

California University JOURNAL

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 10 MARCH 28, 2011



More than 1,400 Presidential Scholars will be recognized Saturday at an Honors Convocation in Hamer Hall.

'Anti-sexist Activist' Set to Speak

Women's History Month Comes to a Close

Cal U's Women's History Month celebration concludes tomorrow with a workshop and presentation by Dr. Jackson Katz.

A self-described "anti-sexist male activist," Katz will make two presentations: a coaches' workshop at 11 a.m. in rooms 206-207 of the Natali Student Center, and a 7 p.m. talk on the connection between sports and violence against women in Morgan Hall's Learning Resource Center Auditorium. His lecture will include thoughts on the Ben Roethlisberger case.



Jackson Katz

Katz is co-founder of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program, a gender violence prevention initiative in professional and college athletics. He is the director of the first worldwide domestic and sexual violence prevention program in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He has lectured on more than 1,000 college and high school campuses in 46 states and has conducted hundreds of professional trainings, seminars and workshops in the North America, Europe and Australia.

Katz is the creator and co-creator of educational videos for college and high school students, including *Tough Guise: Violence, Media, and the Crisis in Masculinity* (2000), *Wrestling With Manhood* (2002) and *Spin the Bottle: Sex, Lies and Alcohol* (2004). He is the author of *The Macho Paradox: Why Some Men Hurt Women and How All Men Can Help*, and he blogs on culture and politics on The Huffington Post.

This Women's History event is free and open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the new Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For more information about the speaker, visit www.calu.edu.

Convocation Honors Scholars



Col. Patricia J. McDaniel '77, the first African-American woman to join the Army ROTC program at Cal U, will deliver the honors address Saturday afternoon in Hamer Hall.

California University will recognize more than 1,400 of its most accomplished scholars at an Honors Convocation 2 p.m. Saturday in Hamer Hall Auditorium.

Col. Patricia J. McDaniel '77, the first African-American woman to join the Army ROTC program at Cal U, will deliver the honors address.

A native of Pittsburgh who now lives in Austin, Texas, she is a retired colonel with more than 31 years of active and reserve service. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Cal U, she holds three master's degrees — in business administration, public administration and strategic studies — and a Juris Doctor degree.

McDaniel was commissioned in December 1977 into the Women's Army Corps with "permanent detail" to the

Military Police Corps. Among her assignments were platoon leader, company commander and operations officer.

She was appointed as a judge advocate and held positions including defense counsel, senior defense counsel, legal liaison officer and an executive officer in the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Before she retired, McDaniel was mobilized for a year to serve as chief of the U.S. Army Trial Defense Service, where she supervised more than 300 judge advocates. Today, she is a procurement attorney with the Department of Veterans Affairs, specializing in Information Technology acquisitions.

Several of her decorations and badges include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters,

— Continued on page 3

Financial Aid Officer 'Back Home'

Cal U's new director of financial aid wants current students to have the same favorable experience she enjoyed during her college days.

Jill Fernandes '99, '01 returned to her alma mater on Feb. 7 after working for 10 years at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. For the past three years she was the director of student finance for CMU's Tepper School of Business.

"We want the Financial Aid Office to be a place where students are not afraid to come," she said. "We want to be open and

welcoming to our students and their parents. We want to provide opportunities, not hassles.

"We want to assist our students and award scholarships in a timely fashion."

A former graduate counselor in Cal U's Admissions Office and an orientation leader during her student days, Fernandes said she counts President Angelo Armenti, Jr. among her mentors.

"When I was finishing my graduate work, I very much wanted to stick around. Dr. Armenti told me to experience the world, which I

