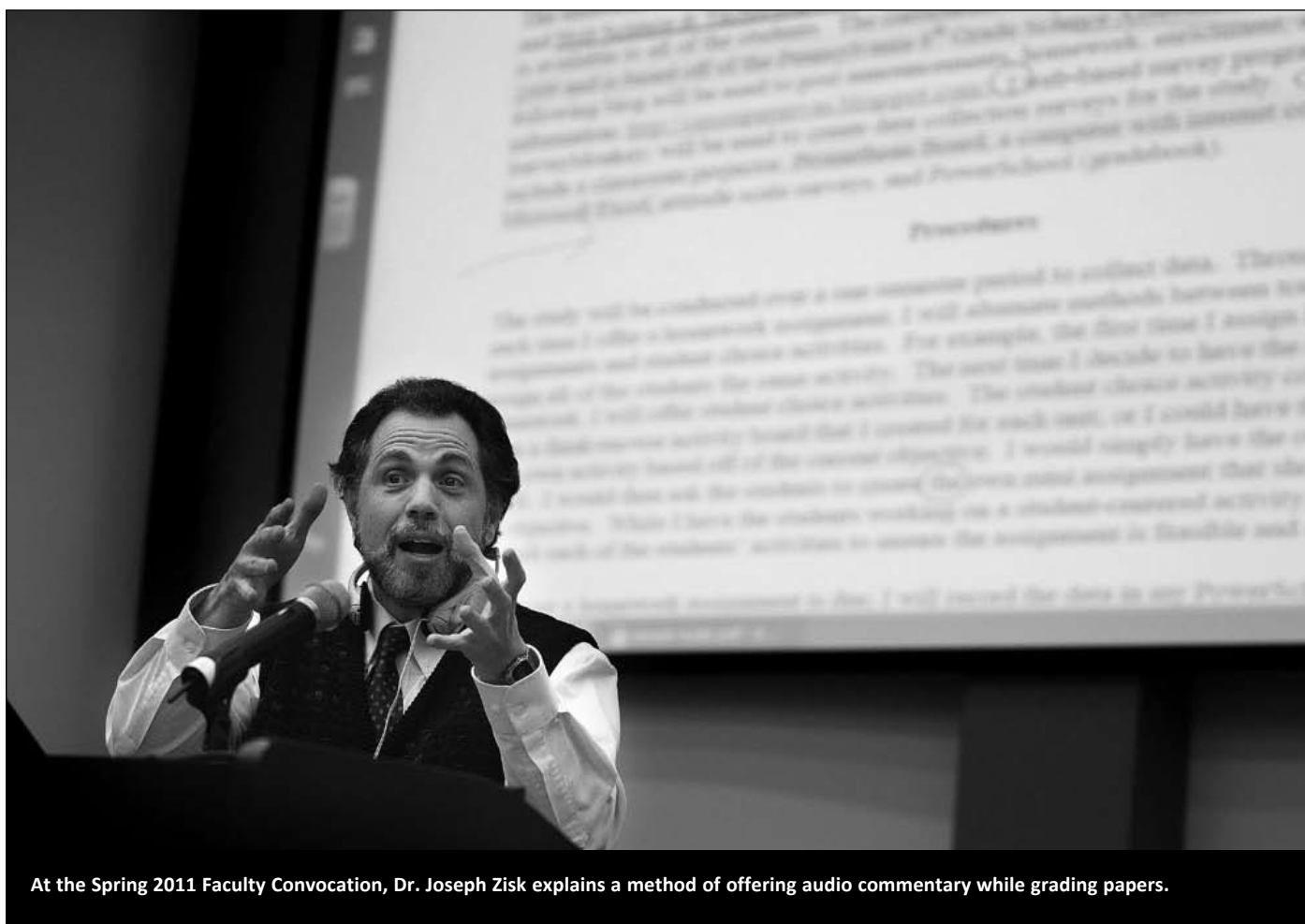


California University JOURNAL

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At the Spring 2011 Faculty Convocation, Dr. Joseph Zisk explains a method of offering audio commentary while grading papers.

Freshmen, Seniors Tapped for Online Survey

This spring, the Office of Continuous Improvement will be administering NSSE, the National Survey of Student Engagement, to a random sampling of first- and senior-year students.

