

# California University JOURNAL

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## Alumni Share Thoughts at Commencement

Inspiration and advice from two distinguished alumni highlighted Cal U's 171st Commencement. At ceremonies on Dec. 17 and 18, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. conferred degrees on more than 1,300 graduates, including students whose diplomas were awarded in absentia.

He urged associate, bachelor's and master's degree candidates to embrace Cal U for Life, which encourages both students and alumni to share their time, talent and treasure with the University.

"We want each of you to have a lifelong relationship with your *alma mater*," President Armenti said. "All of you can give of your time and talent now, and the treasure will come in future years."

The President also spoke of Cal U's culture of philanthropy, and at the undergraduate ceremonies, the senior class presented a gift. Graduating senior Jordan Galiffa, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, gave President Armenti an oversized check for more than \$8,000.

"Those of us who worked on the inaugural senior class gift drive committee certainly embrace this important and daring initiative," said Galiffa. "Even though we were not exposed to Cal U for Life as the incoming freshman are now, we also take seriously the lifelong relationship we want to have with our *alma mater*."

Dr. Sandra Kiski Stout '72, 74 addressed the master's degree candidates on Dec. 17, and Armand Balsano '74 delivered remarks Dec. 18 at the undergraduate event.

Stout is a distinguished educator who retired as acting superintendent of Keystone Oaks School District and still serves as a consultant for the Carnegie Science Center and is an adjunct professor at both the University of Pittsburgh and Washington and Jefferson College.

Stout asked the graduates to consider their own ethical standards as they face the future, noting that higher education, in the truest sense, must embrace deeply held values that determine what we stand for, what we care about and, ultimately, who we are.

"Given what our country and we as citizens have endured recently," she said, "we have to question how individuals make choices in their daily lives and if they are indeed guided by a sense of personal ethics."

Stout advised the graduates to continue learning and



Brittany Wagner receives flowers from her son, William, at the Graduate Commencement.

to help others along.

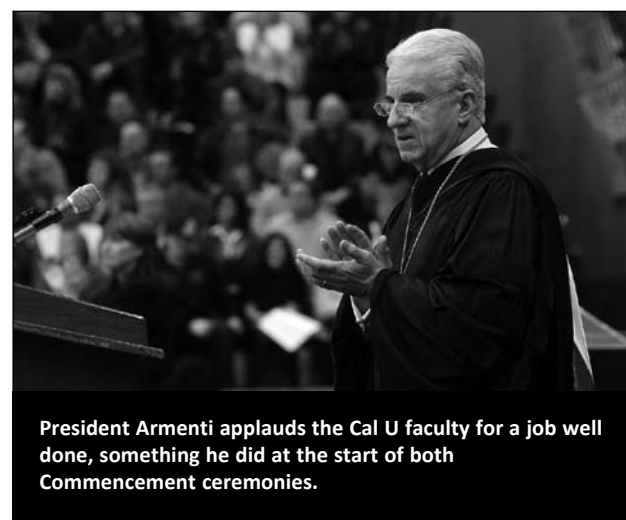
"As highly educated people and the future of our country, I encourage you to continue your lifelong quest for learning, continue your personal sense of ethics and mentor those whose own lives cross your path."

Balsano, who has worked in the health-care industry for more than 30 years, currently is a managing director for Navigant Consulting, where he heads the Strategy Practice Division.

He told the Class of 2010 to create a career plan, be tenacious and embrace life's inevitable adversity.

"I strongly urge you graduates to stay vigilant for new opportunities now and throughout your career," he said. "Career success is very seldom a straight and linear path. Cal U provided me and you with the intellectual

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President Armenti applauds the Cal U faculty for a job well done, something he did at the start of both Commencement ceremonies.

## PASSHE Website Designed for Students

Looking to assist students throughout the college planning process, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) has launched a new website that can guide them from their earliest days of high school through admission and beyond.



