

# California University JOURNAL

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Dr. Kevin Koury (third from left), dean of Cal U's College of Education and Human Services, discusses the new Autism Center with state Sen. Richard Kasunic at last month's announcement at Highlands Hospital. Also shown are Travis Hancock (far left) from the Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions, and Michelle Cunningham, CEO of Highlands Hospital.

## Autism Partnership Benefits Grad Students, Area Children

Cal U has entered into a partnership with Highlands Hospital, a not-for-profit community hospital in Connellsville, Pa., that promises advanced training for Cal U students in the Department of Special Education and a brighter future for children with autism.

The hospital in Fayette County — one of Pennsylvania's most medically underserved regions — is working with the nationally recognized Cleveland Clinic to develop state-of-the-art services for children with autism in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The program's building, staff

training and curriculum will mirror a program that has been operating for 10 years at the Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism in Ohio.

Graduate students from Cal U will prepare for careers in special education by participating in clinical experiences at the new autism center, scheduled to open next year at Highlands Hospital.

Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, represented Cal U when the partnership was announced June 16 near Connellsville.

Cal U's graduate program in special education offers a certificate in teaching children with autism, he

said, "and the certificate of study in autism adds to the value of the degree."

Cal U's graduate program has taught Applied Behavioral Analysis, the approach used by the Cleveland Clinic's autism program, for many years, he added.

"Our graduate students are energetic, well-prepared and well-supervised. With the increasing incidence of autism spectrum disorders, we are proud to be a part of this, and we thank (Highlands Hospital) for including us in this partnership."

The national Centers for  
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## Education Summit Focuses on Leadership

Hundreds of educators from overseas and across the country have registered to attend The Leader In Me Global Education Summit 2010 at California University.

Admission is free to the Aug. 4-5 event, which is sponsored by Cal U, AVI Foodsystems Inc. and Franklin Covey Co.

The summit will highlight the educator's role in equipping every student with leadership skills and a sense of personal responsibility. Breakout sessions will address issues relevant to elementary, secondary and college/university education.

Keynote speaker is Dr. Stephen R. Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and *The Leader in Me: How Parents and Schools Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time*. His topic will be "A New Paradigm of Leadership."

Other speakers and topics include:

- Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. — "From Dreams to Reality: Achieving the End in Mind."
- Sean Covey, author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* — "Creating Greatness in Education."
- Salome Thomas-El, author and contributor to the *Dr. Oz Show* — "The Immortality of Influence: Believing Every Child Can Achieve Their Dreams."
- Muriel Summers, principal of A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School (N.C.) — "Developing Leaders: One Child at a Time."
- David P. Langford, president of Langford International Inc. — "Quality Learning Innovation and Learning."
- Jerry Salandro, entrepreneur, inventor and president of IRIS Technologies — "Growing up Poor: The Best Business School on Earth."

Last year's education summit at Cal U attracted more than 600 students, teachers, principals, school superintendents and other education professionals from 18 U.S. states, as well as leaders and educators from the health-care and business communities.

"The Franklin Covey educational summits enrich the professional experiences of those Cal U  
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## Lecture Explores Clemente's Life



Roberto Clemente's widow, Vera, will be part of a lecture Wednesday at Steele Hall beginning at 7 p.m. The lecture is being held in conjunction with the exhibit, *Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente*.

The widow and son of Pittsburgh Pirates baseball star Roberto Clemente will be special guests at a free lecture held in conjunction with *Beyond Baseball: The Life of Roberto Clemente*, a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition now on display in the Manderino Gallery.

The talk will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Guest speaker is Maria Torres-Carmona, of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) in Washington, D.C. Guests include Mrs. Roberto (Vera) Clemente and her son Luis.

Before and after the lecture, guests may visit *Beyond Baseball* in the gallery on the third floor of Manderino Library.

*Beyond Baseball* was developed by the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico with the Carimar Design and Research studio.

At Cal U, it is complemented by more than 100 objects and photographs from The Clemente Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa. To register for the talk, contact Linda Volek at 724-938-5759 or volek@calu.edu.



### Professor Certified

Dr. Raymond Hsieh, a professor in Cal U's Department of Justice, Law and Society, is now an AccessData Certified Examiner in Computer Forensics. He plans to use the certification to help give students a competitive edge. See story on page 3.



