

California University  
**JOURNAL**

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## 'Most Recognizable Woman in Politics' Speaks Tuesday

### Brazile Headlines Conference on Civic Engagement, Environmental Responsibility

**A**uthor, syndicated columnist and TV political commentator Donna Brazile will visit Cal U Tuesday to headline a conference focusing on environmental responsibility and civic engagement.

A veteran Democratic political strategist and a native of New Orleans, Brazile is passionate about two issues: encouraging young people to participate in the political process and promoting the economic and environmental recovery of her storm-ravaged hometown.

Her keynote address at the conference, *Civic Responsibility: People, Policy and Politics*, is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Brazile will hold a book signing after her talk. Her best-selling memoir is *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics*.

"Donna Brazile is one of the most recognizable women in politics," said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, professor of Political Science and Campus Director, American Democracy Project. "She is known for her political acumen, incisive wit, and community activism."

Blumberg emphasized that Brazile will be challenging students to get involved in their local communities.

"One of her passions is encouraging students to become politically active rather than sit on the sidelines," Blumberg said. "She has a clear message, which is sure to resonate with everyone regardless of their political persuasion."

The conference opens with a lecture



Donna Brazile

by Terry Collins, a founder of the "green chemistry" field and director of the Institute for Green Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

Collins will discuss "Green Chemistry: On the Responsibility of Chemists to Advance Science with Human Health and the Environment Clearly in Mind" at 11 a.m., also in

Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Rounding out the conference are two panel discussions, both in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center:

- At 2 p.m., Carla Suszkowski, regulatory and environmental manager at Range Resources, will join Cal U professors to address "Civic Responsibility: Where Is the Leadership?"

- At 3:30 p.m., David Marks, energy consultant to Allegheny County Council, joins a panel to examine "Environmental Challenges: Louisiana and Pennsylvania."

The conference is organized by Cal U's chapter of the American Democracy Project, a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of informed, engaged citizens. Sponsors for the midday panel discussions include the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute and the Leadership Studies program at Cal U.

*All events are free and open to the public. For a complete schedule, a list of conference sponsors and information about other Cal U events, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).*



Dr. Mark Aune (left) says the 'Intersections Undergraduate Research Conference,' which will be held Friday in the Performance Center, will give students in the Cal U Honors Program a chance to make presentations to a local, supportive audience.

## Honors Program Co-hosts Friday's 'Intersections'

**T**he Cal U Honors Program, along with Robert Morris University, will co-host the second annual *Intersections Undergraduate Research Conference* Friday in the Performance Center.

The event highlights intersections between various academic disciplines, research and methodologies.

Dr. Mark Aune, interim assistant director of Cal U's Honors Program, said the conference helps students to be better prepared for national conferences in their specific disciplines, or for events such as the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

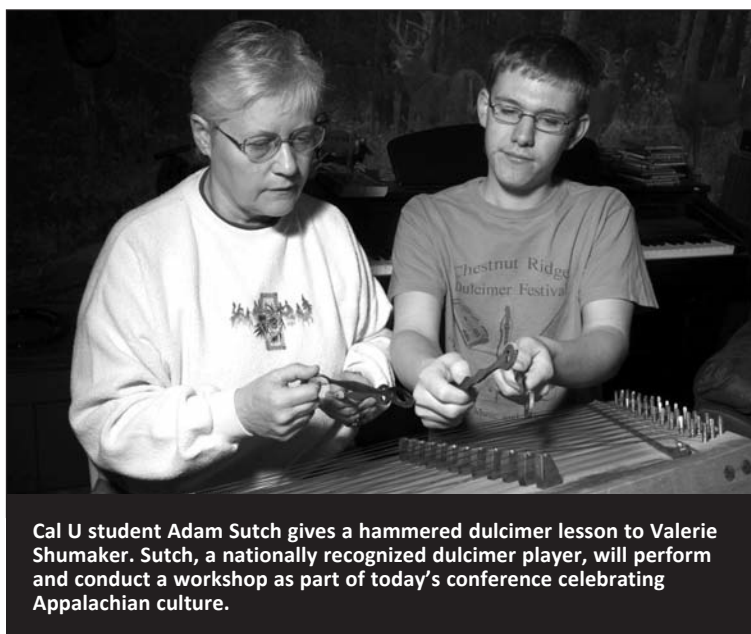
"One of the cornerstones of the Honors Program has always been encouraging students to pursue their own research projects," said Aune. "Presenting at academic conferences is

an important part of this process. *Intersections* gives students an opportunity to make conference presentations to a local, supportive audience."