The new website includes a wealth of information to assist potential students and their families in their college search and selection process. It includes a searchable directory of all academic programs offered at the 14 PASSHE universities — from associate to graduate degree — as well as information on when and how to begin

preparing for college, and how to pay for it.

"PASSHE exists first and foremost for our students," said Karen Ball, vice chancellor for external relations. "Our No. 1 shared goal is to do everything possible to help our students succeed in their careers and in their lives. Our new website was designed with that goal in mind."

In fact, students had a direct role in the site's design. Two

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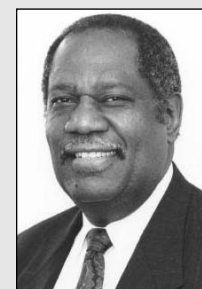
## Day of Service: Students Step Up

Cal U observed the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with its annual Day of Service on Jan. 17.

This was the first time the University has held the event on the actual date of the holiday.

Sigma Kappa Sorority assisted the Center in the Woods staff with serving lunch, and residence hall staff members and director Betsy Clark hosted bingo at the Liberty Towers senior high-rise. The Athletic Training Club and Alpha Lambda Delta honor society also performed service work. LaMont Coleman, associate dean for student affairs, and Diane Williams, director of Cal U's new Center for Civic Engagement, coordinated projects in the Natali Student Center.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni served others by making Darn It Dolls for patients at Medi-Home Hospice, writing Valentine's Day messages to children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, creating get-well cards for patients at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Pittsburgh, collecting and packaging items on the Ronald McDonald House wish list, and preparing for the annual American Cancer



