

California University JOURNAL

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It's Official: Cal U is StormReady

Only two universities in state have earned National Weather Service designation

After making their way through a morning snowstorm, three meteorologists from the National Weather Service visited California University for a ceremony recognizing its status as a StormReady University.

StormReady is the National Weather Service's nationwide program to promote communication, planning and response to severe weather emergencies. Cal U is one of only two universities in Pennsylvania to achieve the designation.

To be StormReady, a university must meet preparedness criteria outlined by the National Weather Service and state and local emergency managers. The university must have a 24-hour warning and emergency operations center; more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and to alert the public; a system that monitors local weather conditions; a plan to promote the importance of public readiness; and a formal hazardous

weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

At the ceremony in the Cal U Weather Center, meteorologist-in-charge Christopher Strager presented President Angelo Armenti, Jr. with two StormReady signs and a certificate recognizing the University's status.

"Truly this is a testament to your commitment, and that of the staff, students and the university to keep everyone safe and prepared for all types of weather threats," Strager said.

Cal U is the first StormReady University within the area covered by the NWS office in Pittsburgh, he added.

Accompanying Strager were meteorologists Richard Kane and Rodney Smith. Kane started the application process with Cal U, and Smith performed the site visit.

President Armenti praised Cal U students Amanda Smith and Kevin Lowrie, who interned at the National



Weather Service and played a pivotal role in applying for the designation. Also recognized were Earth Sciences faculty members Drs. Chad Kauffman and Tom

Mueller, former faculty member Jamie Mitchem, interim Cal U police chief Jim Hansen and Sharon Elkettani, Cal's — continued on page 2



Nathan James, the 2004 Pittsburgh Poetry Slam champion who is ranked as one of the top 25 poets in the nation by "Poetry Slam Inc.," will be part of Cal U's Black History Month celebration. He will perform in the Gold Rush Room at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Events set for Black History Month

California University of Pennsylvania will celebrate Black History Month with an array of campus activities and a trip to the Freedom Center Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The month's keynote event will be a talk by Jonathan Kozol, an author and education advocate. Kozol will discuss educational inequalities and the resurgence of segregation in "The Shame of the Nation," set for 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. A book signing will follow.

Other on-campus events include a jewelry-making workshop, a relationship forum, a soul food dinner and a poetry slam featuring actor, activist and spoken-word poet Nathan James.

A complete schedule of Black History Month activities is available. Campus events are free; the Cal U community and the public are welcome.

A trip to the Freedom Center Museum also is open both to Cal U students and to community members. Bus departs at 6 a.m. Feb. 14 for stops at the museum, the East Gate Mall and dinner at the Golden Corral. Cost is \$15 for students, \$25 for others; ticket price includes transportation and admission to all sites and dinner.

Black History Month began with Dr. Carter G. Woodson, — continued on page 3

Christopher Clark Cracks PSAC Top 10

Men's cross country All-American Christopher Clark was selected as one of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference's Fall 2008 Top 10 honorees.

Clark, a graduate student, is the first cross country runner in Vulcan history to earn the honor since its inception in the 1997-98 academic year.

Overall, he is the 13th Cal U student-athlete to receive the PSAC Top 10 Award and the first since track and field star Brad Rager, who made the 2006 winter list.

The PSAC Top 10 Awards recognize student-athletes who excel in both the classroom and in competition. The awards recognize 10 outstanding student-athletes, five male and five female, for each athletic season – fall, winter and spring.

