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Listening to a point made by KDKA's Jon Delano at last spring's election analysis forum are panelists (seated from left) William C. Binning, Louis Jacobson, Costas Panagopoulos and Daniel Shea. This expert panel returns to Cal U Nov. 16.

New Center Supports Community Service

Diane Williams wants to enhance the exemplary service work done by Cal U students.

As director of Cal U's newly created Center for Community Service and Civic Engagement, she also wants to document their efforts.

"The center and I are here to serve as a resource for the students," said Williams, who joined the Cal U staff in mid-October. "My goal is to communicate with community agencies and organizations that do service and be the liaison between them and the students. I want to help benefit both communities.

"Cal U students do so much community service already," she added. "Whether they do community service through student government, Greek organizations or our athletic teams, it's going to flow in here. I will keep track of the overall hours for our campus."

The student-oriented center reflects Goal 8 of the University's Strategic Plan, which calls for the University to foster civic engagement. Establishing an office for community service is an explicit element of the plan.

Through a grant from AmeriCorps Community Fellows program, 10 Cal U students already have committed to 300 service hours over the course of the academic year. The purpose of the program is to address compelling community needs in the areas of college access and success, while developing college students as active citizens.

Any student who is interested in doing service work should contact the center, Williams said.

"Come in here and talk to me," she urged.

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Popular Panel to Examine Election Results

Just two weeks after Pennsylvania voters choose their next governor, a panel of political experts will examine the election and its results at the 2010 Election Analysis Forum.

Jon Delano, money and politics editor for KDKA-TV, will serve as moderator for the event at 7 p.m. Nov. 16 in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center.

Delano and the panel last appeared at Cal U in March for a lively look at the promises made, kept and broken during the first year of the Obama presidency.

Returning as panelists are William Binning, professor emeritus of political science at Youngstown State University; Louis Jacobson, staff writer for Pulitzer Prize-winning PolitiFact and a frequent contributor to Politics PA.com; Costas Panagopoulos, director of the Center for Electoral Politics and Democracy at Fordham University; and Daniel Shea, director of the Center for Political Participation at Allegheny College.

"This is an excellent opportunity to hear three



Jon Delano

outstanding scholars who write on parties and elections, along with a Beltway journalist, discuss and analyze the gubernatorial and Congressional election outcomes," said Dr. Melanie J. Blumberg, a professor of political science and campus director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U. "This is a 'must' event for anyone interested in politics."

The forum is part of the American Democracy Project (ADP), a multi-campus initiative focused on higher education's role in preparing the next generation of

informed, engaged citizens. This will be the third election analysis forum at Cal U since the 2008 presidential election.

The forum is co-sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs, the Department of History and Political Science, and Cal Campaign Consultants.

For more information, e-mail Blumberg at blumberg@calu.edu.

Vulcans to Play on Penguins' Home Ice

Cal U's partnership with the Pittsburgh Penguins will bring the Vulcan hockey teams to the new, state-of-the-art Consol Energy Center on Thursday.

A pre-game reception for alumni and University friends will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. in the Cal U Conference Center, located inside the new facility. Then fans can cheer for the Vulcans as the women's team faces Penn State at 6 p.m. and the men face off with Robert Morris at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available on game night at the Consol Energy Center box office. Cost is \$8 for general admission seating. Cal U students are admitted free with a valid CalCard.

Buses will take fans from Cal U to the Consol Energy Center at 3 and 5 p.m. Students may register at the information desk inside the Natali Student Center.