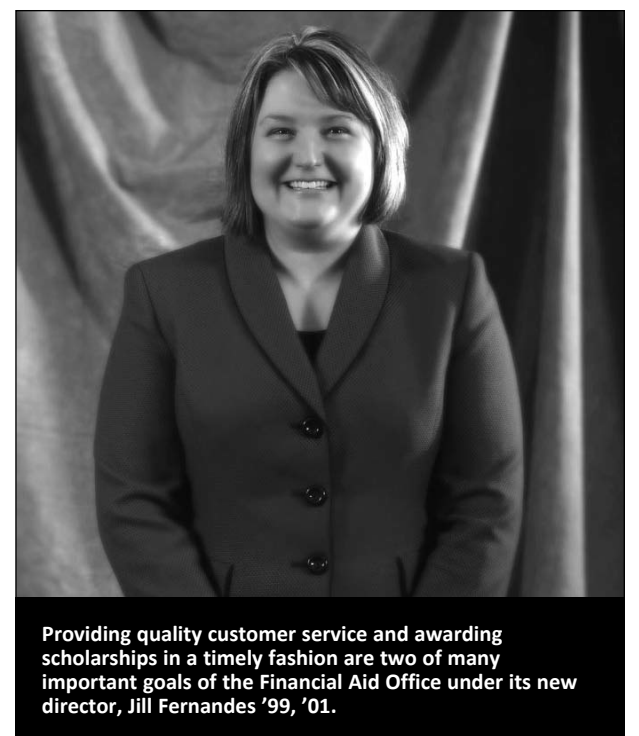
did. It was the best thing he could have done for me."

Fernandes, who holds a master's degree in math and computer science, said the diverse roles she filled at CMU have shaped her into an effective financial aid director.

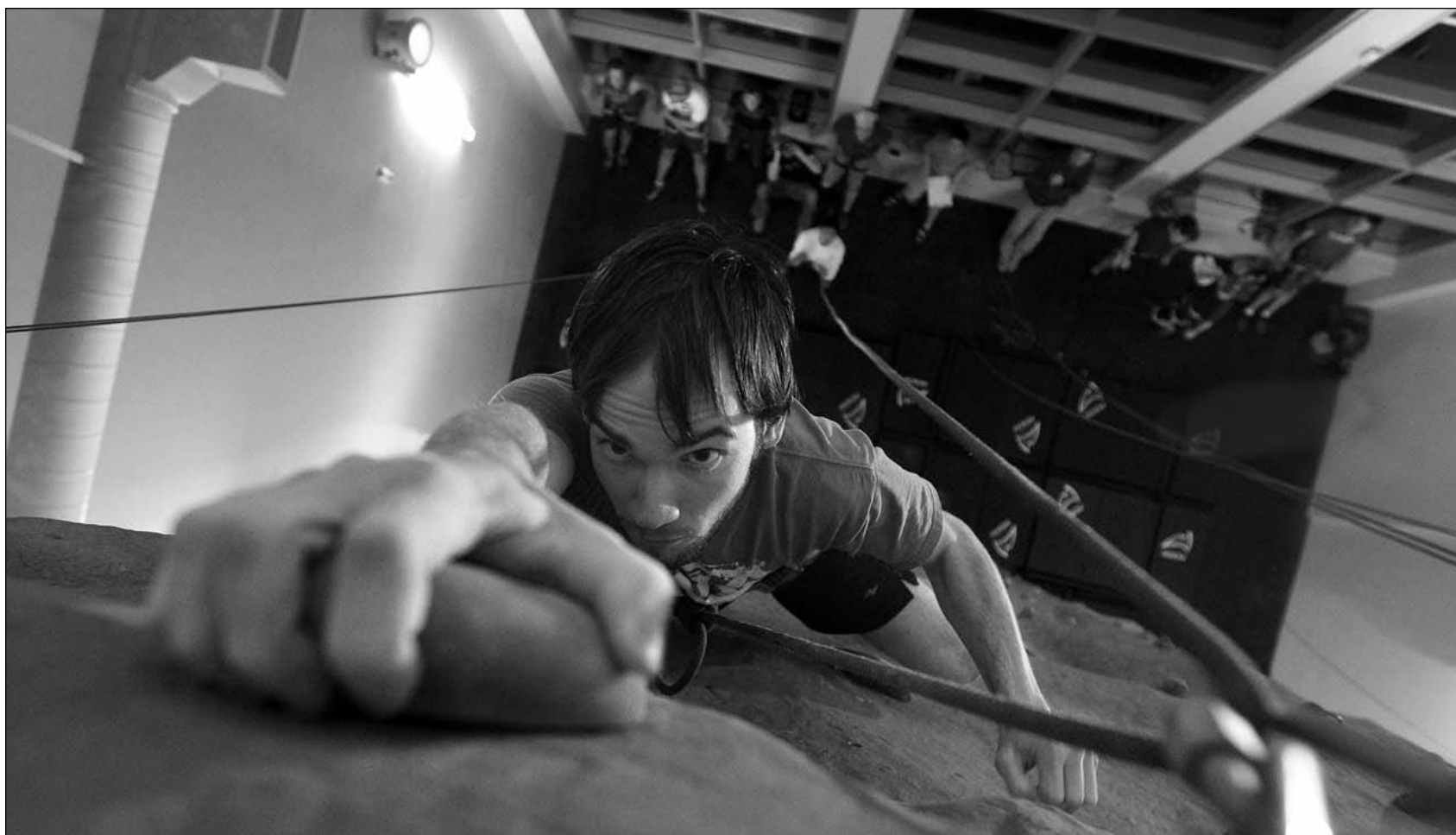
After a year in the Office for Student Financial Services at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Fernandes worked in CMU's Office of Enrollment Services before moving into finance.