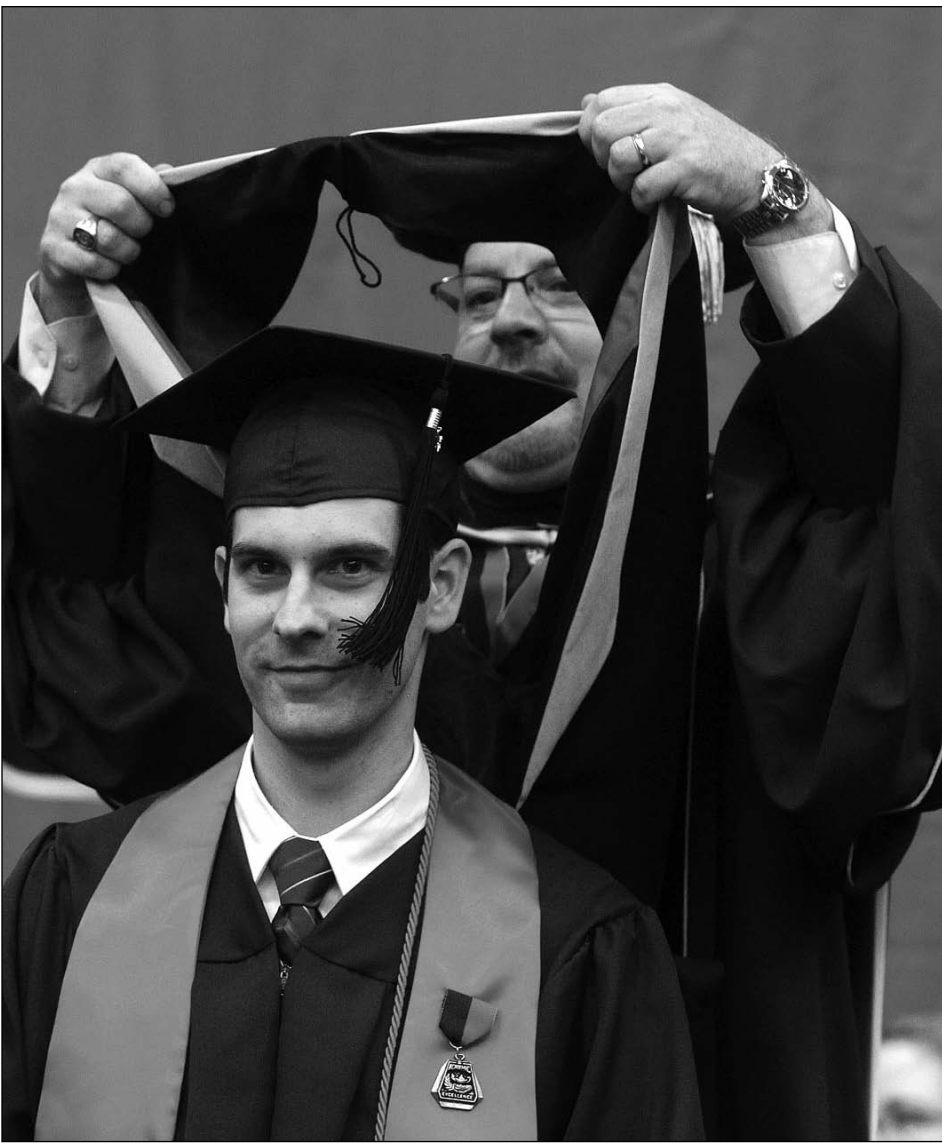
### MLK Day Speaker

Robert G. Stanton, a senior adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, will speak at a luncheon Jan. 19 marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day. See story on page 3.

Society Daffodil Days event.

Inspiration for the Day of Service was a 2003 visit to Cal U by the late Coretta Scott King, wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During her campus visit, she asked that the day commemorating her husband be observed as "a day on, rather than a day off."

"Our students take this day and Mrs. King's message very seriously," Coleman said. "Even though the spring semester did not start until the next day, it was important for the students and other members of the University community to do their part."



Mary Jo Livingood celebrates with her daughter Ava Marie and husband, Jason Livingood, in the Hamer Hall bleachers after the Undergraduate Commencement ceremony.

## Alumni Share Thoughts at Winter Commencement

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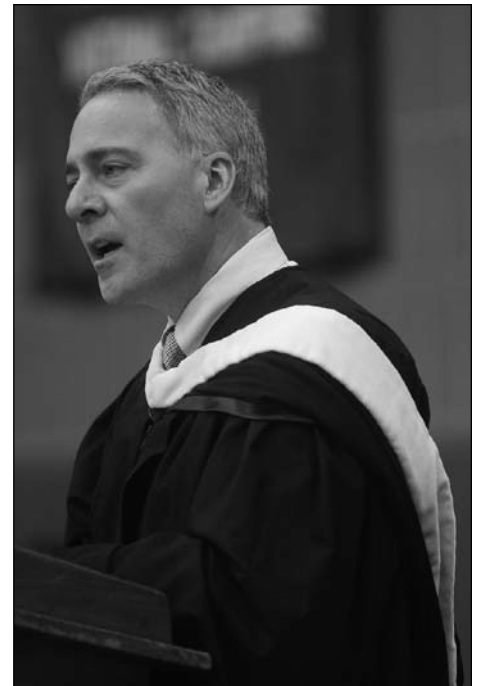
foundation and problem-solving skills that are necessary in any career.”

Balsano told the graduates they are equipped for success, if they are willing to work hard to achieve it.

“You will always use — and will rely upon — the discipline and work ethic that it took to get through four rigorous years of a college education,” he said. “Adversity definitely builds character. The challenges we face personally and professionally teach us self-reliance and self-discipline. Be tenacious and enjoy the ride.”

President Armenti concluded the graduate Commencement by discussing the importance of one’s spirit and legacy.

“The spirit of a person lives on after them, even without a religious context, and that spirit is their legacy,” he said. “May your spirit encourage the best in others, and may your legacy be an inspiration to all who follow.”



Undergraduate Commencement speaker Armand Balsano '74 urges the Class of 2010 to create a career plan, be tenacious and embrace life’s inevitable adversity.

