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Melissa Gates (pictured with head coach Ed Denny) won the 50-yard freestyle competition at the NCAA Division II Championships, becoming just the fifth individual national champion in Cal U history.

Swimmer Wins NCAA National Title

Student-athlete Melissa Gates became just the fifth individual national champion in school history when she won the 50-yard freestyle March 9 during the first day of the NCAA Division II Championships at the Palo Alto Natatorium in San Antonio, Texas.

Gates, a junior, won the event with a school and PSAC record time of 22.72 seconds.

She also earned an All-American in the 100-yard freestyle, giving her five All-American finishes in her career.

Gates is Cal U's first NCAA national champion in swimming.

"Melissa is the quintessential student athlete," said women's swimming coach Ed Denny, now in his ninth year at Cal U.

"She made history, and this will always be a landmark moment for our program."

The last Vulcan athlete to win an individual nation title was Ken Hackman, who won consecutive 190-pound NCAA Division II wrestling championships in 1988 and 1989.

The only other woman from Cal U to win a national championship is track standout Jenise Lockhart, who won the 1985 NCAA Division II title in high jump.

Cross country runner Brian Ferrari and wrestler Bill DePaoli also won national titles while at Cal U.

Ferrari won the NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship in 1983 and two NCAA Division II 10,000-meter national titles in 1983 and 1984.

DePaoli was the 118-pound NAIA national champion in 1977 and 1979.

Cal U teams have won NCAA Division II national championships in women's softball, in 1997 and 1998, and women's basketball, in 2004.

Professional Science Master Program Focuses on Forensics

Cal U is developing a multidisciplinary Professional Science Master degree program in forensic science, one of 10 new PSM programs to be offered by universities within the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

PASSHE has received a \$50,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to assist in the development of new PSM programs, the State System announced Feb. 28. All PSM programs are designed in close cooperation with employers to ensure they meet workforce demand in high-technology fields. PASSHE expects to approve five PSM programs in time to enroll students this fall; five more programs will follow. Cal U anticipates enrolling students for the spring 2012 semester.

According to PASSHE, "The PSM degree combines rigorous study in science or mathematics with professional skills-based coursework in business, management,



Dr. John Cencich

communications, policy and other fields."

Instead of a thesis, students typically complete a collaborative research project, as well as an internship with an employer in business, government or the nonprofit sector. Students usually can earn a PSM degree in two years or less.

At Cal U, the PSM program in forensic science is being developed with input from faculty with expertise in forensic anthropology, crime scene analysis, biology, chemistry, genetics and other relevant fields.

Individuals trained in forensic science are in demand, said Dr. John Cencich, director of the Institute for Criminological and Forensic Sciences at Cal U, and dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

"Our proposed program will be on the cutting edge of solving crime through a multidisciplinary forensic science approach," Cencich said. "The

— Continued on page 3

VIP About to Go Live

After months of planning and testing, the Vulcan Information Portal is "going live" across the entire Cal U campus this month.

This one-click portal promises easy access to important information for faculty, staff and students, who will get the VIP treatment when they register for classes for the fall 2011-2012 semester.

Various offices across campus, including the Registrar's Office, have helped to develop the registration tool to ensure there are no surprises when people use the portal.

Registrar Heidi Williams says the VIP registration process will be familiar to students accustomed to signing up for classes with SISWeb.

The big advantage of the new system: with VIP, users can access class

— Continued on page 2

High School Students to Battle with 'Bots

Students from dozens of local high schools will lead custom-built robots into battle when BotsIQ holds its 6th annual preliminary regional competition March 25 and 26 in the Performance Center.

Robot combat is scheduled from 9:30-noon and from 1-4:30 p.m. each day.

Bots IQ is a national program supported locally by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association. Through the program, students are taught to design, build and battle robots in an exciting,

gladiator-style competition.

The contest draws on students' knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math, as well as their record-keeping and public speaking ability. Winning battles is important, but the top award will go to the team that also demonstrates the strongest documentation and best group interview skills.

"The competition has grown exponentially in its short existence, but the focus this year isn't about getting bigger — it's about precision," says Mike

— Continued on page 3



Hundreds of high school students will visit Cal U for the BotsIQ preliminary regional competition, which will be held Friday and Saturday in the Performance Center.