"I worked my way up the ranks, and it helped me build a strong

— Continued on page 3



Providing quality customer service and awarding scholarships in a timely fashion are two of many important goals of the Financial Aid Office under its new director, Jill Fernandes '99, '01.



The Climb

Ron Coulter, 21, an accounting major, scales the Herron Hall climbing wall during the time trials competition recently held by the Department of Recreational Services. For more information about the climbing wall and other activities offered at Cal U, visit www.calu.edu and search for 'Sports and Recreation.'

Olympian Tells Women, 'Find a Mentor'

Playing sports can lead to success, says two-time Olympic medalist Jessica Mendoza, so female athletes should find role models and look for opportunities to achieve.

Mendoza, past president of the Women's Sports Federation (WSF) and an ESPN broadcaster, delivered the keynote address at the sixth annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference.

This year's theme was "Leveling the Playing Field: Examining Gender, Social Justice and Sports."

A lifelong athlete, Mendoza currently plays outfield for the defending champion USSSA Florida Pride in the only professional women's softball league.

She called herself a "first-generation Title IX" athlete, referring to the 1972 federal mandate that requires comparable opportunities for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding.

Watching captain Dot Richardson lead the U.S. softball team to a gold medal at the 1996 Olympics made an impact, Mendoza said. She was just 14 years old when she watched the game on television.

"Everything came together for me, and that was the moment I began the rest of my life," Mendoza recalled. "She was a woman and a player, and I was a woman and a player. I was not going to play Major League Baseball, but I saw that if I worked hard, I could get to the next level."

Mendoza received a scholarship to Stanford University, where she was the PAC-10 Conference Player of the Year as a sophomore and helped The Cardinal make its first National World Series appearance the following year.

A proponent of Title IX, Mendoza said she remains frustrated by the lack of playing opportunities for women in urban areas and less prosperous communities.

"We're still foreigners in the world of athletics, and I think it's more a gender issue now than race," she said. "My goal is to reach these kids, but many need a means to play."

More than eight out of 210 of women in high-level



Two-time Olympic medalist Jessica Mendoza makes a point during her keynote address at the sixth annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference on March 17 in the Performance Center.

corporate jobs played at least one sport in their youth, Mendoza contends. She believes that exposing youngsters to sports can help them attain success in other areas, as well.

"Taking youngsters to see California University's softball or women's basketball team and how good they

are — that can motivate them," she said, addressing an audience that included the Cal U softball team.

"It doesn't have to be people you see on television. Sports is about being active, healthy and making the most out of your life."

Mendoza described her Olympic experiences, noting that in the 2008 gold-medal game she wore a wristband protesting the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan.

Today, she is an athletic ambassador for Team Darfur, an international association of athletes that aims to raise awareness about the conflict.

"The first time I went (to the Olympics), I was caught up in everything and the games were all that were on my mind," Mendoza said. "The second time I realized that the Olympics was a huge stage and a place to help make the world better. We need to have a message to give outside of our own personal interests."