Robotics Camp members William Sungala, 17, (left) and partner Leah Seader, 14, learn about pneumatic systems through hands-on activities at the first Cal U Robotics Camp.

## Robotics Camp Part of Summer Vacation for High School Students

One week of summer fun with technology may influence the career paths of nearly 30 high school students who participated in the first Cal U Robotics Camp.

Students entering grades 9-12 received hands-on experience in agile robotics, mechatronics, rapid prototyping and animatronics while experiencing the college campus setting in June.

Cal U's Office of Lifelong Learning and the National Center for Robotics Engineering Technology Education (NCRETE) sponsored the team-oriented program.

"I had a class in school about programming and thought this camp would be fun," said Evan Kerskanich, a student at Thomas Jefferson High School. "I am more interested in programming, but this has been fun."

Having a good time and getting comfortable with technology were goals of the program, said Dr. Mark Bronakowski. A professor of Applied Engineering and Technology, he taught the camp's mechatronics component.

Students in his classes worked with the basic elements of Programming Logistic Controllers to control electrical, pneumatic and mechanical systems, Bronakowski explained.

"They are looking at these three areas primarily and how they interact and overlap with each other," he said. "We want them to use programs so that whatever they are doing performs the correct function."

High school students have different skill levels than the college students he normally teaches, Bronakowski said, and the camp sessions placed less emphasis on theoretical knowledge than a typical college class.

"You want (students) to interact with the equipment, press the buttons, see things go on and off. That's exciting."

The robotics camp filled a niche for both of the camp's sponsors, said Mike Amrhein, outreach coordinator for NCRETE. For the past three summers a robotics class has been part of the Office of Lifelong Learning's popular Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids (SEEK) program for students in grades 1-8.

"There's been an overwhelming amount of interest in the robotics class, and this was the next logical progression," he said. "In addition to professional development, one of NCRETE's major deliverables is outreach initiatives in grades K-16. This was a natural partnership to give our

SEEK graduates a spin-off, and teaming with Lifelong Learning gave us a suitable model."

Terrie Greene, director of Lifelong Learning, hopes the robotics camp is just the start of more successful SEEK spin-offs.

"High school-age students are involved with many extracurricular activities, so this turnout exceeded our anticipation," she said. "We not only will build on this, but we hope to get other campus areas involved in summer activities, so we can offer more of our University resources to the community."

Greene and her staff added campus tours and other University experiences to the robotics campers' schedules. They dined at the student center, for example, and visited the *Beyond Baseball* exhibition at Manderino Gallery.

"A friend of mine told me about this program, and we both decided to come to camp," said Cameron Bartkus, a student at Ringgold High School. "I am not really interested in robotics, but I thought the camp would be fun — and I had a really good time."

Other instructors were Cal U faculty members Laura Hummell and Mike Valoski, and Tanner Huffman from Richland High School in Johnstown, Pa.

## Radio Show Features Science Initiative

A recent broadcast of "The Allegheny Front" environmental radio program featured an initiative led by Dr. J. William Hug and a group of future teachers to teach young children about science through outdoor activities.

A link to the podcast is available at [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

Follow "Academics" to "Colleges and Centers" to "College of Education and Human Services" to "Department of Elementary/Early Childhood Education."



Dr. J. William Hug

The event held earlier this year at Ohiopyle State Park was funded by a grant from *PNC Grow Up Great With Science*.

More than 500 preschool children enrolled in Fayette County Head Start and their families were invited to the event. Hands-on lessons about rocks and soil were taught by Cal U students enrolled in the Instructional Strategies course. The event was designed to introduce students to basic principles of science and reinforce academic skills necessary for success in school.

Cal U was one of just 15 colleges and universities to receive a *PNC Grow Up Great With Science* grant last year. The project targets preschoolers in Fayette County, where research shows that critical social conditions place many young learners at risk for low educational achievement.

Founded in 1991, "The Allegheny Front" focuses on issues related to the conservation of land, air and water. It airs regularly on FM stations WYEP 91.3 in Pittsburgh; WIUP 90.1 in Indiana, Pa.; eight WPSU-FM stations in northern and central Pennsylvania; WRFA-FM in Jamestown, N.Y.; and on West Virginia Public Radio.