As part of the activities, the Cal U

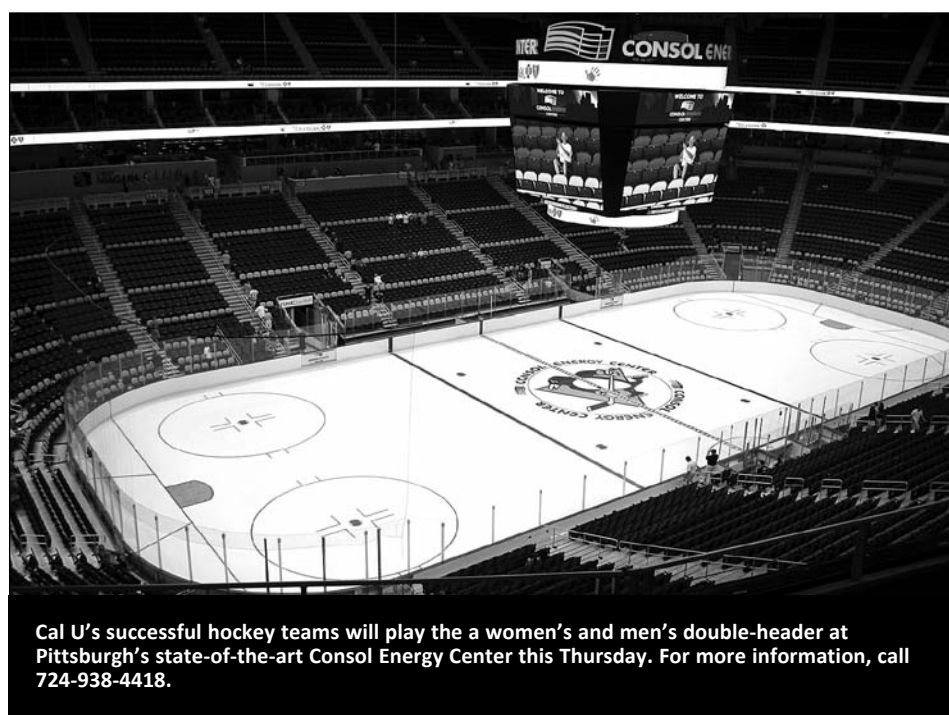
teams will pay tribute to John Barbero '69, '72 before the women's game and honor Patrick McIlvain prior to the men's game.

Barbero, the longtime public-address announcer for the Pittsburgh Penguins, recently lost his battle with an inoperable brain tumor. McIlvain is a former Cal U hockey player who enlisted in the military and was critically wounded while in combat in Afghanistan.

Adding to the festivities will be the Cal U cheerleaders and dance team, the Penguins' Iceburgh mascot and more.

Cal U is the official education partner of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the hockey teams have participated in fundraising events at the Pens arena, said Jamison Roth, Cal U hockey's general manager and the University's director of sports clubs.

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Cal U's successful hockey teams will play the a women's and men's double-header at Pittsburgh's state-of-the-art Consol Energy Center this Thursday. For more information, call 724-938-4418.

Giving Thanks

Nearly 500 guests attended the 14th annual Scholarship Recognition Dinner held Oct. 28 in Gallagher Hall. “This evening is very special,” said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. “We are here to honor our students and the donors who contribute to their education.”

President Armenti pointed out that Cal U is blessed to have such hard-working, committed and dedicated students, and he said the same holds true for the donors.

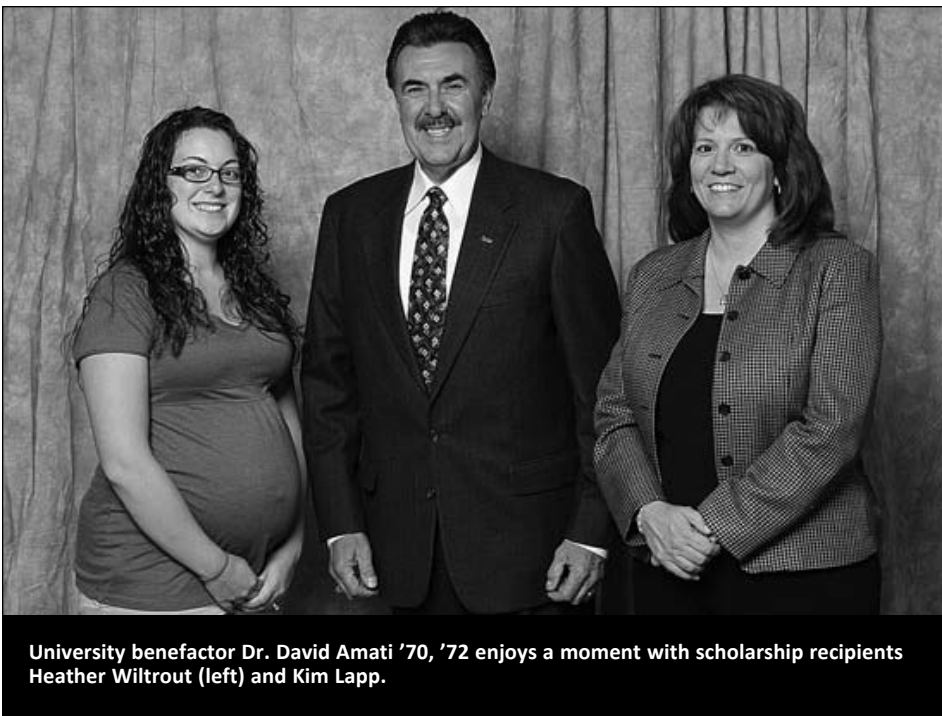
“Our donors have all chosen to make a difference in the life of a student,” he said.