Returning to her discussion of role models, Mendoza described her father, a first-generation American who grew up in a tough Los Angeles neighborhood. When he was in seventh grade, a coach caught him breaking in to the junior high gymnasium. Instead of punishing the boy, the coach made him join the basketball team.

Mendoza's father eventually landed a football scholarship at Fresno State and became a coach.

"Who knows where my father's life would have headed without that kind of a role model?" she asked. "You have to have confidence, be yourself and make the right decisions for a successful life. Bring on the world!"

Drs. Marta McClintock-Comeaux and Patricia Milford were this year's co-chairs for the conference, which is named for a former Cal U faculty member. Student coordinators Amanda Smith, Rebecca Will and Amber Preston helped to coordinate nearly 30 individual presentations made throughout the day.

"The research and expertise shared by our presenters offered a platform for all of us to expand our knowledge and to challenge our assumptions," McClintock-Comeaux said.

Non-credit Community Classes Begin in May

The Office of Lifelong Learning is offering non-credit community classes from May to August this year.

The classes are designed to enhance an individual's personal and professional skills. There are no grades or exams. The classes also may be suitable for teachers who need Act 48 hours.

These classes are being offered:

- Introduction to Social Media

- Life Essential Training
 - Know Your Trees
 - Photoshop 101
 - Non-Robotic Applications of Micro-Controllers
 - Programmable Logic Controllers
- Registration forms may be obtained on campus in Room 202 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center or by calling 724-938-5840.

Payment must accompany the completed registration form. Submit

completed forms and payment by mail, in person, or by calling 724-938-5840 (with a MasterCard, VISA or Discover card). Registrations are processed in the order they are received until the maximum class size is reached.

The mailing address is: California University Office of Lifelong Learning, 250 University Avenue, Box 12, California, PA 15419.

Once they are registered, participants will receive a confirmation

letter that lists the class location. This letter must be presented to the instructor at the first class session.

Parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.

For more information about lifelong learning opportunities, visit the Cal U website, www.calu.edu; click on "Information for ... Prospective Students" at the top of the homepage, then look for "Lifelong Learning."

Hockey Team Makes Final Four

Cal U's College Hockey East (CHE) men's hockey team concluded the 2010-2011 season by advancing to the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division 3 national semifinals.

Under the direction of sixth-year head coach Justin Berger, the Vulcans finished the season with a 28-5 overall record and reached the ACHA National Championship Tournament for the fifth time in seven years.

This was the team's fifth consecutive CHE championship and its second straight ACHA Atlantic Region crown. The Vulcans won two of four games at the national tournament in Holland, Mich., before their playoff run ended.

"I think the season was a success by any measure," said Berger, who was an assistant coach in 2005 when Cal U made its first appearance in the national tournament.

"Winning your league five straight times might even be more difficult than winning one national championship."

At the national contest, Cal U defeated McKendree (Ill.) 5-3, lost 4-3 in overtime to Davenport (Mich.), and then advanced to the Final Four with a come-from-behind 4-2 victory over Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Vulcans lost a heartbreaking semifinal game 2-1 in overtime, falling to eventual national champion College of the Canyons (Calif.).

"It's frustrating not to finish first,



Jeremy Hill was one of seven seniors on the 2010-2011 Cal U College Hockey East team that advanced to the American Collegiate Hockey Association's Division 3 national semifinals. The team compiled a 28-5 overall record.

but to finish third out of more than 150 schools at this level is something," Berger said.

Graduate student Ryan Jones and senior Nick Posa, the top Vulcan scorers, were named to the all-tournament team. Earlier this season Jones, Posa and Berger were selected to play and coach for the ACHA Division 3 Select team, which competed in Europe.

Cal U's cumulative record over the past two years is 57-6, and Berger

noted that seven seniors are ending their college hockey careers.

"This season will see the most graduates we've ever had, and I can't say enough about them and what this group accomplished. They don't know what it's like not to win the league championship."

The Vulcans joined both the CHE and the CHA in 2002-2003. Cal U won the ACHA national title in 2008 and reached the quarterfinals in 2010.

