day, contact Dr. Melanie Blumberg, director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U, 724-938-5720 or [blumberg@calu.edu](mailto:blumberg@calu.edu).

## SAB President Learns at I-LEAD

**A**lison Roth, this year's president of the Student Activities Board, attended the Institute for Leadership Education and Development (I-LEAD) Conference this summer.

Held at SUNY Brockport in New York, the conference is the Association of College Unions International's premier student program designed to emphasize leadership, community development and change.

Encouraging more than 100 students to think outside their comfort zone, 26 facilitators led the group through an intense six days of activities and networking.

"Each activity related back to a real-life situation," Roth said. "A simple group game about building a city of blocks could suddenly morph into how to handle conflict, how to listen to each member in your organization or how to build relationships."

Roth received an ACUI scholarship to help her attend the event. And she's bringing what she learned at the conference back to Cal U.

"Leadership is a never-ending chain of action," she said. "The institute taught me so much about myself, personally and professionally. Even if what I have learned affects one person on our campus, I will have made a difference."

The California Journal is published weekly by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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The Journal is printed on paper made from trees harvested under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative ([www.SFIprogram.org](http://www.SFIprogram.org)).

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