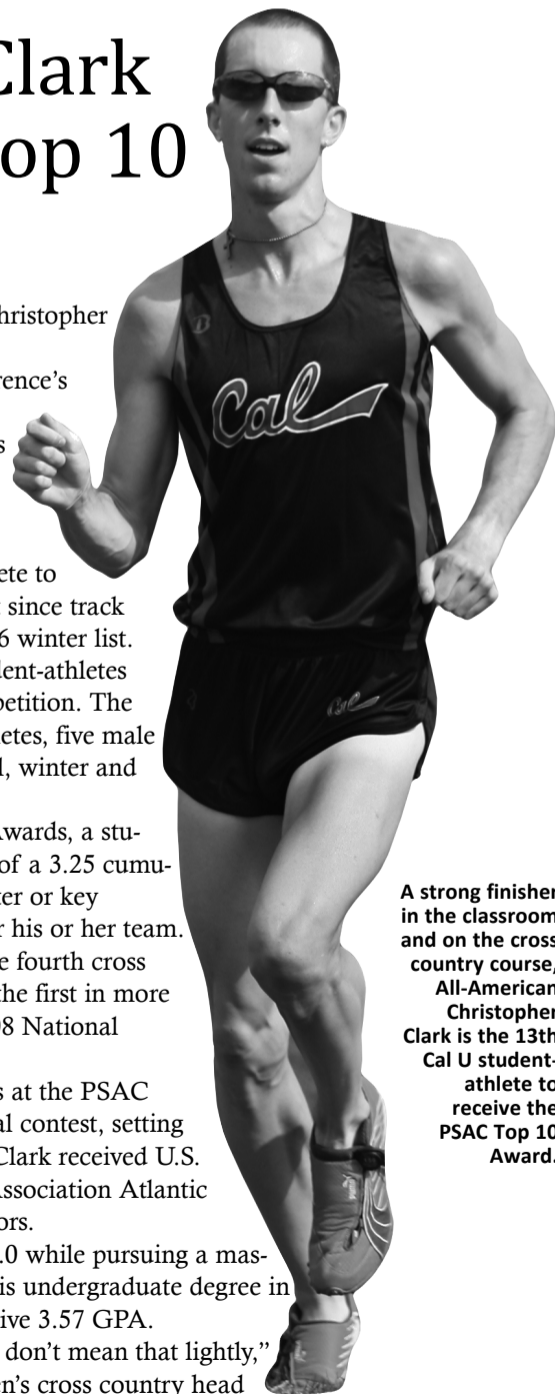
To be a candidate for the PSAC Top 10 Awards, a student-athlete must have achieved a minimum of a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average and must be a starter or key reserve with legitimate athletic credentials for his or her team.

A native of Hadley, Pa., Clark became the fourth cross country All-American in school history and the first in more than 20 years after finishing fourth at the 2008 National Championships despite falling at the start.

Earlier last fall Clark won individual titles at the PSAC Championships and NCAA Atlantic Regional contest, setting course records at both races. For his efforts, Clark received U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Atlantic Regional and PSAC Athlete of the Year honors.

In the classroom, Clark boasts a perfect 4.0 while pursuing a master's degree in exercise science. He finished his undergraduate degree in secondary education/biology with a cumulative 3.57 GPA.

"I would say he's the total package, and I don't mean that lightly," said Dan Caulfield, Cal U's men's and women's cross country head coach. "I have yet to meet an individual who is as disciplined and driven as Chris is. I don't see him not being successful in anything he tries to do in this world."



A strong finisher in the classroom and on the cross country course, All-American Christopher Clark is the 13th Cal U student-athlete to receive the PSAC Top 10 Award.

Alumni Return for Basketball Games, Festivities

Dr. Gary Kennedy, Nancy Skobel Named Alumnus, Alumna of Year

Nearly 100 former basketball players and supporters of the program returned to campus Jan. 24 for the 10th annual Cal U Basketball Alumni Day.

The event culminated with a home varsity doubleheader against Edinboro.

The men's alumni game was followed by a reception and the announcement of the Basketball Alumnus and Alumna of the Year. Award winners were emeritus Professor Dr. Gary Kennedy '58 and longtime Cal U employee Nancy Skobel '87.

Special recognition was given to James Zell '39, who came from Florida to take part in the festivities.

Kennedy taught at Cal U for 37 years. He was the elementary education department's chairman for 20 years before he retired in 1999.

"When I first got here, Gary Kennedy and Tony Saludis came to see me and welcome me to California," said Bill Brown, Cal U's 13th-year head men's basketball coach. Saludis, also an emeritus professor of elementary education, was the 2005 Basketball Alumnus of the Year.

"Every time I have had a charity or fundraising event, they have always supported them," Brown said of the pair. "It tells me a great deal when you have current and former professors who want to be involved with the student-athletes. I could not think of anyone more deserving of this award than Gary Kennedy, who means so much to our program."

At the 2008 President's Gala, Kennedy received an Emeriti Faculty Award for his support of Cal U.