The NSSE is administered by Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research in cooperation with the Indiana University Center for Survey Research at Indiana University-Bloomington. Through IUB, some Cal U students will receive an invitation to participate through their campus e-mail addresses.

The survey is completed online. This important endeavor has been authorized by Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., who urges all invited students to participate.

Feedback from past surveys has led Cal U to take steps that enhance student satisfaction with academics and campus life. One example is the “common hour” set aside for guest lectures or other campus-wide activities. So everyone can participate, no classes are held between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays — an idea that arose from the NSSE results.

“I encourage all students to participate in this important study,” said President Armenti. “The results will allow us to assess and improve the quality of our academic offerings, as well as the value of each and every student’s diploma upon graduation.”

The NSSE survey is short and easy for students to complete. It asks undergraduates about their interactions with educationally important activities and groups.

— Continued on page 2

Technology Takes Center Stage

Upgrades, New Grading Method Highlighted at Faculty Convocation

The commitment to the campus-wide *Cal U Fusion* initiative was evident at the spring Faculty Convocation, where technology upgrades were announced and the faculty was introduced to a new technique for grading papers.

University President Angelo Armenti, Jr. announced that through a \$7 million bond approved by the Board of Governors, all 74 classrooms on the main campus will be renovated to incorporate “smart” technology.

A more robust Wi-Fi system at all campus locations, including Roadman Park and the Southpointe Center, also is anticipated.

“*Cal U Fusion* is the fusing of technology with learning and life,” said President Armenti. “Soon every one of

our classrooms will be state-of-the-art.”

Before the President’s regular State of the University address, Dr. Joseph Zisk briefly demonstrated a grading process that adds audio files to student work, allowing students to hear feedback in their teacher’s voice.

Zisk is a professor in the Department of Secondary Education and director of the online Master of Arts Teaching (MAT) program. He explained that students’ papers, submitted as simple Word documents through the Desire2Learn system, can be converted to PDFs using Adobe Acrobat Pro software. A faculty member easily can add a cover sheet to each assignment, insert written or audio comments, and return the annotated papers through D2L.

Student feedback has been positive,

Zisk said. “Not only does this make it quicker and easier for us (to grade papers), but the students enjoy listening to our audio comments.”

Zisk will share his grading system by posting instruction online.

In other business:

- Dr. Michael Slavin, president of the local Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF), called for civility as he discussed the new collective bargaining agreement to be negotiated with PASSHE.

“The CBA is not a one-sided agreement,” he said. “It’s not a faculty contract. It’s an agreement between the administration and the faculty.”

“Now is the time to take

— Continued on page 2

Police Chiefs Assemble on Campus

Some 30 law enforcement professionals from local jurisdictions and the Pennsylvania State Police met in the Kara Alumni House Jan. 26 to inaugurate the Washington County Police Chiefs Association.

The meeting was hosted by Washington County District Attorney Steven Toprani, a Cal U alumnus, and organized in cooperation with the Institute for Forensic and Criminological Sciences at Cal U.

Before the association’s first business meeting, Dr. John Cencich welcomed the police

chiefs and shared information about the forensic institute, which offers training programs and an array of professional services for law enforcement.

At no cost to local police departments, the institute shares faculty members’ academic and real-world expertise, explained Cencich, the institute’s director and dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Police agencies can consult with specialists in gambling devices, computer forensics, behavioral analysis of violent crime and forensic anthropology, as well as

languages such as Spanish and Arabic.

The institute also offers professional training presented by The Academy Group Inc., some of the original criminal profilers from the Behavioral Science Unit at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

In addition, Cal U’s academic programs include a Master of Arts in Social Science (Applied Criminology) and a new certificate in Spanish for Law Enforcement. Both are offered through Cal U Global Online, ranked No. 1 in the

— Continued on page 3



Washington County District Attorney Steven Toprani '01 converses with Cal U Police Chief Robert Downey before a meeting of the Washington County Police Chiefs Association in the Kara Alumni House on Jan. 26.

Black History Month Celebration Continues

Cal U's Black History Month celebration continues with five events this week, including a performance Thursday by Black Violin, two young performers whose high-energy show blends elements of hip-hop and other popular music with classical violin.