Aune emphasized that students play a major role in this event — and not only by presenting papers. The planning began almost a year ago, after Robert Morris hosted the initial conference last spring. After reserving a location on campus, the students advertised the conference regionally, nationally and among their peers.

"The students have been very heavily and enthusiastically involved," Aune said. "For the past few weeks they have been evaluating, ranking and organizing dozens of paper proposals. They will coordinate a schedule,

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Cal U student Adam Sutch gives a hammered dulcimer lesson to Valerie Shumaker. Sutch, a nationally recognized dulcimer player, will perform and conduct a workshop as part of today's conference celebrating Appalachian culture.

## Conference Celebrates Music, Literature of Appalachia

**J**ennifer Haigh, author of the New York Times best-seller *Baker Towers*, will deliver the keynote address at *Celebrating Appalachia in Word and Song*, a daylong conference today on campus.

The conference highlights the people of Northern Appalachia, as well as the literature, poetry and music of an area that encompasses portions of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Maryland and Ohio.

Haigh will discuss her western Pennsylvania roots in "From a Deep Well: Writing My Appalachia." Her talk opens the conference at 9

a.m. in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Union.

Other highlights:

- Readings by West Virginia midwife Patricia Harman, author of *The Blue Cotton Gown and Arms Wide Open*, published this spring; and by IUP professor Damian Dressick, author of *40 Patchtown*.

- Poetry by Dr. Norma Thomas, director of Cal U's Master of Social Work program, whose writing reflects the African-American experience in Appalachia.

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Dr. Cyril Wecht discusses the burgeoning field of forensic science with Cal U students and faculty during a presentation in the Eberly Science and Technology Center.

## Wecht Touts Potential of Forensic Science

For decades, forensic pathologist Dr. Cyril Wecht has been called to comment on the nation's most notorious and sensational crimes. He provided expert testimony about the death of Robert Kennedy in 1968. He examined the medical records after Elvis Presley's death in 1977, wrote a book about the 1996 murder of JonBenet Ramsey and examined the body of murder victim Laci Peterson and her unborn son in 2003.

Wecht shared his thoughts on these cases — and on the burgeoning field of forensic science — with about 60 Cal U students and faculty on March 29 in the Eberly Science and Technology Center.

"Not only is this an exciting and intellectually stimulating field, it's one where there are an increasing number of job opportunities," he told the students.

In addition to pathologists, forensic scientists may have expertise in psychiatry, computer analysis, digital information or even nursing.

"In this field, the promise and potential are great," said Wecht, the former Allegheny County coroner.

He described a number of famous cases in which he has been involved, including the investigation into the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Wecht testified about the assassination before a House select committee in 1978, disputing the "single bullet theory" proposed by the Warren Commission and later chiding the commission for not challenging a poorly performed autopsy on the president.

"It was a mess," he said.

Ultimately, the value of forensic investigations hinges on the skills and the character of the investigators, Wecht noted.

"It's the honesty, decency and integrity, as well as the knowledge and ability of those who do this work, that makes the difference. ... Ethically and legally, you must never express opinions as absolute certainties in a court of law. These things are not as absolute as you might think."

The program concluded with a brief talk by Wecht's son, Ben, who described the certificate program offered to Cal U students in cooperation with the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law at Duquesne University.

The 12-to 18-credit program, delivered online, is supplemented with live sessions at Duquesne that focus on crime scene investigations, behavioral analysis interviews and a mock criminal trial.

## Academic Excellence in the Spotlight

Showcasing the talents of faculty and students, California University's Faculty Professional Development Committee will present the fifth annual Academic Excellence Days on April 20-21. This year's Academic Excellence theme is "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning."

A variety of activities designed to stimulate academic excellence will take place each day from 8 a.m. -3:30 p.m. in the Natali Student Center.

Dozens of faculty and student presentations are scheduled for the two-day event, including the Service and Service-Learning Poster Session, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 20, and the FPDC's Research Subcommittee Event ("The Student Scholarship, Research & Creativity Day Poster Session") from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 21.

In addition, the recipients of the Building Academic Excellence Through Learning Communities Award will be recognized at this event.

The Academic Excellence program, initiated by and supported through the



Showcasing the talents of faculty and students, the Faculty Professional Development Committee will present the fifth annual Academic Excellence Days on April 20-21.

FPDC, awards competitive grants to faculty and staff who want to plan a learning community to foster academic excellence, intellectual rigor and civil

discourse. Proposed learning communities must be multidisciplinary and include students, staff and faculty. Recipients of the 2010 awards will

report on their work on last year's project. The 2011 recipients will launch their learning communities during this year's Academic Excellence Days and wrap them up at the 2012 event.