The Scholarship Recognition Dinner is an annual event designed to give students an opportunity to thank their benefactors.

“These people care so deeply about California University and our students that they have donated a significant portion of their hard-earned money to invest in your future,” the President told the scholarship recipients.

“You earned that trust, and you deserve their support and faith. Tonight, you have the opportunity to share a meal with them and thank them, personally, for their benevolence.”

For giving opportunities, call 724-938-5775.



University benefactor Dr. David Amati '70, '72 enjoys a moment with scholarship recipients Heather Wiltrout (left) and Kim Lapp.

Campus BRIEFS

Inaugural Native American Day Tuesday

Dr. LaDonna Harris, president of Americans for Indian Opportunity, will deliver the keynote address at Cal U's first Native American Day.

Her talk at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre is open to the public. Admission is free; a book signing and reception will follow in the lobby of Steele Hall.

Throughout the day, Harris and a group of AIO Ambassadors will participate in a series of events intended to provide education about Native American heritage and awareness of the role of native peoples in the 21st century.

Cultural practitioner Dr. Kinorea “Two Feather” Tigri, a Cherokee Indian listed on the National Registry of Living Historians, also will participate in the Native American Day program. She will present “Bringing the Past to Life: Communications and Wampum” from 1-4 p.m.

For more information visit www.calu.edu.

Gammon Guest Speaker at Wednesday's Luncheon

Lt. Col. Ros Gammon, battalion commander of the 1st Battalion 110th infantry, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, will be the guest speaker at the 37th annual Veterans Day luncheon, hosted by the Cal U Veterans Club.

“Honoring Our Student Veterans” is the theme for the event, which begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Performance Center.

The Office of Veterans Affairs will present the President's Patriotic Service Medallion to several



Cultural practitioner Dr. Kinorea “Two Feather” Tigri will participate in the inaugural Native American Day program at Cal U.

students have who have answered the call to active duty in the last few years. For more information, send e-mail to veterans@calu.edu.

Modern Language Day Rescheduled

The 10th annual Modern Language Day at Cal U, originally scheduled for Oct. 21, was canceled and will take place this spring.

Organized by Cal U's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, the event allows local high school students to experience the Cal U campus and take part in friendly language competition.

For more information, contact Dr. Mariana Pensa, chair of the department, at pensa@calu.edu.

Benefit Concert Planned

Cal U's Snow Club will hold a benefit concert from 7 p.m. to midnight Wednesday in the Performance Center. The featured bands are Free Candy, Unchecked Aggression, Good Times R&B Combo, Half Past Yesterday and Solomon Verse.

The concert is free and open to everyone. The Snow Club is asking for donations of nonperishable goods at this event.

With more than 200 registered members, Cal U's Snow Club is an organization designed for snowboarders and skiers who are attending the University. The club travels to Seven Springs Mountain Resort, near Champion, Pa., every Sunday during the winter season. Transportation is provided at no cost to members through SAI and past fundraising efforts.

Cal U faculty member Bill Meloy (Library Services) serves as the adviser and can be reached at meloy@calu.edu.

Berger will serve as an assistant coach for the game.

“A lot of us played in Mellon Arena during high school, but not too many people can say they have played a league game at Consol Energy Center,” said senior forward Ryan Jones, who was recently named to the ACHA Division III Select Team with teammate Nick Posa.