Time Out New York Kids described their show as "a raucous, rousing, genre-busting performance piece that dares the audience to get up and dance."

This week's Black History Month events:

- **Tonight:** At 6 p.m. in Vulcan Theatre, multicultural educator and Cal U alumnus Brian C. Johnson '94, '96 will use Hollywood films to spark a discussion of diversity. Johnson is now a faculty member at Bloomsburg

University.

- **Tuesday:** AVI, the University's food service provider, will offer dining options from a region of Africa at the Gold Rush and Joe's Contemporary American Grill.

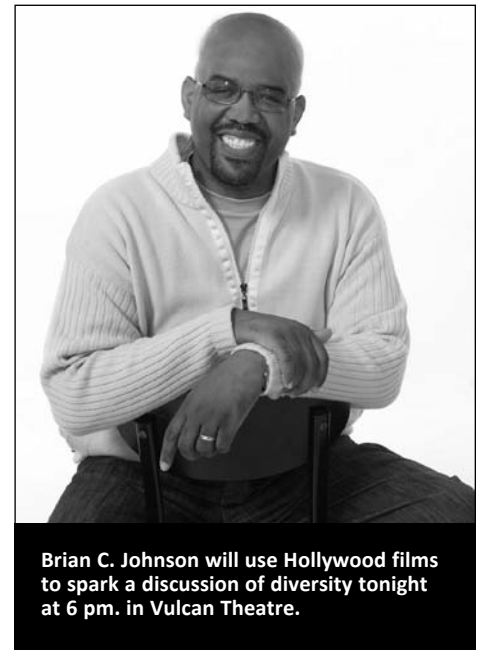
- **Wednesday:** The Frederick Douglass Institute Lecture Series will present Dr. Michelle Torregano at 11 a.m. in room 103 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center. An FDI Scholar, she is an assistant professor in Cal U's Department of Special Education.

- **Thursday:** Black Violin takes the stage at 6 p.m. in the Performance Center. Trained in classical violin, Florida natives Wil B and Kev Marcus create a signature sound by adding jazz, hip-hop, funk and a DJ to the mix. The

group has released an album, "Black Violin," and embarked on a campaign of social change, using youth orchestras and re-invigorated music programs to foster self-expression among urban youth.

- **Friday:** Cal U's own Young and Gifted Gospel Choir will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performance Center. Their "Celebration of Gospel" will include a special appearance by recording artists King.

All events are free and 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, video clips and more information about the performers and speakers, visit www.calu.edu.



Brian C. Johnson will use Hollywood films to spark a discussion of diversity tonight at 6 p.m. in Vulcan Theatre.



President Armenti makes a point while delivering his State of the University address at the Faculty Convocation.

Technology Takes Center Stage at Convocation

— Continued from page 1

responsibility," added Slavin, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. "Read the contract, understand what the issues are and get involved. The faculty and administration have a responsibility to develop a fair set of rules so we can provide our students the highest quality education at the most reasonable cost."

- Dayna Damaso, a senior majoring in social work, presented a student perspective. A peer mentoring coordinator and president of the Bachelor's of Social Work Association, she expressed gratitude for a scholarship awarded by the Foundation for California University.

"There are no words I can speak today that will accurately convey my gratitude for the generous gift I have received," she said. "This financial support has enabled me to focus on what is truly important."

- President Armenti noted that Cal U's enrollment continues to grow. Total full-time equivalency (FTE) has increased 2.5 percent from a year ago, and total FTE has increased 57 percent over the past nine years.

- He also pointed out changes in performance funding approved by the Board of Governors, and explained that graduate students will pay a flat per-credit rate for all classes. Administrators are still examining the specific effect of these policy changes on Cal U and its students.

- The President gave an abbreviated version of "The Future of Public Higher Education in Pennsylvania," which he presented originally to the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Trustees last October at Kutztown University.

In his presentation, the President suggests tuition changes that would benefit both state-owned universities and Pennsylvania students, including those who struggle to afford higher educations.

Despite the many challenges confronting higher education in general, President Armenti said he believes that Cal U and its faculty will continue to prosper.