Alumnus Joe Vilcheck shares a motivational technique with the help of graduate student Maranda DeRienzo.

Faculty Asked to Participate in FSSE Survey

The Office of Continuous Improvement will be administering the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) this spring.

Coordinated by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) at Indiana University-Bloomington, FSSE is designed to measure faculty expectations of student engagement in educational practices that are empirically linked with high levels of learning and development.

The survey also collects information about how faculty members spend their time on professorial activities and the kinds of learning experiences their institutions emphasize.

FSSE results can be used to identify areas of institutional strength, as well as aspects of the undergraduate experience that may warrant attention. The information is intended to be a catalyst for productive discussions related to teaching, learning and the quality of students' educational experiences.

The survey will be administered by the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University-Bloomington (IUB). It parallels the NSSE student survey that also is being administered this spring.

Through IUB, all full-time and part-time faculty will be invited to participate. The survey should be completed online. Administration will be overseen by Cal U's Office of Continuous Improvement.

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. has authorized this survey at Cal U.

"I encourage all faculty members to participate," he said. "The results will allow us to assess and improve the quality of our academic offerings, while at the same time letting us see how we stack up against comparable universities across America."

All responses are anonymous; survey administration will conclude in mid-May. The data will be analyzed by IUB, and the 2011 reports will be sent to participating universities, including Cal U, in August.

Resources intended to help with the use and interpretations of FSSE data are available online at www.fsse.iub.edu. Past FSSE and NSSE results are posted on the Cal U Web site in the Continuous Improvement area, cwis.calu.edu.

Comparing NSSE and FSSE results yields information from both the students' and faculty's perspective. The Faculty Professional Development Committee utilizes the information for continuous improvement.

For more information about FSSE, faculty should contact Norman Hasbrouck, special assistant to the president, at Ext. 1561; or call the Office of Continuous Improvement, Ext. 1673.

Cal U Alumnus Presents 'Magical' Message

Joe Vilcheck offers motivational strategies to student-teachers

Student-teachers at California University of Pennsylvania were the ones learning recently as alumnus Joe Vilcheck '04 demonstrated some "magical" motivational techniques.

Vilcheck works for Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3 and teaches at-risk teens at the Shuman Detention Center in Pittsburgh. He incorporates magic and humor with research and sound educational strategies to capture and hold his students' attention.

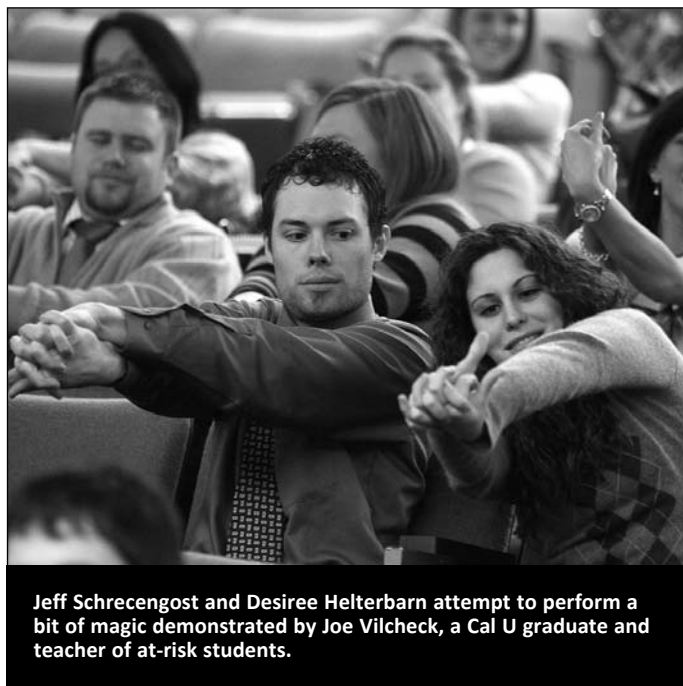
Vilcheck, who also is president of Mindcheck Motivation (<http://mindcheckmotivation.com>), used some of those tactics to engage about 50 students in William Cooper's class as he taught them a simple message.