Above, Dr. John Cencich, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, vests Matthew Joseph Kallis, son of Cal U faculty member Dr. John Kallis, with his academic hood. Below, Commencement speaker Dr. Sandra Kiski Stout '72 '74 asks the master’s degree candidates to consider their own ethical standards as they face the future.



## GACO Hosts Procurement Opportunities Fair

More than 400 sales representatives and regional business owners visited the 23rd annual Procurement Opportunities Fair hosted by Cal U’s Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO), Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Focused on providing western Pennsylvania businesses with contracting and subcontracting opportunities, the fair at the Holiday Inn in Washington, Pa., featured 71 booths occupied by government agencies, corporations, regional service organizations and area businesses. Also, Joe Elwell and John Pontus of the Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh, introduced their organization in a seminar titled “USACOE 101.”

GACO helps the region’s business community compete successfully for government contracts and subcontracts.

“Through these events, area businesses have access to multiple buyers for their goods and services,” said Deborah Wojcik, GACO director. “It is an excellent networking opportunity where companies can obtain information on government procurement.”

Local businesses assisted by Cal U’s GACO program have reported receiving more than 31,897 contracts and subcontracts totaling over \$2.36 billion, Wojcik said.

GACO is supported by grants from the Sarah Scaife Foundation and the Defense Logistics Agency. The next procurement fair will be held on Oct. 19, at the



Bill McCabe (left), sales director at Industrial Testing Laboratory Services, Pittsburgh; Marty Wenzig, president of Industrial Testing Laboratory Services; and Deborah Wojcik, GACO director, attend the 23rd annual Procurement Opportunities Fair.

Sheraton Four Points in Mars, Pa.

Area businesses interested in obtaining additional information about this fair or GACO’s services may contact Tracy Julian at 724-938-5881. More information

is available on the Cal U website, [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu); look for “Information for ... Business and Community” at the top of the homepage, then click on “Government Agency Coordination Office.”

# Foundation Announces Annual Awards

At their annual dinner Dec. 13, members of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania presented awards to three individuals and elected three new members to the Foundation Board of Directors.

Elected during the business portion of the meeting were William R. Booker '74, Lawrence Maggi '79, and Dr. Lorraine Vitchoff '74.

Louis J. Panza Jr. received the Society of 1852 Award for his leadership and civic service. Tom '77 and Karen Rutledge were given the Job Johnson Award for their professional success and philanthropy, and Dr. Regis Serinko received the Dixonians Award for service to the University and community service.

■ The Society of 1852 Award is presented for distinguished contributions to the enhancement and excellence of California University

Its winner, Louis J. Panza Jr., is president and chief executive officer of Mon-Vale Health Resources Inc. and of Monongahela Valley Hospital Inc.

Involved in many community activities, numerous professional societies in the field of accounting and hospital management, Panza became associated with the hospital in 1984 and has held his current positions since July 2004.

At Cal U, Panza is a member of the Board of Presidential Advisors and a longtime partner in the University's initiatives to build relationships with the southwestern Pennsylvania community.

With President Angelo Armenti, Jr., he formed the first partnership through which the University provides training in *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and other FranklinCovey leadership programs to the hospital's executives. In return, Monongahela Valley Hospital has created an endowed scholarship fund to benefit students majoring in nursing at the University.

Panza received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, and an MBA with a concentration in accounting and business law, both from Duquesne University.

■ Job Johnson was among the founders of what eventually became California University. The award named in his honor recognizes alumni who have received recognition, outside of the University, for excellence, innovation, community service or other notable achievements.

This year's award winners, Tom and Karen Rutledge, have supported dozens of needy students with scholarship aid.



The Foundation for California University recently presented its annual awards to outstanding alumni and friends of the University. Featured in the photo (from left): President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; Louis J. Panza, Jr., The Society of 1852 Award; Tom '77 and Karen Rutledge, Job Johnson Award; Dr. Regis Serinko, Dixonians Award; and Linda H. Serene '64, president of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania.