"With your help and continued hard work," he said, "we will continue to do what we must to deliver our mission and remain a place of opportunity."

When Mercury Drops, Signs Change Color

Is that sidewalk merely wet, or is it icy and likely to be slick? Soon, more than two dozen devices on campus will answer that question by changing color in cold weather.

The University is making plans to install 25 IceAlert units at key locations near parking lots and campus walkways.

The units are designed to reduce the risk of slip-and-fall accidents by alerting pedestrians when temperatures drop into the "freezing zone" below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. The devices rely on the Bluestar technology already in use at leading corporations such as Motorola, General Motors, Alcoa, PPG Industries and Bayer Corp.

Cal U would be the first East Coast university to deploy the thermodynamic units, which turn from white to blue in freezing temperatures.

Visible from a distance, the 6-inch "blue star" symbols remind pedestrians to take extra care, and they clearly indicate to maintenance staff where de-icing or non-slip compounds should be applied.

Additional signs remind passers-by that "blue reflectors indicate freezing temperature."

"As the campus becomes more pedestrian-friendly, it is important to provide the information people need to traverse campus safely," said Christopher Johnston, director of the Parking and Transportation Office. "The Cal U transportation network is committed to improving all modes of travel, including bus, bike and travel on foot."

The IceAlert units are expected to last from eight to 12 years.

Plans call for installing 12 IceAlerts along campus walkways. Additional units will be placed near parking lots 2, 4, 5, 7, 20, 22 and 24.



HR Director Earns Certification



Pamela Murphy

Pamela M. Murphy, MSBA, PHR, interim director of human resources at Cal U, has earned certification as a Professional in Human Resources. The certification is awarded by the HR Certification Institute, which promotes the establishment of professional standards and recognizes professionals who meet them.

To become certified, Murphy passed a comprehensive examination and demonstrated experience in the field of human resources.

Freshmen, Seniors Focus of Student Engagement Survey

— Continued from page 1

More than 1,000 four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Canada have used the NSSE to better understand the extent to which students and institutions are engaging in effective teaching and learning activities, and to develop programs and practices that foster student engagement. The results provide a "snapshot" of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college.

Institutions will use their data to identify aspects of the undergraduate experience, inside and outside the classroom that can be improved through changes in policies and practices.

The information is also intended for use by prospective college students, their parents, college counselors, academic advisers, institutional research officers and researchers in learning more about how students spend their time at different colleges and universities and what they gain from their experiences.

By the middle of this month, NSSE invitations will be sent to students' university e-mail addresses. Follow-up e-mails will be sent to the students by IUB through March and Web survey administration will close June 1. Following analysis of the NSSE data by IUB, reports will be sent to the participating universities in August.

For more information about the NSSE survey, contact Norman Hasbrouck, Special Assistant to the President, at 724-938-1561; or call the Office of Continuous Improvement at 724-938-1673.

Multimedia Journalism Class Launches Website

Students in last semester's inaugural Multimedia Journalism class have posted digital stories, slide shows and videos for an audience of online readers.

"Some of the students had little previous journalism experience, and some had just basic digital experience, but all bravely dove in to use our new digital equipment and explore new ways