“This is very special for our growing fan base, families and friends. We want to make the school proud.”

Echoing Jones' comments was Tiffany Juha, a senior forward who recently was selected to play with the U.S. Women's National University Hockey Team.

Forensic Meteorologist to Speak

When weather and crime collide in court, Dr. John R. Scala steps in.

A forensic meteorologist, Scala will discuss how weather and forensic science can help to answer questions in court cases that involve questionable death, personal injury or storm-related damage.

He will speak at 11 a.m. Thursday in Eberly Science and Technology Center, Room 110. The talk is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Department of Earth Sciences, the Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Meteorological Society, and the Meteorology Club.

Scala is a broadcast meteorologist with NBC affiliate WGAL-TV in Lancaster, Pa., and a private consultant who prepares expert opinions in criminal and civil litigation.

His lecture, “Forensic Meteorology: A Litigatory Assistant of Surprising Importance,” will focus on how the combination of weather and forensics plays a critical role in adjudicating questionable death, structural liability, hail fraud and many other cases.

Formerly the associate director of Millersville University's Center for Disaster Research and Education, Scala was employed by The Weather Channel from 1998-2002 as a meteorology training coordinator and on-camera storm analyst.

In 2008 he served as president of the 3,000-member professional nonprofit National Weather Association (NWA), and he was elected to a second three-year term as councilor in 2010. The recipient of the 2009 NWA Member of the Year Award, Scala also serves on the NWA's Committee on Societal Impacts of Weather and Climate.

For more information e-mail Dr. Chad Kauffman at kauffman@calu.edu or Snare, president of the NWA Three Rivers Chapter, at sna9349@calu.edu.



Dr. John R. Scala

Women's, Men's Hockey Teams to Play on Pens' Home Ice

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“I think this is a great opportunity for our program to not only showcase our players' talents on the ice but also to showcase the great work they have done off the ice,” he said. “The partnership with Penguins only adds credibility to our growing program.”

Last season, Cal U's College Hockey East team, under the guidance of veteran head coach Justin Berger, compiled a school-best 29-1 overall record and reached the American College Hockey Association's national quarterfinals. It was the team's fourth consecutive CHE title.

Students Shine at Wildlife Conference

Eight Cal U students displayed their knowledge of wildlife ecology at the 17th annual national conference of the Wildlife Society, held last month in Snow Bird, Utah.

For the fourth consecutive year, Cal U competed in the conference's Quiz Bowl, an undergraduate competition that requires quick, accurate answers.

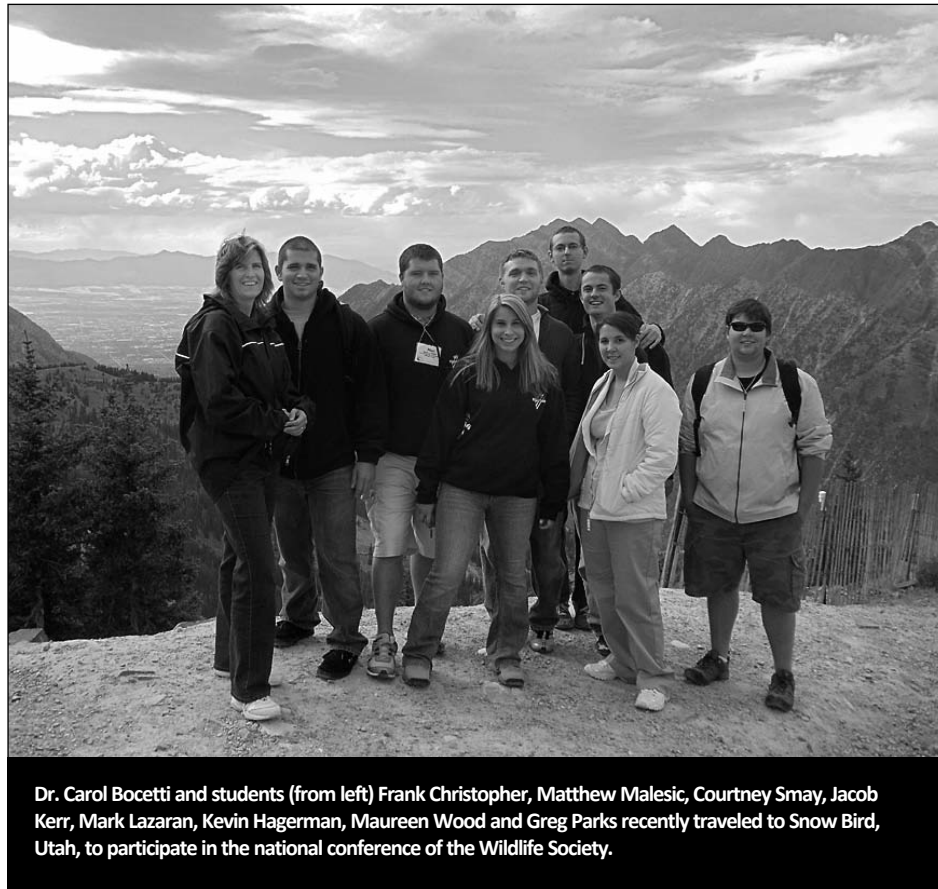
"Some are broad ecology questions, some of them are wildlife techniques, history of the Wildlife Society, and some of them are what I call the 'ologies' — identification basically of living organisms such as dendrology, etiology, ornithology and basically identifying trees, grasses, reptiles amphibians, mammals, birds and so on," said Dr. Carol Bocetti, the group's adviser.