Campus BRIEFS

Pathologist Wecht Visits Tuesday

Dr. Cyril H. Wecht, one of the country's leading forensic pathologists, will visit the Cal U campus tomorrow



Cyril Wecht

to discuss pathology, forensic science, and the collaborative Cal U- Duquesne University Forensic Science and Law program.

Students, faculty, and staff who are interested in any forensic science-related discipline are welcome to attend.

Dr. Wecht will speak during the University common hour in Eberly Science and Technology Center, Room 110, beginning at 11 a.m.

Wecht served as Allegheny County coroner from 1970 to 1980, and again from 1996 to 2006. He is an adjunct professor at the Duquesne University School of Law, School of Pharmacy, and School of Health Sciences.

In fall 2000, the Duquesne University School of Law established the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law. The Wecht Institute offers graduate degree and professional certificate programs in forensic science to a diverse group of students spanning the disciplines of law, nursing, law enforcement, pharmacy, the health sciences, business, the environmental sciences and psychology.

Along with Duquesne, the Wecht Institute collaborates with many other academic institutions.

Relay for Life at Cal U

Emmy Award-winning comedians A Pair of Nuts! will kick off Cal U's Relay for Life event at 7 p.m. Friday. The comedy duo of Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco will be performing in the quad outside of Herron Hall.

Selected by Campus Activities magazine as "Hot Comedy" for 2011, the Nuts' live stage show is a multimedia production that combines live sketches, short videos, music and numerous costume changes.

A Pair of Nuts! has headlined at some of the top comedy clubs in the United States, as well as military bases and colleges nationwide. They have been invited to perform at the Los Angeles Comedy Festival, the Los Angeles Improv Comedy Festival and the Miami Improv Festival, and they headlined the preview night at Comedy Central's *South Beach Comedy*.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that celebrates the lives of people who have battled cancer, remembers loved ones lost and fights back against the disease.

At Relay, teams of people camp out and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events up to 24 hours long.

For more information, visit the Relay for Life page on the Cal U website or contact event coordinator Lindsay Hartwig at lindsay.hartwig@cancer.org.

Financial Aid Officer 'Back Home'

— Continued from page 1

financial aid foundation," she said.

Teamwork is essential, Fernandes learned, and she is putting that lesson to use in her new role. Already she is working closely with the Admissions, Bursar's and Academic Affairs offices.

"At CMU we were basically a one-stop shop where many offices intermingled, and here we are all in the same building," she said. "We simply must work together cohesively to offer better customer service to our students."

Challenges for Fernandes include the University's recent transition to the Banner suite of administrative software solutions.

She is grateful for the support of Robert Thorn, interim vice president for Administration and Finance, who led the Financial Aid Office until his

promotion last year. Fernandes has known Thorn since she was a student, and she calls him not only her supervisor but also her "financial aid mentor."

Thorn is pleased to have Fernandes back on campus.

"In addition to her extensive financial aid and enrollment services experience, Jill brings strong analytical, problem solving and customer service skills to the position," he said. "In meeting Jill, one will quickly recognize her strong leadership skills, her commitment to excellence and her devoted passion for her alma mater."

Fernandes' fondness for Cal U goes beyond the workplace. She and her husband, Brian '99, met in Student Government, where he was president and she was a senator.

They both were active in Greek life. Fernandes is a Theta Phi Alpha

sister, and her husband is a member of Theta Xi. After graduation they returned regularly to campus for Homecoming and football games.

They share an interest in higher education, too. Brian Fernandes is the director of student enrollment services at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

Although the couple has a 3-year-old daughter, Kendal, they find time for after-work activities. Fernandes has joined the organizing committee for the Red and Black Affair Extraordinaire, an annual fundraiser that supports student scholarships.

"With privatization becoming more and more essential, I find it the best time possible to be back here at Cal U," she said. "It was my time to come back and make a difference in the students' lives at the school I care most about."

"I feel that I've come home."

Convocation Honors Top Scholars

— Continued from page 1

Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

McDaniel was the keynote speaker at last spring's inaugural Cal U Women's History Month banquet. She also was interviewed for the Cal U Women of Accomplishment project, an initiative of the Women's Center and the Teaching with Primary Sources Center for Oral History.