"Teachers should strive to be a 'perfect 10' in the classroom," Vilcheck explained, in order to motivate their students to achieve. He also urged the Cal U teachers-in-training to set high expectations for their students, no matter their background.

"Look where you want your students to be, not where they are," Vilcheck said. "Expect the impossible."

To illustrate the point that anyone can learn something that seems too hard at first, Vilcheck taught the class a mnemonic — a fun, personal, logical way of learning something difficult — that soon had the students reciting the entire alphabet from Z to A.

"You have to find a way to reach your students," Vilcheck



Jeff Schrecengost and Desiree Helterbarn attempt to perform a bit of magic demonstrated by Joe Vilcheck, a Cal U graduate and teacher of at-risk students.

said. "Don't be afraid to give something of yourself. If you have a hobby or interest, share it. They'll think you're a genius, and if they think you're awesome, they'll want to learn from you, because they like you."

Vilcheck, who won the Award of Excellence from Intermediate Unit 3 in 2007, presents his motivational strategies and techniques to Cal U student-teachers every semester. Recently, he was the keynote speaker for the Correction Education Association of Pennsylvania's Conference.

Vulcan Information Portal Set to Go Live

— Continued from page 1

schedules, e-mail, grades and other information with a single login, so they don't have to remember a lot of usernames and passwords.

Registration for the Fall 2011 semester will begin early next month. The Registrar's Office will announce when various groups can begin the registration process.

Timing is everything, said Becky

Nichols, director of Applications and Academic Support for University Technology Services.

By the start of the fall term, VIP will officially replace SISWeb as the University-wide student information system.

"Launching the VIP now will allow our faculty and students to become familiar with the new portal sooner rather than later," Nichols said.

The Admission Office has used the

portal successfully since October, and the Financial Aid module went live in February.

VIP is part of Banner, the world's most widely used administration suite of applications for higher education in the world.

In addition to housing the user-friendly portal, the Banner administrative suite offers the University enhanced reporting and data analysis capabilities.

Cal U Language Department Turns 50

The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures is celebrating 50 years of language teaching with foreign films, a salsa dance workshop and a banquet honoring students with a major or minor in Spanish.

The free film festival features the French-themed *Germinal* on March 31, Arabic-themed *The Syrian Bride* on April 7 and *Evita*, with a Latin American theme, on April 28. All will begin at 7 p.m. in the Blaney Theater in Steele Hall.

The "Salsa Night" features dance instructor and performer Ed Ribar demonstrating the intricacies of L.A.-style salsa from 8 p.m.-midnight March 29 in the Performance Center. Admission and refreshments are free.

The celebration concludes with an anniversary dinner honoring outstanding language students from 6-9 p.m. April 21 in the Kara Alumni House. Awards will

be presented and a tango dance performance is planned.

French language classes first were offered at Cal U in 1961. Before long, Spanish was added. Over the years the department also has offered classes in Arabic, German and Russian.

In the 1990s a series of classes in culture were added to complement the language classes and help students prepare for the Praxis exam administered to pre-service teachers. A state-of-the-art language lab was set up in Old Main and faculty members, mostly native speakers, were hired.

Library additions were made to reflect the growing interest in Latin American art and literature.

Today, the department offers bachelor's degrees, dual degrees and minors.

Through the years the department has been a leader in offering study abroad, beginning with trips to

Spain, France and French-speaking Canada during the 1980s.

Several years ago associate professor Margarita Ribar, chair of the department, began leading full-immersion trips, where students travel to a foreign country and attend intensive Spanish classes for two weeks while living with a host family.

Other students study abroad for a semester or more while refining their language skills.

The department offers face-to-face tutoring, but also utilizes online learning and virtual language labs that students can access from the privacy of their residence hall, off-campus apartment or home. Students receive their assignments and communicate with their professors online.

"I know it sounds like something from 'Back to the Future,' but that's the way we teach languages today," Ribar said.



Photo by John Altdorfer/J. Altdorfer Photography

Tinsley Delivers Keynote

Dr. Taunya Tinsley, assistant professor in the Department of Counselor Education, joins Andrew Stockey, of WTAE-TV, at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day luncheon held Feb. 11 at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. A specialist in sports counseling, Tinsley was the keynote speaker at the event, which drew 450 students, parents and administrators from 35 high schools and seven colleges and universities.