A total of 17 schools competed in the single-round elimination. Cal U's team won in the first two rounds and advanced to the semifinals before losing in overtime to defending champion Texas A&M.

Because the students spent the summer at off-campus internships or tech jobs, there really was no training for the conference until the team arrived in Utah, Bocetti said. In contrast, winning school Humboldt (Calif.) State University offers a for-credit class on preparing for the Quiz Bowl.

The other semifinalist was Penn State University.

"You basically know it or you don't," Bocetti said of the Quiz Bowl questions. "We did assign topics to students who were on the team. We reviewed briefly when the semester started and spent our evenings at the conference going over



Dr. Carol Bocetti and students (from left) Frank Christopher, Matthew Malesic, Courtney Smay, Jacob Kerr, Mark Lazaran, Kevin Hagerman, Maureen Wood and Greg Parks recently traveled to Snow Bird, Utah, to participate in the national conference of the Wildlife Society.

books, field guides and manuals."

Student Mark Lazaran was the Quiz Bowl captain; team members were Kevin Hagerman, Matthew Malesic and Jacob Kerr. Also attending the conference were Courtney Smay, Greg Parks, Maureen Wood and Frank Christopher.

"It was pretty awesome," said Lazaran, a fisheries and wildlife major who expects to graduate in May. "We were just a small school going against huge schools, and we were not supposed to do well. So we were surprised and obviously felt pretty good

about how we did."

Bocetti said the program's active fieldwork played a significant role in the Quiz Bowl success. She credited colleague Dr. Robert Whyte for also providing many off-campus projects for the students.

"All four of the competing members had done internships or tech jobs where they were placed in a position through our network," Bocetti said. "I think the strength of our program is the hands-on experience we provide, and our showing at the Quiz Bowl was a positive

reflection of the students and our program."

Other activities

During a plenary session about diversity within the profession, Lazaran presented an idea to the Wildlife Society's executive council: Why not conduct a demographic study of students and professional participants at the conference to get a better understanding of where members' interests lie?

"Mark's idea was brilliant, and it stimulated an hour-long discussion among the council," said Bocetti. "We need to get the students to commit to the rigorous technology of the profession. Mark's idea and additional data collected will help the Wildlife Society respond by bringing the technical aspect down to the student level."

All the Cal U students participated in a student breakfast, where ideas about fundraising, field activities and service projects are shared. As a result of the discussions, Cal U was asked to write two "tool kits" about student activity to be used by all the student chapters.

"At these conferences, the feedback I get is that many schools are impressed with the amount and quality of activity that we do," Bocetti said.

The Cal U Wildlife students also are planning to compete at a conclave of the Wildlife Society's Northeast Region this spring at State University of New York College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill. At this smaller version of the national conference, Cal will participate in workshops, Quiz Bowl and field competitions.