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will preside over the Convocation, and Provost Geraldine Jones will introduce the platform party.

The University rewards academic excellence on the part of master's, bachelor's and associate degree-seeking students by honoring Presidential Scholars at this annual event. In addition to meeting other requirements, Presidential Scholars carry a grade-point average of 3.25 or above. Both full- and part-time students are eligible for the award.

This year's Honors Convocation will recognize 280 students from the College of Graduate Studies and Research, 219 from the College of Liberal Arts, 629 from the College of Education and Human Services, and 293 from the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

A reception for all attendees will be held in the gymnasium immediately after the program.

For more information, contact Jodie Rooney at 724-938-1584 or rooney@calu.edu.

Conte Sets Baseball Coaching Record

Mike Conte became Cal U's career leader in baseball coaching victories when he guided the Vulcans to a 13-9 win at Lenoir-Rhyne (Hickory, NC) on Feb. 13.

The four-run victory gave Conte 396 career victories, surpassing the record of 2003 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee and Emeritus Professor Chuck Gismondi, who won 395 games from 1980-1996.

Cal U has had just three baseball head coaches since 1960. The late Mitch Bailey, also an emeritus professor, won 282 games from 1960-1979, including the program's first-ever Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship, in 1979.

Conte is in his 15th season as head coach. He has guided the Vulcans to a 401-275-4 (.593) cumulative record as of March 8 with six PSAC-West titles, two PSAC Tournament Championships (2004, 2010) and a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances (2007, 2010). He picked up his 400th career win when the Vulcans swept a doubleheader from West Liberty on March 7 in Savannah, Ga.

He has received PSAC-West Coach of the Year honors six times, including last year, and was named the National

Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Atlantic Regional Coach of the Year in 2010.

This season Conte also became the 50th active NCAA Division II head coach to reach the 400-win milestone. He joined Slippery Rock's Jeff Messer and Mansfield's Harry Hillson as the only active head coaches in the PSAC with 400 victories.

Conte served as an assistant coach under Gismondi for two years and earned his master's degree from Cal U before taking over the head coaching duties in 1997.

He has coached 14 Vulcan players who have gone on to play professional baseball, including outfielder and 2010 PSAC Tournament MVP Sam DiMatteo, who is currently in spring training with Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals.

"Mike Conte has continued our baseball program's rich tradition and has certainly made his own mark," said Cal U athletic director Dr. Tom Pucci. "He is incredibly loyal, driven and every year has the team in contention."

A native of nearby Brownsville, Conte was an all-conference outfielder with Virginia Tech before playing professionally in the Oakland Athletics'



Mike Conte became Cal U's career leader in baseball coaching victories earlier this season and is one of just 50 active NCAA Division II head baseball coaches to reach the 400-win milestone.

system for five seasons.

"I am privileged to be the head baseball coach here," said Conte, whose coaching staff consists of 11th-year veteran Chris Brunson and third-year assistant Chris Squeglia. "An honor such as this is really the reflection of so

many others. I have been blessed to have talented student-athletes and loyal assistant coaches over the years. This year's team is working hard to add to the rich tradition of the program. We always strive to make California University and the community proud."

Alumnus Describes Work on NFL Sidelines

A National Football League official advised students to build their careers using the same hard work, passion and patience he used to reach his profession's highest level.

Alumnus Tony Steratore '87 gave the keynote address Feb. 24 at the second annual Cal U Sport Management Conference.

A football official for more than 30 years, Steratore recently completed his 11th year as a back judge in the NFL. He spoke about his 20-year route to the NFL, which began when he started officiating at junior high school games in 1980.