Campus BRIEFS

Staff Convocation Today

The Spring 2011 Staff Convocation will be held at 2 p.m. today in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center. President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will give his "State of the University" address and answer questions from the staff.

Red & Black Affair Set to Raise Funds for Scholarships

Fashion models are ready to stroll the runway at the perennially popular Red & Black Affair Extraordinaire.

The fifth annual luncheon and fashion show will be held April 3 in the Performance Center. As in previous years, all tickets have been sold.

The event, which benefits the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, has raised more than \$75,000 for scholarships over the past four years.

This year the Red & Black Affair will showcase fashions from Personalized Colors and kidswear from Descendants, both of Greensburg, Pa.

More than 30 vendors will be on hand when the doors open at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon is served at 1 p.m.

Discount Available for Conference

March 28 is the last day to receive the early-bird registration discount for *Celebrating Northern Appalachia in*

Word and Song, a daylong conference set for April 11 at Cal U.



Jennifer Haigh

Presented by the Northern Appalachian Network and the Department of Social Work at Cal U, the conference highlights the people of Northern Appalachia, as well as the literature, poetry and music of an area that encompasses portions of Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and Ohio.

Jennifer Haigh, author of the New York Times best-seller *Baker Towers*, will deliver the keynote address, "From a Deep Well: Writing My Appalachia," at 9 a.m. in the Performance Center.

CEUs and Act 48 credits are available. A complete schedule of events is available online at www.calu.edu.

Conference check-in begins at 8 a.m., and talks continue through 5 p.m. in the Natali Student Center. Exhibits will be located in the lobby and hallway of the student center.

The regular conference fee is \$65; those who register by March 28 pay just \$45. Cost for students with valid ID is \$20. Same-day registration for the keynote address only is \$10. To register, visit www.calu.edu.

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, then choose "Cal U Journal" to see the current edition in its new format or to review archived editions from 2011.

Robots to Square Off in Natali

— Continued from page 1

Amrhein, co-director of NCRETE, the National Center for Robotics Engineering Technology Education, based at Cal U.

"This year's BotsIQ committee is fine-tuning the event to maximize its impact on participants and regional manufacturers."

In addition to educating students, the competition aims to build a future workforce that can support the region's manufacturing base. Among the 44 "Bots IQ companies" in southwestern Pennsylvania are Allegheny Ludlum in Washington, Pa.; Dura-Metal products in Irwin; Jatco Machine and Tool in Pittsburgh; Kennametal Knowledge Center in Latrobe; and Lockheed Aero Division in Johnstown.

Hosting the program at Cal U gives prospective students and their teachers a chance to explore the campus and learn more about Cal U's science and technology offerings. In addition, Amrhein said, "Students see that building things is fun, it's challenging and it's a potential career."

Cal U Adds Forensic Science to New Degree Lineup

— Continued from page 1

degree is intended for individuals who are working in or who are interested in pursuing careers as federal agents, homicide detectives, sex crimes investigators, crime scene specialists, and even attorneys who desire to add state-of-the-art science to their repertoire."

Other PASSHE schools have proposed PSM programs in applied archaeology, applied computer science, environmental studies, global environmental studies, health physics, instructional technology, integrated scientific applications, materials science and nursing administration.

To learn more about the PSM programs proposed by the State System, visit www.passhe.edu/psm.

Women's Hockey Club Takes Title

The women's hockey club concluded its third year on the ice by winning the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference Division I Championship.

After finishing in third place during the regular season, Cal U dominated the DVCHC playoffs, which took place Feb. 18-20 at the Hagerstown (Md.) Ice and Sports Complex.

The Vulcans opened the post-season with a 5-2 victory over American University. Team captain Tiffany Juha recorded a hat trick, and goaltender Kim Montgomery stopped 17 of 19 shots.

After a scoreless first period in the semifinals, Cal eliminated regular-season champion West Chester by a 5-1 score. Juha netted another hat trick, Megan Cooper scored twice and Montgomery stopped 18 shots.

In the title game the Vulcans overcame a 2-1 deficit after two periods, scoring three dramatic goals in the final 20 minutes to seal a 4-2 victory over second-seeded Delaware.