Margo Wilson

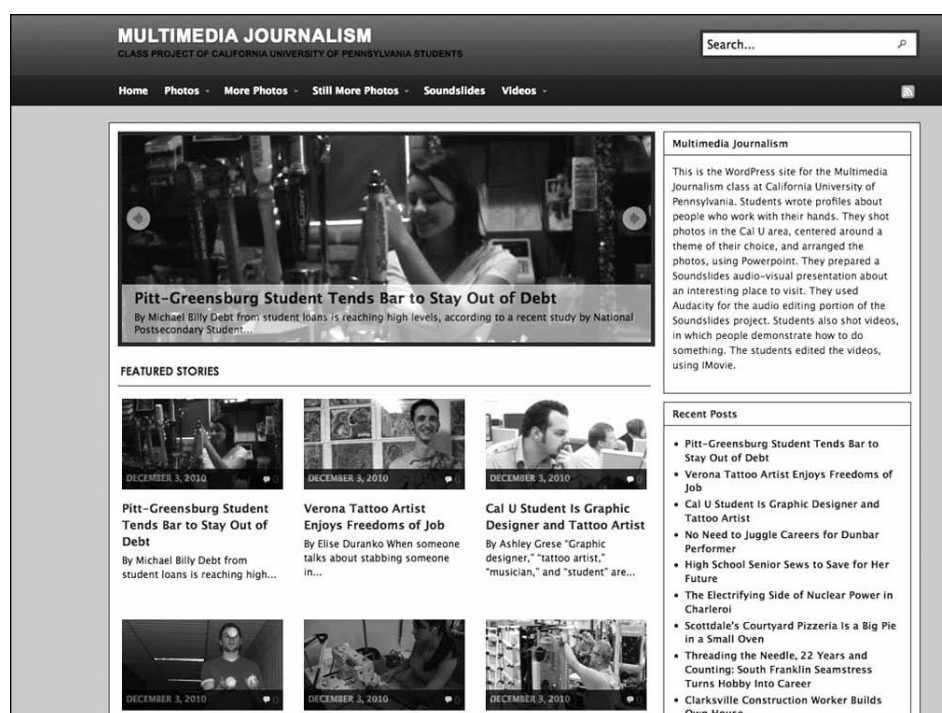
to tell stories," said Margo Wilson, associate professor of English and journalism.

"It really was gratifying to see the students' efforts."

To make the class possible, the English Department used \$90,000 in technology fee funds to refurbish its computer lab in Manderino 230. New Macintosh computers and software, audio recorders, and video and still cameras were purchased.

Developing the course was a team effort, Wilson said.

Vice president Charles Mance and director Becky Nichols, both of University Technology Services, supported the tech fee request and helped to launch the project. Ryan



Usher and C.J. DeJuliis, also of UTech Services, helped to purchase, install and tweak the equipment.

Barbara Engle (now with Library Services) and Joyce Sheppick from the Purchasing Department helped to smooth out tangles in the paperwork. Dr. Michael Hummel, former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and associate provost Stan Komacek helped

with chair purchases, scheduling of work, and other administrative support. Dr. John Cencich, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, supported hiring a graduate assistant.

Pamela Delverne, director of new media services, spent time customizing the Wordpress blog that serves as the class website and demonstrating how to use it. The English Department and its

See Their Work

To view the digital story packages created by the Multimedia Journalism class, visit <http://sai.calu.edu/mmjournalism>

chair, Madeline Smith, supported the project from the outset, and the University-wide Curriculum Committee supported adding the class.

The journalism program expects to receive \$19,600 in the next round of technology-fee funding for equipment that will allow student reporters to function as mobile journalists.

"We are grateful for these opportunities to move Cal U's journalism program into the 21st century," Wilson said.

"Our students are fortunate to have these hands-on opportunities to learn their craft in relatively small classes. These are opportunities that students at other schools don't necessarily have. We also are really lucky that Cal is small enough so we can team up with dedicated colleagues from a multitude of University departments to offer exciting new possibilities for our students."



John Cencich, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research and director of the Institute for Forensic and Criminological Sciences, addresses the audience during a meeting of the Washington County chiefs of police.

Police Chiefs Gather On Campus

— Continued from page 1

nation for online education programs.

"In the past two years, we have trained hundreds of police officers, as well as members of the Pennsylvania State Police and the FBI," Cencich said. "One key to our success has been the support and cooperation of the Washington County District Attorney's Office."

The meeting included a presentation by Todd Merlina, enforcement supervisor with the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement.

A 25-year liquor enforcement employee of the state police, Merlina supervises the statewide compliance check program that works to identify and sanction establishments that serve liquor to minors. He discussed effective approaches to liquor law enforcement, with a special emphasis on the problem of underage drinking.

Underage drinkers are not the only ones who maybe penalized, he explained. Individuals can face steep fines if they purchase alcohol for minors or host a party where underage drinkers are served.

"We're trying to save lives," Merlina said. "We've all seen tragedies because of alcohol and underage (drinking) parties."

Among those in attendance was University Police Chief Bob Downey Jr., who welcomed the visit from his Washington County colleagues.