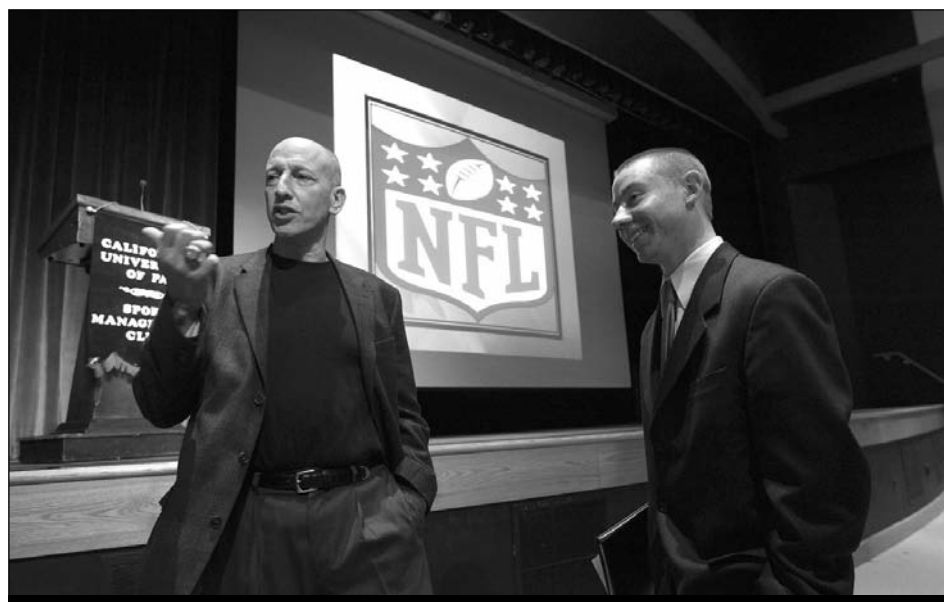
"Had I never advanced beyond this level, I would still be officiating those games today and loving it," said Steratore, 51. "To be successful in any career you must truly have a passion for it, and the financial end will follow."

"The path to the NFL was not glamorous," he added, comparing it to moving up through the ranks of the military.

Steratore cited NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell as an example of someone who found success not through athletic ability but through sport management.

"He started out in a low-level public relations job with the New York Jets and rose to the top position in the NFL. Sports offer so many opportunities."

Steratore comes from a family of



Mike McCarney (right), vice president of the Sports Management Club, talks with Tony Steratore '87, a National Football League official, before his presentation in Steele Hall's Mainstage Theatre.

officials. His father retired after 44 years with the NFL, and his younger brother, Gene '87, is an NFL referee. In fact, the two brothers worked on the same officiating crew for three seasons.

Steratore said that working with his brother was a bigger career highlight than serving as back judge for the 2005 Super Bowl.

The brothers also officiate at college basketball games, and they own a janitorial supply company.

Adjusting to the fast pace of professional football was his greatest challenge as he moved from officiating for NFL Europe to the NFL in 2000, Steratore said.

"The speed of the game is unbelievable. It's so fast, and you are under so much scrutiny, that self-doubt set in that first year. For the first time, I wondered if I could really do the job at this level."

Apparently he can. Steratore

officiated his ninth playoff game last season, when he worked the NFC championship contest between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears.

He said the most physical games he ever worked were the 2006 AFC wild card game between Pittsburgh and the Cincinnati Bengals, and the Steelers' 2009 AFC championship with the Baltimore Ravens.

"Sometimes I try to use my psychology degree from Cal in dealing with players and coaches, but I just tried to survive those two games," Steratore said. "The Pittsburgh-Cincy game was so tense. ... If a Steelers-Ravens game went three minutes without any officials, there would be a street fight."

Nevertheless, officials aren't on the payroll full time; they are paid per game, with a starting fee of about \$2,600.

Because player safety is always a concern, penalties have been increased for dangerous helmet-to-helmet hits. Steratore said he called five helmet-to-helmet penalties in 2010 alone, compared to seven during his first decade in the league. But he scoffed at the idea of a "conspiracy" to be especially strict with the Steelers or any other team.

"When it's game time, it's just a dark shirt and a white shirt out there," he said, stressing that officials can't play favorites. "One bad mistake can cost me a chance at (officiating) another Super Bowl."

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

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.
University President

Dr. Charles Mance
Vice President for University Technology Services

Craig Butzine
Interim Vice President for Marketing and University Relations

Geraldine M. Jones
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Ron Huiatt
Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Christine Kindl
Editor

Dr. Lenora Angelone
Vice President for Student Affairs

Robert Thorn
Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance

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

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

I N T E G R I T Y · C I V I L I T Y · R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y