For more information about the Allegheny Front, visit [www.alleghenyfront.org](http://www.alleghenyfront.org)

## Cal Finishes No. 2 in Directors' Cup Race

The good times continue to roll for Cal U's athletic programs.

After a successful spring sports season highlighted by an NCAA Regional championship in women's tennis, the Vulcans finished second in the final standings of the 2009-2010 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup.

This is the highest finish ever by a school in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

Announced through the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, the Directors' Cup annually honors institutions maintaining a broad-based program in both men's and women's sports. The scoring system is based on the national finishes of seven men's and seven women's sports teams.

In all, Cal U won NCAA Regional championships this past athletic year in football, women's volleyball, women's soccer and women's tennis. Other teams

competing in NCAA post-season tournaments were women's basketball, baseball, softball, women's swimming and both the men's and women's golf and track and field teams.

Grand Valley State (Mich.) earned top honors for the seventh consecutive year with 1021.50 total points, while Cal finished with 703.00. Rounding out the top five were Central Missouri (672.50), Minnesota State-Mankato (660.50), and St. Cloud (Minn.) State (643.50).

In 2008-2009, the Vulcans placed ninth in the final Learfield standings for NCAA Division II.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment that really reflects on the quality of our student-athletes and coaches that we have here," said Cal U athletic director Dr. Tom Pucci. "This is a direct reflection on the leadership of President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and his support of our athletic program."



Led by the football team reaching the NCAA Division II National Semifinals for the third consecutive season, Cal U's athletic program finished an impressive second in the final standings of the 2009-2010 Learfield Sports Directors' Cup.



# Social Work Program Reaccredited

The Bachelor of Social Work Program at Cal U has been reaccredited by the Council on Social Work Education.

At its June 2010 meeting, the council's Commission on Accreditation voted to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight years, ending in 2018.

"We couldn't be happier as a department," said Dr. Pamela Twiss, who chairs the Department of Social Work in the College of Education and Human Services. "This success would not have been possible without the work of the department's faculty, staff and students and the support of University administration."

Twiss said the renewal is extremely important to students because it allows those who achieve a high enough grade-point average as undergraduates to waive foundational courses at the master's degree level. Also, in states such as Pennsylvania, graduates cannot be called "social workers" unless they have graduated from an accredited program.

"The expectation is that faculty are working with outside agencies, sitting on various boards and doing work that benefits the region," Twiss said. "And students are expected to be doing work in the field with professionals."

"Maintaining our accreditation requires that our programs are dynamic and that we are staying on top of developments in the field. Going through the self-study was a wonderful opportunity to see what we were doing and why, and to make positive changes where necessary."



Dr. Pamela Twiss



## Leading the Way

Hong Jie Chen, a senior at Washington High School, rappels down a 50-foot tower during the recent Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute held at Outdoor Odyssey in Boswell, Pa. The new program offered leadership training to select students from area high schools. Dr. Harry Serene is the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and Linda is president of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania Board of Directors.

## Hsieh Uses Certification to Educate Students, Local Authorities

Dr. Raymond Hsieh, a professor in Cal U's Department of Justice, Law and Society, recently became an AccessData Certified Examiner in Computer Forensics.

AccessData is a pioneer in developing digital investigation software and training programs. They also evaluate academic knowledge and practical skill through a certification process that is widely accepted by national and international law enforcement agencies.

This specific certification validates Hsieh's expertise in recovering deleted computer files, encrypting messages and deterring Steganography — the science of hiding computer files within pictures and other file types.

Criminals are using digital technology to target victims and conceal information, so forensics experts must

continue to expand their knowledge on current crime trends. Hsieh studied new digital investigative techniques to become certified and hopes to share this information with his students.

"I tried to establish my knowledge. That is the reason I have been certified as a Computer Forensics Examiner," Hsieh said. "As an educator, I need to pass this knowledge on to my students."

Hsieh also plans to prepare students for careers in digital forensics. Future courses will be modeled to parallel the material on certification tests.

"My goal is to have students graduate from Cal U with a degree in one hand and a certification in the other," Hsieh said. "Students will be more competitive when looking for a position because they are young, knowledgeable and already certified."

Few other area institutions in

southwest Pennsylvania offer advanced digital forensics courses, so Cal U will continue to be an attractive destination for prospective forensic science students, he said.