"This was a good opportunity to show the facilities we have here at Cal U and to demonstrate our commitment to law enforcement," he said.

Students Ready for History Day

Young historians will prepare for regional competition at the fourth annual California University of Pennsylvania Primary Sources History Day.

The competition is set for 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 14 in the Performance Center.

Sponsored by the Library of Congress of Teaching with Primary Sources program in collaboration with the Department of History and Political Science, the event is modeled after the National History Day™ competition.

This year's contest mirrors the National History Day theme, which is "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Success, Failures and Controversy."

Participants in junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) divisions will compete in both individual and group projects. Cal U faculty members, students and other community volunteers will judge exhibits, documentaries, websites, performances and historical research papers.

All students receive framed certificates, and prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places in both group and individual divisions at both the junior and senior levels. Students from the Belle Vernon Area, Charleroi, Trinity and Uniontown Area school districts will participate.

The regional competition, known as NHD Pitt, will be held March 12-13 at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh for schools in Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties.

"Several years ago I served as a judge at the regional competition and noticed that hardly any of our area schools were there," said Dr. Michael Brna, TPS director. "So we set up a go-between local



Dr. Michael Brna, TPS director, shares a moment after last year's Primary Sources History Day competition with Meghan Planey and Jenna Christner.

competition to prepare these schools for the regional competition. This is a win-win for everyone involved."

Last year, after competing at Cal U, Sarah Sebitich of Bellmar Middle School was a regional winner in the Individual Performance category, and Belle Vernon Area's Meghan Planey and Jenna Christner were winners in the regional and state Group Documentary category. They were the first two state winners from their school.

The late Rep. John P. Murtha brought the Library of Congress TPS program to Cal U so local educators and students would have opportunities to take advantage of the vast array of online resources available through the Library of Congress.

For more information, call Lynne Berdar at the TPS office, 724-938-6025, or e-mail berdar@calu.edu.



A Winter's Walk

Erica Richardson, a graphic design major, walks through the early morning fog to her first class. Due to the snow and poor road conditions, Cal U closed early on Jan. 26.

Attention University Community! Call for Nominations for Election to Cal U Forum

In accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the California University Forum, a timetable for faculty and student representatives' elections has been established.

The goal is to have all representatives in place for the first meeting of the Forum on Tuesday, September 6, 2011.

All tenure and tenure-track faculty who were hired to begin work prior to or in Spring 2009 and who have the rank of assistant professor or higher are eligible for nomination. (See the list of eligible faculty on this page.)

Eligible faculty members can self-nominate or offer a colleague's name into nomination. Any member of the University community (staff, students, managers) may nominate a faculty member.

Nominations must be postmarked or received on or before **February 11th** and forwarded to Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary of the Forum, sent internally to campus box 99, or emailed to her at CaForum@calu.edu.

Four faculty members will be elected to the Forum by secret ballot, following the written nominations. All regular (i.e. tenured and tenure-track) faculty may vote. The voting will take place electronically and will be ready for voting on **February 23rd and 24th**. Further information will be provided to faculty members who are eligible to vote.

According to the constitution and bylaws of

the Forum, of the four faculty being elected: two (2) must come from the Eberly College of Science and Technology; and one (1) must come from the College of Liberal Arts and one (1) must be elected at-large (from College of Education and Human Services, College of Liberal Arts, Eberly College of Science and Technology or No College Affiliation.) Faculty members who are currently serving as faculty senators on the Forum are eligible to serve consecutive terms.

The term of these four faculty representatives will be two years.

A plurality of votes cast will be necessary to win election.

Details of the student nomination and election process will be available in future issues of the California Times.