Tom Rutledge is chief operating officer of one of the country's largest cable companies, Cablevision Inc. serving 5.3 million households and businesses in the New York metropolitan area. The industry inducted him into the Cable Hall of Fame in 2009. He serves on numerous boards, including the National Cable and Telecommunications Association (NCTA) and Cal U's Board of Presidential Advisors.

For the past three years, the Rutledge Family Fund has provided full tuition scholarships to 20 married and single students who are parents with children.

Recently, the Rutledges pledged to continue the current program for four more years, and they have increased their support to provide financial help for Cal U students who are completing internships outside of western Pennsylvania.

The couple also is also funding a new scholarship program designed to recruit students in the field of economics.

■ The Dixonians Award was named in honor of John N. Dixon, a Cal U founder who served on the Board of Trustees for 46 years. This award honors

others who unselfishly serve the University.

The 2010 recipient, Emeritus Biology Professor Dr. Regis J. Serinko, served in many teaching and administrative roles at Cal U from 1961 until his retirement in 1985.

He was the acting dean of faculty and academic affairs for two years, and he served as executive assistant to the President for five years before returning to teaching in 1975.

A World War II veteran, Serinko earned a bachelor's degree at St. Vincent College, master's degrees from West Virginia University and the University of Pittsburgh, and a doctorate from Pitt.

His research into the history of California University of Pennsylvania has resulted in the books *California State College: The People's College in the Monongahela Valley* (1975); *California University of Pennsylvania: The Alumni Association, A Century of Service, 1883 to 1983* (1983); and *California University of Pennsylvania: The People's College in the Monongahela Valley*, (1992).

His latest publication is *Freedom's Heroes: The Military Heritage of Rostraver* (2010).

## Survey Participant Wins Free Lunch

Cathy Tonkavitch, a management technician in the Purchasing Department, was randomly selected to receive a catered lunch for 15 for completing the Natali Student Center/Envision Strategies survey.

The survey was conducted to better understand the University community's views, preferences and dining habits in preparation for a possible renovation of the Natali Student Center. Envision Strategies, an independent food service consulting firm, helped to develop the survey as part of a strategic plan to guide future improvements to the student center.



Cathy Tonkavitch

"We believe that the opinions of all members of the University community should be heard, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to participate in this very important survey," said Dr. Lenora Angelone, vice president for Student Affairs.

Graduate students Matt Nebel and Kristina Angelilli presented Tonkavitch with a certificate.

"I was very surprised because I never win anything," said Tonkavitch, who will enjoy her lunch with her colleagues.

## Speaker Advises Interior Secretary

Robert G. Stanton, a senior adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, will deliver the keynote address at a luncheon Jan. 19 marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Stanton was the first African-American director of the National Park Service, serving from 1997 through the end of the Clinton administration. In that role he had policy, planning and management responsibility for the National Park System's 384 natural, cultural and recreational areas. The 83 million-

acre park system attracted 228 million visits per year and employed some 20,000 permanent, temporary and seasonal workers.

After leaving the National Park Service, Stanton was an executive professor at Texas A&M University, a visiting professor at Howard and Yale universities, and a consultant to a number of national conservation organizations. Today he advises the Interior Secretary on a wide range of environmental, organizational and management challenges and

represents the department on Presidential Policy Review committees, boards and commissions. He also provides executive leadership and program direction for the Interior Museum, Historic Art Collection and the congressionally authorized Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

In addition to speaking to invited guests at the luncheon, Stanton will meet with Dr. Harrison Pinkney and students in the parks and recreation management program.

## PASSHE Site Designed for Students

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recent graduates of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania's communication design program helped create the look and feel of the new site.

The student-oriented site also contains organizational, policy and strategic initiative information important to PASSHE employees and the general public, as well as links for potential vendors who wish to do business with the State System. It is a one-stop shop that can serve as a gateway to Pennsylvania's public universities.