Juha scored twice in the third period, and Amanda Smith, the playoffs' Most Valuable Player, closed out the scoring. Holly Bingham scored the game's first goal, and Montgomery continued her strong goaltending with 13 saves.

Overall, the Vulcans outshot Delaware 41-15, including a 16-4 advantage in the third period. With the win, Cal U's women avenged two single-goal losses to Delaware in the regular season.

"It may be a cliché, but this was a total team effort," said head coach Gregg Kaminski, who was



Cal U women's hockey team members (from left to right) Allison Steinheiser, Angelica Smith, Lacey McCuean, Melissa Heisler, Lena Merlino, Alli Paratore, Tiffany Juha and Megan Cooper celebrate with the trophy from the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference Division I Championship.

assisted by Max Montello. "They played their best hockey at the end of the season and deserve the championship they earned."

The women's team ended the season with an 11-6-

4-2 record.

The Vulcans finished second in the DVCHC Division I tournament last year after winning the conference's Division II title two years ago.

Events Continue for Women's History Month

The Women's History Month celebration continues at Cal U with three events this week. On the calendar:

— **Wednesday:** Ariko Iso, athletic trainer for the AFC champion Pittsburgh Steelers, will discuss her work at 9 a.m. in Hamer Hall, room 136. Iso is the only female athletic trainer in the 32-team National Football League.

At 5 p.m. motivational speaker Alexis Jones will give a presentation in Steele Hall's Blaney Theatre. A social

entrepreneur and writer, Jones is founder of the female empowerment company *i am that girl*, "which empowers local groups of young women all over the country to collaborate instead of compete, contribute instead of consume and build a powerhouse community of phenomenal women," Jones says.

Admission is free to both women's talks.

— **Wednesday through Friday:** *The Vagina Monologues*, an award-winning play by Eve Ensler, will be

presented at 7 p.m. in the Blaney Theatre, inside Steele Hall. Cost is \$10 for community members, \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the Information Desk inside the Natali Student Center, or they can be purchased at the door.

All Women's History events are open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the new Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For a complete calendar of events, and more information about the speakers, visit www.calu.edu.

Faculty Members Present Paper

Jeff Magers and Christina Toras, assistant professors in the Department of Professional Studies, made presentations at the 48th annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Toronto, Canada.

On March 5 they presented a paper titled "The Evolving State of Miranda: Legal and Policy Implications for Law Enforcement." The talk was part of a panel event, "Analyzing Supreme Court Decisions Aimed at Protecting the Defendant."

Their presentation addressed the significant legal and policy issues law enforcement executives must consider as they develop operational directives and officer training that comply with current case law.

ATTENTION UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY!!

Call for Student Nominations to Standing Committees to the California University Forum

The California University Forum has announced a call for the nomination of students for the University Forum standing committees. The Forum is the University's shared governance system, which enhances the communication between and among all segments of the University. The University Forum consists of administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni, all of who have a voice in the university's future. **Alumni, faculty, staff, students, or community members may nominate any student of California University to serve. Self-nominations are permitted.** The numbers of student seats available on the committees are as follows:

Athletic Advisory (3)

Budget (2)
Communication (3)
Core Values (3)
Planning & Priorities (3)
Safety and Social Equity (3)
Student Life (7)
Technology (3)

The committees meet periodically to tackle certain issues and make recommendations to the full Forum. For further information and details of the committees visit the Forum website at <http://www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/forum/index.htm>.

The Forum Executive Committee will make the final decision on appointees to the various standing committees. The nominees will be

contacted to confirm acceptance of their appointment.

The nomination form is available via the Public Folders (Campus-Wide Resources/University Forum) on the university's Microsoft Exchange Server. (For detailed instructions, contact the Computing Systems Helpdesk at campus extension 5911.) All nominations must be submitted to the Forum Office by **Friday, March 25, 2011**. For more information contact Mrs. Dana Turcic, Forum Recording Secretary at 724-938-1633 or via email at CalForum@calu.edu or turcic@calu.edu. You may also write her at University Forum Office, Campus Box: 99, 250 University Avenue, California, PA 15419.

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