College of Education and Human Services

Dr. Connie Armitage
Dr. Sylvia Barksdale
Mr. Justin Barroner
Mr. Ralph Belsterling
Dr. Carol Biddington
Dr. Barbara Bonfanti
Dr. Silvia Braidic
Dr. Gloria Brusoski
Dr. James Burton
Ms. Nancy Carlino
Dr. Margaret Christopher
Dr. Joni Cramer-Roh
Ms. Christine Crawford
Dr. Charles Crowley
Dr. Holly Diehl
Ms. Lisa Driscoll
Ms. Jodi Dusi
Dr. Dilawar Edwards
Dr. Grafton Eliason
Dr. Deborah Farrer
Mr. Marc Federico
Dr. Lizbeth Gillette
Ms. Elizabeth Gruber

Dr. Scott Hargraves
Dr. Chris Harman
Ms. Mary Hart
Mr. Jeffrey Hatton
Dr. Keith Hepner
Dr. Nancy Hepting
Dr. Rebecca Hess
Dr. Karen Hjerpe
Dr. Marcia Hoover
Dr. J. William Hug
Ms. Patricia Johnson
Dr. Denise Joseph
Dr. Robert Kane
Dr. Kalie Kossar
Dr. Mary Kreis
Mr. Regis Lazor
Dr. Kevin Lordon
Ms. Ayanna Lyles
Ms. Cerenna Mace
Ms. Vanessa MacKinnon
Dr. Margaret Marcinek
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Dr. Beverly Melenzyer
Dr. Linda Meyer
Mr. Michael Meyer
Dr. Laura Miller
Dr. Katherine Mitchem
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Ms. JoAnn Naeser
Dr. Diane Nettles
Dr. John Patrick
Dr. Christine Patti
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Dr. Christine Peterson
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Dr. Benjamin Reuter
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Dr. Pamela Twiss
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Dr. Jacqueline Walsh
Dr. Jamie Weary
Ms. Ellen West
Dr. Thomas West
Dr. Richard Wyman
Dr. Roy Yarbrough

Dr. Joseph Zisk

Liberal Arts

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Dr. Aref Al-Khattar
Ms. Maggy Aston
Dr. Mark Aune
Mr. Dencil Backus
Dr. Angela Bloomquist
Dr. Melanie Blumberg
Mr. James Bove
Mr. Malcolm Callery
Dr. Anthony Carlisle
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Dr. Rick Cumings
Ms. Laura DeFazio
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Dr. Sylvia Foil
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Dr. Elizabeth Larsen
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Mr. Sammy Lonich
Dr. Andrae Marak
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Dr. Gregory Spicer
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Dr. Laura Tuennerman
Dr. Carole Waterhouse
Ms. Margo Wilson
Dr. Mohamed Yamba
Dr. George Yochum

Eberly College of Science and Technology

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Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson
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Mr. William Bosel
Dr. Carol Bocetti
Dr. David Boehm
Dr. Gina Boff
Dr. Kaddour Boukaabar
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Dr. Paula Caffrey
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Mr. Steve Whitehead
Dr. Robert Whyte
Dr. Paul Williams
Dr. Kimberly Woznack
Dr. Peter Wright
Dr. Kausar Yasmin
Dr. Edwin Zuchelkowski

No College Affiliation

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Mr. William Denny
Ms. Julia McGinnis
Mr. William Meloy
Dr. Dawn Moeller
Mr. Albert Pokol
Mr. Loring Prest
Dr. Mary Salotti
Mr. Ryan Sittler

Campus BRIEFS

FPDC Merit Award Nominations Due Feb. 15

Each Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC) Subcommittee—Research, Teaching and Learning, Technology, Service and Service-Learning, and Grants and Contracts—offers a \$1,000 award that can be used for professional activities (as appropriate in relation to the award).

The form to nominate a faculty member for the Merit Award can be downloaded from the Faculty Professional Development Committee's website. Self-nominations for

the merit award are acceptable. The completed nomination form must be received by noon on Feb. 15 in the Faculty Center, Room 134, Azorsky Hall.

OSD Offers Help

The Office for Students with Disabilities is available to assist California University students. Information about OSD's mission and services can be found on the Cal U website, www.calu.edu and search for the keyword "disability." Interested students are invited to schedule a small-group meeting for semester registration; call OSD for an appointment.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays in Room 105, Azorsky Hall. To contact the office, call 724-938-5781 or e-mail at osdmail@calu.edu.

Meyers Judges Competition

Robert Meyers, assistant professor in the Department of Art and Design, judged the Addy Awards competition for the American Advertising Federation of Charleston, W.Va.

The Addy Awards professional competition recognizes and rewards creative excellence in advertising and graphic design. The judging was held Jan. 27-28.

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