With a single click of the mouse, users of the new site can go from the newly designed home page to any of several helpful links to find out what courses they should take in high school to prepare for college and which PASSHE universities offer the

programs that interest them. Students also can go quickly to a financial aid planner, as well as to a separate page designed just for students transferring from a community college or another four-year college or university.

PASSHE universities are the most affordable among all four-year colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, and the total cost of attendance — tuition, fees, room and board — is below the national average for all public universities.

The vast majority of their academic programs are accredited by professional organizations nationally, an important stamp of approval that benefits graduates who seek to go directly into the job market or who choose to apply to graduate school.

To visit the new PASSHE website, go to [www.passhe.edu](http://www.passhe.edu).



## Pie-Eyed

Devon Chappel, a secondary education, Spanish major and Alpha Sigma Tau sister, gets a pie in the face from Zach McCarty, a technology education major. Alpha Sigma Tau held the event to raise awareness about eating disorders.



Cal U's 2010 women's volleyball team continued the program's success this past fall by achieving a seventh straight 20-win season and fifth-consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Championship finals.

## Volleyball Closes Winning Season

With its 15th consecutive winning season, the Cal U women's volleyball team continued its high standard of play this fall under the direction of third-year head coach Stephanie Burner.

The Vulcans made the program's fifth-consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Championship and achieved their seventh-straight 20-win season, finishing with a 23-13 overall record.

At the regional contest, Cal U defeated IUP and tourney host Edinboro before falling to eventual national semifinalist Clarion in the finals. This was the team's sixth consecutive post-season trip.

Since 2006 the Vulcans have compiled a remarkable 62-4 home record.

Among many fine individual performers was sophomore middle hitter Meghan Franz, one of just 14

players selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-Atlantic Region Team.

Franz led the team in kills (307) and blocks (136), ranking sixth in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) with a team-high .301 hitting percentage.

Franz also was named to the Daktronics All-Atlantic Region second team, the All-PSAC West first team and the Atlantic Region All-Tournament team.

Teammate Kelly Fromknecht earned honorable mention from the AVCA and second team All-Conference honors.

A sophomore setter and right side hitter, Fromknecht finished the season with 293 kills, 224 assists, 97 digs and 89 blocks.

Over the past seven years, Cal U volleyball team's cumulative record is 225-42 (.843).

## Campus BRIEFS

### Prest Appointed to Statewide Committee

Loring Prest, associate professor in the Department of Library Services, has been appointed chair of the Keystone Library Network PILOT Committee.

Also an electronic resources librarian and the library's webmaster, Prest is now part of a statewide committee that deals with the online library catalog used throughout the State System of Higher Education and at other libraries.

The Keystone Library Network (KLN) provides the 14 State System universities and library partners with abstracts and access to 7,634 academic journals, 1,712 magazines, conference proceedings for 44 associations, and 40,568 business reports including country reports, industry reports, market research reports and SWOT analyses.

The KLN maintains catalogs of its members' holdings.

### Hjerpe Accepts Committee Post

Dr. Karen Hjerpe, associate athletic director and senior women's administrator, has been asked to serve on



Hjerpe

the regional committee of the National Association of Collegiate Women on Athletic Administration's (NACWAA).

Along with athletic administrators from the University of

Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University, Hjerpe will help to plan activities for the 2011 NACWAA National Convention, set for Oct. 9-11 in Pittsburgh.

Founded in 1979, NACWAA is the only nationally recognized collegiate professional membership organization whose mission is to enhance and promote opportunities for women in intercollegiate athletics administration.

With nearly 2,000 members, NACWAA promotes the growth, leadership, and success of women as athletics administrators, conference commissioners, professional staff, coaches and student-athletes

### Spring Faculty Convocation Jan. 27

The Spring Faculty Convocation will be held at 11 a.m. Jan. 27 in the Learning Resource Center auditorium in Morgan Hall.

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

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