Attendees will have the opportunity to win a USB flash drive at every presentation. In addition, attendees will have the opportunity to win an iPad that will be given away each day.

A continental breakfast and lunch buffet will be served both days at the Performance Center, from 7:30-9 a.m. and from 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Cal U vocal groups will perform from noon-1 p.m. April 20, and student artwork will be on display both days.

Dr. Kurt Kearcher, associate professor of English, director of the Writing Center and coordinator of the Faculty Center, and Patricia McClain, the AED event coordinator, encourage the University community to participate.

For more information and each day's schedule, contact the FPDC office at 724-938-4505 or e-mail [fpdc@calu.edu](mailto:fpdc@calu.edu).

## Honors Program Co-Hosts Friday's 'Intersections'

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making sure every participant gets a chance to share his or her research."

Cal U students scheduled to present papers are Chad Morrow, Kristin Orrett, Anna Gerald, Jonathan Thomas, Angelina Lorenzo, Emma Geiger, Sean Carnathan, Tannis Stants, Dennis Zellers, Jessica Marcinizyn, Veronica Kerekes, Rebecca Geiger, Joe Harclerode, Amanda Skena and BethAnn Wilson.

Organizers include Rachael Merlo, Sean Carnathan, Ashlyn Koval, Chad McCauley, Brittany Stephanik, Ali Dodson, Amy Lanese, and Harrison Foster.

"We are particularly excited about the large number of freshmen who are getting their first experience with an academic conference," Aune added. "We plan to use the knowledge we gained from last year's conference to organize similar sessions for this year."

Cal U faculty organizers include Drs. Sarah Downey, Ayanna Lyles, Rebecca and Gregg Gould. Dr. Andrae Marak is the interim director of the Honors Program.

Aune is planning to have a group of Cal U students base a presentation on material from a Shakespearean literature course he currently is teaching.

The student project looks at how Shakespeare's play "As You Like It" changes as it is experienced in

different media. The students have read the play, viewed it on film and attended a live performance.

Marak will be organizing a session on a course he teaches about poverty.

Aune, Marak and the student organizers from Cal U — along with Robert Morris honors program directors Drs. Monica Van Dieren and Philip Harold — will make a presentation the National Collegiate Honors Council conference this October in Phoenix, Ariz.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for us to showcase our program and the hard work of many people," Aune said.

To see the undergraduate research projects, visit the Performance Center from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday.





## Battle of the Bots

Students from dozens of local high schools led custom-built robots into battle when BotsIQ hosted its sixth annual preliminary regional competition March 25-26 in the Performance Center. The winners move on to the regional competition this weekend at Westmoreland County Community College. At left, Fayette County Vo-Tech students Brandon Herring (left) and Nick Payton work together to repair their robot after a crash. Above (from left), Frazier High School's Tyler Domonkos, Eddie Miller, James Palmer and Gabby Campbell react to their robot's crash.

## Campus BRIEFS

### Hip-hop Conference Set for April 20-22

Cal U's sixth annual Hip-hop Conference will take place April 20-22, with

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson and Doug E. Fresh headlining the event.



Michael Eric Dyson

A radio host and professor of sociology at Georgetown University, Dyson has written more than a dozen books, including the best-selling discourse on hip-hop *Know What I Mean?*

Fresh is a rapper, record producer and a pioneer of beatboxing — using vocal effects to imitate drum machines and produce other special effects.

Hip-hop duo Dead Prez will appear at the annual "Tribute to the 5 Elements of Hip-hop."

Admission is free. All conference events are open to the public.

For a complete conference schedule, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

### Institute, Law School Co-sponsor Seminar

The Institute for Law and Public Policy at Cal U teamed up with Ave Maria School of Law (AMSL) in Naples, Fla., for a continuing legal education seminar, "Law, Ethics, and Religion in America."

The program was presented April 9 by Kevin Govern, an instructor in Cal U's Masters in Legal Studies program and an associate professor of law at Ave Maria.

AMSL is a highly regarded, Catholic, national law school that welcomes students of all faiths. Founded in 1999 by Thomas S. Monaghan, creator and former owner of Domino's Pizza, the school moved from Ann Arbor, Mich., to Naples in 2009.

The alliance between a regional state university and an American Bar Association-approved law school is likely a first in the history of Cal U, says institute director Dr. Charles Nemeth. The seminar is approved for continuing legal education by both the Florida and Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education boards.