Through the Cal U Institute of Criminological and Forensic Science, the University is a resource for local law enforcement authorities. The institute offers a team of criminologists and scientists to assist in both fieldwork and professional development.

With the desire to expand its services regionally, nationally and internationally, Hsieh and the institute will host three members of the Taiwan Police Delegation for a weeklong training program in August. The delegates will attend courses on campus, meet with local FBI agents and study at the Allegheny County Forensics Laboratory.

## August Education Summit Set

— Continued from page 1

students who aspire to be teachers, as well as our faculty in the College of Education and Human Services," President Armenti said.

"The summits also enrich the professional experiences of teachers, principals and superintendents at our regional schools. Those experiences, in turn, benefit the students in all of those schools, some of whom will eventually come to Cal U for their college education."

A total of 11 Act 48 credits are available to Pennsylvania educators who attend the summit, and 1.1 Continuing Education Unit credits also are available for attendees.

Although admission to the summit is complimentary, seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu), call University Conference Services at 866-941-7437 or e-mail conferences at [conferences@calu.edu](mailto:conferences@calu.edu).



President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and Dr. Stephen R. Covey enjoy a moment together during last year's Education Summit at Cal U.

## Autism Center Planned

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Disease Control and Prevention reports 1 in every 94 children in the United States has some form of autism. In rural Fayette County, an estimated 444 individuals ages 5-24 are affected by this complex developmental disability that appears in early childhood and affects communication and social interaction.

Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions (CCADS) will assist Highlands Hospital in designing and staffing the new autism center, which will offer developmental screening and a day program that children with autism will attend five days a week, year-round.

Empirical studies conducted by Cleveland Clinic show that the program's approach, Applied Behavioral Analysis, is effective in teaching basic and complex skills to children with autism. Cal U students will learn to apply their ABA skills by working with Highlands professionals

who have been trained by CCADS staff.

This is the first time that Cleveland Clinic has partnered with a health-care provider in southwestern Pennsylvania.

No similar program is available in the region, which has one of the highest poverty rates in Pennsylvania. Many Fayette County families lack both economic resources and basic transportation, making it difficult for them to access services for their children on the autism spectrum. The hospital will offer both community-based autism services and community awareness education to encourage early diagnoses.

Highlands Hospital will be the nation's third health-care provider to open an autism center with assistance from Cleveland Clinic Autism Development Solutions. Successful programs are under way at Highlands Regional Medical Center in Prestonburg, Ky., and at the Ozark Center for Autism in Joplin, Mo.

# Five Win Faculty Merit Awards



Five Cal U faculty members with different areas of expertise were the recipients of the 2010 Faculty Merit Awards given by the five subcommittees of the Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC), the awards recognize Cal U professors who are engaged in exceptional research, committed to teaching, using grants and contracts, devoted to service or exploring cutting-edge technology.

The awards were presented at a luncheon on May 7. Winners are Dr. Mark Aune (English) for Research; Dr. Carol Bocetti (Biological and Environmental Science) for Service and Service-Learning; Dr. Christina Fisanick (English) for Technology; Dr. J. William Hug (Elementary/Early Childhood Education) for Grants and Contracts; and Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Women's Studies) for Teaching and Learning.

Along with a plaque, each recipient received a \$1,000 award and was recognized at Commencement. The money can be used for professional activity such as travel, supplies, equipment, books or periodicals, publications, or professional memberships.

"There are many good things going on within the University," said President Angelo Armenti, Jr., "and I believe the FPDC is the jewel in the crown of California University's excellence."

He commended the award winners for their efforts and said they should be proud to be honored by their peers, something that takes hard work and dedication.

Co-chairs of the FPDC for 2009-2010 were Ali Sezer and Lisa Solomon-Driscoll.

Taking part in the FPDC Merit Awards presentations were (front row from left) Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, Teaching Merit Award; Dr. Christina Fisanick, Technology Merit Award; Dr. Mark Aune, Research Merit Award; Dr. Carol Bocetti, Service Merit Award; and Professor Lisa Driscoll, FPD Committee Co-Chair; (back row from left) Dr. Ali Sezer, FPD Committee Co-Chair; President Angelo Armenti, Jr.; Provost Geraldine Jones; and Dr. J. William Hug, Grants and Contracts Merit Award.