PASSHE Sets Another Enrollment Record

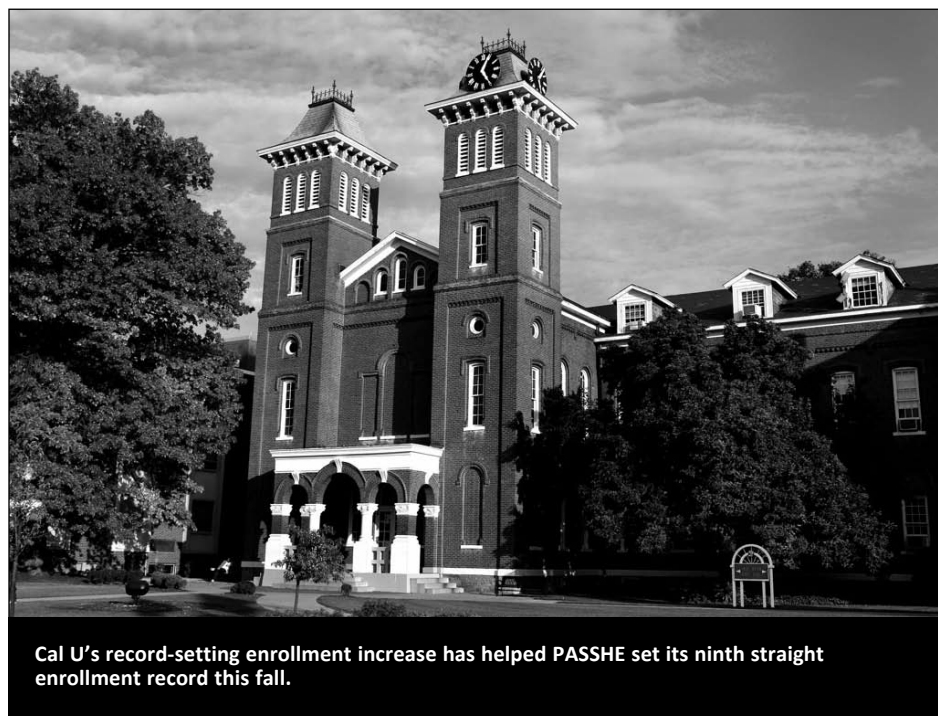
The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) set its ninth straight enrollment record this fall, with nearly 120,000 students taking classes at the 14 state-owned universities.

The 2,576-student increase over last fall's total marks the 14th consecutive year of higher enrollment for PASSHE. A total of 119,513 full- and part-time students are enrolled in classes this semester. Nearly 90 percent are Pennsylvania residents.

PASSHE remains the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth.

"PASSHE universities, with their commitment to student success, continue to be popular destinations for students," said PASSHE Chancellor Dr. John C. Cavanaugh. "Our universities offer a unique combination of quality and affordability that results in an outstanding value."

PASSHE universities provide the lowest-cost education among all four-year colleges and universities in



Cal U's record-setting enrollment increase has helped PASSHE set its ninth straight enrollment record this fall.

Pennsylvania. A full year's tuition at a PASSHE university is \$5,804, and the total cost of attendance — including tuition, required fees, room and board —

averages about \$15,500.

That total is below the average among all four-year public colleges and universities in the nation and is

significantly lower than the amount charged by other institutions in the Mid-Atlantic region, according to the College Board's most recent survey of college costs.

PASSHE's Board of Governors has limited tuition increases in recent years to help ensure the universities remain affordable. Annual increases have been below the rate of inflation in four of the last six years. The total overall increase over the past five years has been among the lowest in the nation, according to an annual survey conducted by the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board.

While seeking to keep costs affordable, PASSHE universities are continually enhancing their academic programs, the vast majority of which are accredited by professional organizations nationally.

Several of the universities, including Cal U, have been recognized recently for their quality and value by such well-respected publications as *The Princeton Review*.

First Lady Says 'Thank You' for Support of AHA Campaign

On behalf of the American Heart Association, I wish to thank the faculty and staff for your interest and generosity to the annual AHA campaign. I deeply appreciate it.