Information about the Institute for Law and Public Policy and its offerings is available online; visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu), click on "Information for ... Business and Community" and look for the institute's name. To reach the institute by phone, call 724-597-7401.

### GACO Hosts Seminar April 20

Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO) will host a seminar on "Basics of Federal Government Contracting" 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 20 at the Comfort Inn Conference Center, Penn Hills.

This free seminar will provide attendees with a basic understanding of federal government contracting.

The federal government spends about \$425 billion

annually on a variety of goods and services to support its operations. The government is ready to do business on a competitive basis with qualified companies that can supply needed products and services.

For program information, contact Kate Glodek, Cal U's GACO director of its Pittsburgh office, at 412-237-6098 or [glodek@calu.edu](mailto:glodek@calu.edu).

### Cal U Welcomes Biologists for Annual Meeting

Cal U will host the annual meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists this Friday and Saturday.

Founded in 1973, CPUB emphasizes undergraduate student research and provides funds for that research through a competitive grant process. Its activities have included scientific meetings, symposia and institutes for the professional development of its members and associates. The organization also provides a forum for graduate and undergraduate students to present their research.

For more information, contact Dr. Bryan Paulson at 724-938-5978 or [paulson@calu.edu](mailto:paulson@calu.edu), or visit the CPUB website at <http://academics.sru.edu/cpub>.

### Read the Journal Online

The online Journal is easier to read! Just click on "News" at the top of the Cal U homepage, [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu), then choose "Cal U Journal" to see the current edition in its new format.



Author Jennifer Haigh will be the keynote speaker at today's conference.

## Appalachian Culture Focus of Conference

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- Music by western Pennsylvania heritage band The NewLanders and nationally recognized dulcimer player Adam Sutch, a student at Cal U. He also will lead a workshop on playing the dulcimer.

- Instruction on using primary sources to explore Northern Appalachia, led by Dr. Michael Brna, director of Cal U's Teaching with Primary Sources program.

Panel presentations are planned on such topics as Appalachian identity, child exploitation and the impacts of drilling in the Marcellus shale.

The conference is sponsored by the Northern Appalachian Network, which promotes and disseminates teaching, scholarship and service focused on this region and its people.

"As we struggle to understand ourselves and others, we

sometimes forget to look to our own region, our shared history, and the many ways in which 'place' shapes and informs our lives," said Dr. Pamela Twiss, chair of the Social Work Department and a co-coordinator of the Northern Appalachian Network.

"We hope this conference is a step toward creating a space in which teachers, students and community members can gather to celebrate our region and to discuss the opportunities and challenges that we face."

Conference check-in begins at 8 a.m. in the Natali Student Center.

Conference fee is \$65; cost for students with a valid ID is \$20. Same-day registration for the keynote address only is \$10.

Act 48 hours and CEUs for social workers, professional counselors and marriage and family therapists are available.

Registration information and a full schedule of events is available online at [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).





## Spring Time at Cal U

Cal U psychology major Encore Mehta enjoys a nice spring day by playing his guitar on the campus Quad.

# Spring Game Honors Alumni, Introduces Players

Cal U's football team will end its spring drills Saturday by hosting the Black & Red Spring Game at Adamson Stadium's Hepner-Bailey Field. Presented by Atria's Restaurant, Lee Supply Co. and Washington Financial, the game will begin at 1 p.m.

Before the game, the Vulcans will honor past standout players Wes Cates '02 and Mickey Sahady '62 with an on-the-field ceremony. At halftime, Cal U will introduce its new players for the 2011 season and announce the recipient of the DeMichela Award for leadership, spirit and hustle in spring practice.

This award is named after alumnus Michael DeMichela '76, an all-conference tight end who was the driving force behind the alumni game event that was contested for 30 years from 1979-2008.

After the game, spectators will be allowed onto the field for photographs and autographs with the players. The traditional Spring Game "smoker" will be held afterward, at 4 p.m. at Lagerheads in Coal Center.

Cal U's career leading rusher, Cates gained 5,647 yards with 63 rushing touchdowns from 1998-2001. For the past five years he has been a star running back in the Canadian Football League. In 2010 he rushed for 1,045 yards with 15 touchdowns in his fourth season with Saskatchewan. He is a 2006 Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

Sahady is chairman of the board and CEO of AVID Medical. He founded MedSurg Industries (now Isolyser) in 1976. There he developed a pioneering system for computerized quoting and



Ten years after becoming Cal U's career leading rusher, Wes Cates '02 will be honored during Saturday's Black & Red Spring Football Game.

inventory management.