## Staff Recognized at Annual Dinner

California University's highest-ranking academic officer, Provost Geraldine Jones, was recognized for 35 years of service at Cal U's 29th annual Staff Recognition Dinner.

In all, the University honored the hard work and dedication of more than 100 people who have retired recently or reached service milestones. The dinner was held June 25 at the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

"This dinner is our formal way of thanking each and every one of you for what you do on a daily basis," said President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "Your efforts and contributions have a profound impact on our University's success and are greatly appreciated."

The dinner recognized these employees and retirees:

**35 years:** Geraldine Jones.

**30 years:** Cheryl Golembiewski and Janet Woods.

**25 years:** Bruce Barnhart, William Binns, Don Bittner, Paul Burns, Debra Cochran, Michael Green, Adraine Howell, George Kyle, Bonnie McGary, MaryLou Price, Joyce Sheppick, Amy Woodward and David Wyratt.

**20 years:** Lillian Ambrose, Richard Ambrose, Lanie Bilitski, Janet Booker, Gena Caeti, Michelle Cheatham, Elizabeth Crouse, Vivian Dawson, John Dejuliis, Terri Downer, Patti Dziak, John Edgar, Toni Gwyn, Edward Hagyari, Patti Kent, Linda Kiefer, Harry Langley, Bonnie Manos, Christine Matty, Mark McMonagle, Susan Rapp, Lawrence Sebek, Sandy Staley, Elizabeth Swartz, Janie Walmsley, Janet Wheatley, Robert Winwood, Shannon Wolfe and Celeste Wukovich.

**15 years:** Terri Anderson, Carol Berkovitz, Joseph Bilitski, Ronald Dellarose, Cathy Gmitter, Scott Hackinson, Joyce Hanley, Tracy Julian, Katherine Nogy, Karlene Petrisek, and Melissa Sheridan.

**10 years:** Pamela Beck, Kevin Black, Leonard Colelli, Brenda Fetsko, Kathy Gavazzi, Traci Gerber, Howard Goldstein, Charles Harris, Kevin Koury, Nancy Loughman, Brenda Newman, Suzanne Powers, Christine Russell, Janice Santo, Rendie Settles, Denise Smith and Robert Williams.



Geraldine Jones, Cal U's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, receives her 35-year award from President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

**5 years:** James Ahearn, Lois Arison, Shelly Bastin, Peggy Bice, Bobbie Jo Cetera, Gordon Core, Lisa Gillis, Patricia Godla, Eric Hartman, Janet Houston, Boleslaw Jankowski, Tim Jones, Mitchell Kozikowski, Judith Laughlin, James Layhue, Harry Marks, Melissa McKean, DeAnne Pavelko, Nadine Potega, Robert Richard, Anthony Roberts, Carolyn Robinson, Millie Rodriguez, Jill Sabol, Cindy Speer, Jessica Spence, Janice Stirling and Linda Takash.

**Retirements:** Marcia Boyd, Andrew Butorac, Allan Golden, John Gray, James Hansen, Frank Koterba, Eileen Kunca, Richard Lacey, Eric Larmi, Vickie Laubach, Wanda McMahon and Edward Spitek.

## Mylan Classic Ticket Sales Support Cal U Athletics

Golf fans who purchase tickets for the inaugural Mylan Classic golf tournament can support athletic programs at California University of Pennsylvania.

Cal U athletics is one of the nonprofit organizations eligible to receive funds generated by the PGA TOUR's new Nationwide Tour event, to be held Sept. 2-5 at Southpointe Golf Club in Canonsburg, Pa.

The 72-hole, stroke-play tournament will feature 156 players from 19 countries competing for a purse of \$600,000. The Golf Channel will televise all four rounds of the Mylan Classic in the United States, and the PGA TOUR will distribute it to 72 countries in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

As with all events sanctioned by the PGA TOUR, 100 percent of the net revenues generated by the Mylan Classic will be donated to regional charities and nonprofit groups.

Golf fans can order tickets — and direct their donation to California University athletics — by visiting [www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/](http://www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/) CALUOFPA. Fans who visit [www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/](http://www.mylanclassic.com/buytix/) may use the pull-down menu to designate "California University of Pennsylvania Athletics" as their favorite charity.

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