The annual Heart Walk in Washington County occurred on Oct. 2, and Cal U's Heart Walk took place on Oct. 16 during the Homecoming parade. Approximately 36 walkers participated in the walk and more than \$6,000 was raised!

Students and staff representing different campus organizations and several departments participated in

this event through contributions and/or by participating in the walk.

They include the offices of Lifelong Learning, Personnel and Elementary Education; the men's and women's rugby teams; the Strength and Conditioning Club; the Council for Exceptional Children; men's basketball; Alpha Lambda Delta; Acacia Fraternity; Alpha Kappa Lambda; Sigma Kappa; the cheerleaders and dance team; Phi Sigma Sigma; Theta Xi; Alpha Sigma Alpha; Sigma Tau Gamma; Alpha Phi Omega; the Black Student Union; Phi Sigma Pi; the Technology

Education Association of California; and student government.

Also, a special thanks to committee members Mike Amrhein, Karen Posa, Rendie Settles, Joy Helsel, Melissa Dunn, Nicole Arthur, Lauren Vitt, Nicole Price and Shelby Clever.

On behalf of the American Heart Association, thank you, thank you and thank you!

Barbara M. Armenti
First Lady, California University of Pennsylvania

Baseball Kept Hall of Famer in School

Editor's Note: Cal U held its 16th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 15 at the Performance Center. Throughout the fall, the Journal has profiled each of the 2010 Hall of Fame inductees.

When John Kovalchick '53 gave his induction speech at the 2010 Hall of Fame Banquet, he chose to praise others rather than dwell on his own accomplishments.

He played two seasons with the Vulcan football team, but from 1949-1952 he made his name as a student athlete as a four-year starting shortstop on the Vulcan baseball team.

He was the first in his family to attend college, he said, and baseball helped him to complete his degree.

"I had no intention of going to school, but my brother Ted and sister Mary convinced me not to work in the mines or be in the steel mills," said Kovalchick, one of 10 children.

"They wanted me to be the only one of us to graduate from college. Playing baseball was my life, and when I made the team, I was so excited. I believe that had a big influence on me staying in college."

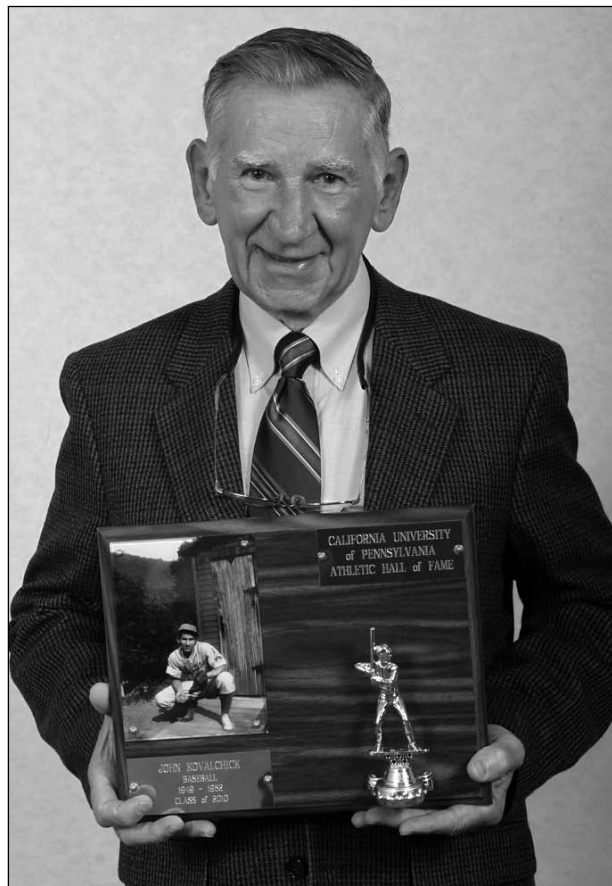
He dedicated his award to another brother, Vladimer.

Kovalchick batted over .330 in each of his first three seasons before batting .401 in his senior season, a mark he reached by banging out two hits in the season finale.

On the gridiron, Kovalchick was a starting defensive back who also played halfback, in 1952. As a junior, Kovalchick was a member of the 1951 team, which competed in the prestigious Pythian Bowl.