The Vulcans, six-time defending PSAC-West champions, open the 2011 season by hosting St. Cloud State (Minn.) on Sept. 1. Over the past four years, Cal U has compiled a 46-9 cumulative record with a 26-1 divisional mark.

For more information on the April 16 football festivities, call Leslie Fleenor in Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418.

## Smith Earns All-American Honors

Senior Kayla Smith ended her extraordinary collegiate career by being named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) and Daktronics All-America teams.

The WBCA lists just 10 student-athletes on the roster for its All-American Team.

Members of Daktronics' first team are chosen through a vote by sports information directors at each of the NCAA Division II schools sponsoring women's basketball.

The lone PSAC player on the three Daktronics All-American teams, forward Smith becomes the fourth Cal U player to earn WBCA National All-America honors, joining Brooque Williams, Sara McKinney and Becky Siembak.

Smith, the 2011 PSAC-West Women's Basketball Athlete of the Year, led the 16-team league in scoring this season with a career-high 18.5 points per game average. She ranked second statewide, with 12.4 rebounds and a .549 field-goal percentage (200-of-364).

A four-time All-PSAC-West First Team selection, Smith finished her career as the all-time leading rebounder in Cal U history and

second in the PSAC with 1,307.

The West Virginia native scored 2,096 points in her career, making her one of only three players in school history — along with Williams (2007-2010) and McKinney (2002-2005) — to produce 2,000 points and 1,000 rebounds.

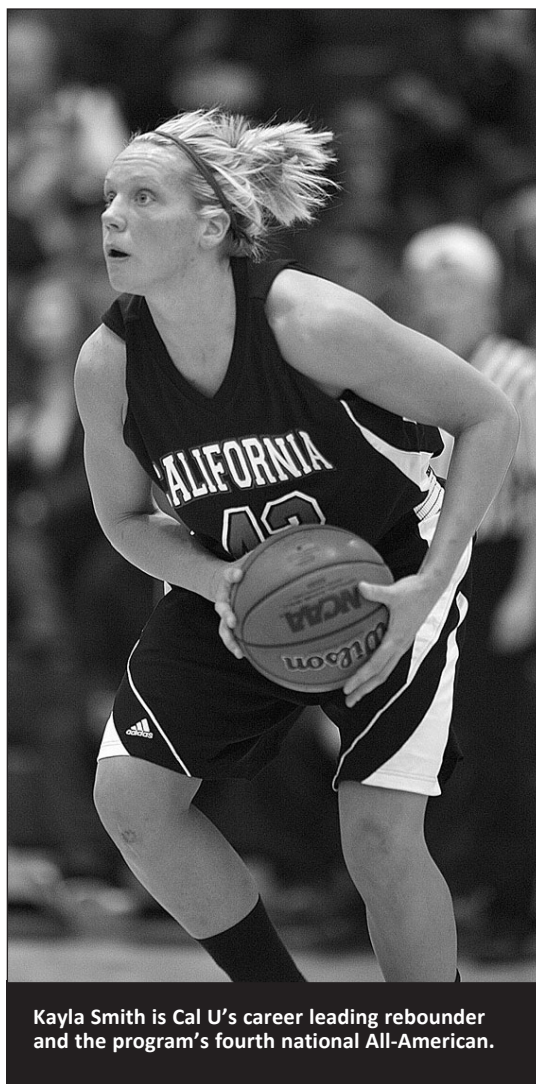
Smith set another school record with 477 free throws. She ranks third in team history in points, made field goals (808) and blocks (162), and ranks fifth in steals with 245.

She achieved 66 career double-doubles, with 47 of those coming over her final 62 games.

"We're very proud of Kayla, and her accolades are all attributed to her determination and hard work," said head coach Mark Swasey, "She's one of the hardest working players I have ever coached, on and off the court."

Aided by Smith's dominant play, Cal rolled to a 23-8 overall record in 2010-2011. The team advanced to the PSAC championship game for an 11th straight season and made its 10th consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

The Vulcans' cumulative record during the Smith era was 103-28 (.786).



Kayla Smith is Cal U's career leading rebounder and the program's fourth national All-American.

## 'Gasland' Film, Marcellus Shale Panel Wednesday

**G**asland, a 2010 documentary film written and directed by Josh Fox, will be shown at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center.

The film focuses on communities in the United States that have been affected by natural gas drilling and, specifically, a stimulation method known as hydraulic fracturing.

After the film is shown, speakers including Ericka Staaf from PennEnvironment and Washington County Commissioner Bracken Burns will participate in a panel discussion, "Marcellus Shale Play in PA: Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts."

A question-and-answer session follows.

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