Earning Hall of Fame honors has brought back fond memories for Kovalchick, who recalled teammates and fellow inductees such as Mitch Bailey, Elmo Natali, Don Maines coach Ted Nemeth and Duke O'Hara. He was nominated for the Hall of Fame by longtime Cal U professor George Novak.

"To be elected to the Hall of Fame is something I never thought about in my wildest dreams," Kovalchick said. "I see very elite company in this



Nearly 60 years after his collegiate career, baseball and football standout John Kovalchick '53 was inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

induction class alone, and it's overwhelming. It was an honor just for George to think about me and nominate me."

Following his final season on the baseball team, Kovalchick played second base for a semiprofessional team in Kingsley, Iowa.

"To get paid anything to play baseball was incredible to me, because I would have done it for nothing," Kovalchick said.

He had tryouts with the Pittsburgh Pirates and

Brooklyn Dodgers but bypassed an invitation to the Pirates' rookies training camp in order to continue student teaching, maintain his student deferment from military service, and complete his bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis on industrial arts.

"I think everyone has that point in life where you need to make an important or painstaking decision, and that was it for me," he said. "I loved baseball, and putting on the Pirates uniform and taking infield drills with the utility players was a thrill, but I made the right decision."

Once he graduated, the U.S. Army drafted Kovalchick. He served 16 months in Korea before being discharged in August 1955 with the rank of corporal.

Just days after returning to the United States, Kovalchick began teaching at Bel Air Junior High School in Hartford County, Md., along with his wife, Dolores '53. The couple married in 1953, and together they raised three children — Karen, Tom and Mike. She passed away in 1999. He taught for 36 years before retiring as Bel Air's television and audiovisual coordinator.

While teaching, Kovalchick earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland.

"At Maryland, both my master's degree adviser and the heads of the industrial arts department were also graduates of California," Kovalchick said. "That just showed me the kind of teachers California produces. I received an outstanding education."

Originally from Philipsburg, Pa., which is now part of the Cal U campus, Kovalchick was a 1948 graduate of East Pike Run High School, where he served as class president. The multi-sport star was part of that high school's last graduating class before East Pike Run merged into the California school district.

Despite making his mark in Maryland, Kovalchick marvels at his collegiate alma mater's growth.

"Oh my goodness, every time I come home there's something new to see," he said. "When I went to college we did not even have 1,000 students. I think it's great."

New Center Supports Community Service



Diane Williams hopes students look at Cal U's newly created Center for Community Service and Civic Engagement as a resource for their service work.

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"We soon will have a website where we can post service opportunities as we get them for students. I want to be a resource for students, whether they want to talk or look online."

On Nov. 6 the new center participated in Making a Difference Day. After contacting local residents and business owners, the center's community fellows washed windows, painted doors, raked leaves and performed other tasks.

"With the help of the community, we were able to reach out and provide people with needed assistance around their homes and businesses," Williams said.

A number of first-year students took part in the project, which was similar to The Big Event, a nationwide service project led by students each spring.

Originally from Grindstone, Pa.,

Williams received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, where she was the undergraduate resident director. She will complete her master's degree in student affairs in higher education this spring at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

As a graduate assistant at IUP's Advising and Testing Center, Williams was actively involved with orientation, Welcome Weekend and disability support services.

"Having studied student affairs in higher education, I have come to understand what I want out of a university," she said. "Cal's campus size and location really appealed to me, but its mission and values also really stuck out."

Williams is a strong advocate of The Cal U for Life program and has incorporated some of that initiative's philosophies about donating "time, talent

and treasure" into her work at the center.

"Giving of a student's time is a really big piece of what I am trying to do, because now they have the time, if not the treasure," she said.

"I really think students are giving their time, but we're just not hearing about it. So I feel this office will help that by keeping data and tracking what they're doing."

The Center is housed in the Office of Student Affairs.

"I am very fortunate to work with a great group of staff members, and the school is so supportive and understanding," Williams said. "Service is definitely one of my passions in life, and I have a great opportunity here to give back to the campus community."

The Center for Community Service and Civic Engagement is in Carter Hall, Room G-35. To contact Williams or the center, call 724-938-4794 or e-mail williams_d@calu.edu.

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