"I am grateful and honored to receive this award," Kennedy said. "When you see great coaches like the ones we have here putting forth such a great effort to having successful programs and winning traditions, it does not take much motivation on my part or other members of the Sixth Man (Booster) Club to do what we can to help that winning tradition continue."

Annie Malkowiak '94, '96, director of athletic promotions and the first

Basketball Alumna of the Year selection, praised Skobel for her work as president of the women's basketball's Fastbreak Booster Club. Skobel also is director of the PEACE (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, for Change and Empowerment) Project and Women's Center at Cal U.

"When you are talking about Alumna of the Year, you look for somebody first and foremost that has Cal women's basketball at heart ... and that's Nancy," said Malkowiak, speaking on behalf of head coach Heather Kearney. "She's been a non-playing pioneer for this program since she's been at this university. Nancy's been very active with our program, extremely dedicated and put a lot of time in to it. It was only fitting that she get the award this year."

Zell is a 1998 Cal U Hall of Fame inductee who regularly returns to his alma mater for the basketball gathering. He was given a framed picture of Old Main.

"I loved this school when I came in here in 1935, and I love it today," said Zell, who called his hall of fame induction the biggest honor of his life. "It's just a real pleasure to be here with the new grads and the old-timers. Cal has meant so much to me my whole life."

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. closed the reception, joking that within three years returning basketball alumni players can play their annual game in the newly approved Convocation Center in front of 6,000 seats, if not quite as many fans.

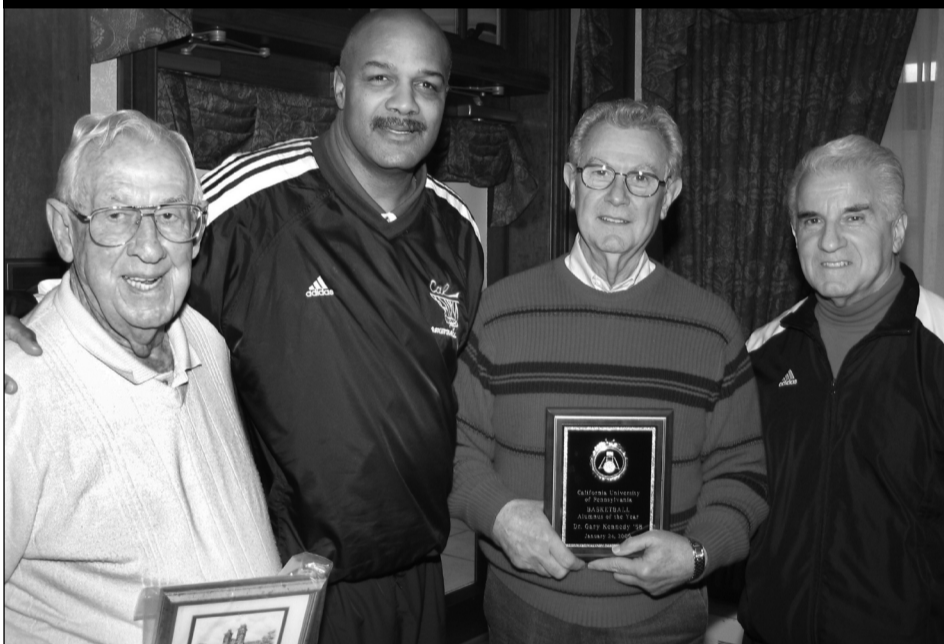
"We get so much positive publicity from athletics, which makes young people want to come here," President Armenti said. "As we try to do with everything, we strive very hard to make our athletic programs the best that they can possibly be. We look forward to you coming back every year for this wonderful day."

In the alumni game, the white jerseys withstood an intense rally by the black jerseys to win 106-101. Dontay Hardnett earned Most Valuable Player honors after scoring 18 points.



Above: James Hairston, a standout on the Vulcans' 2008 NCAA "Elite Eight" team, moves past a defender during the alumni basketball contest on Jan. 24. He scored 11 points and helped the white team jerseys win for the third time in four years.

Below: Enjoying a moment during a reception during the 10th annual Basketball Alumni Day festivities are James Zell '39, veteran head men's basketball coach Bill Brown, 2009 basketball alumnus of the year recipient Dr. Gary Kennedy '58, and Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.



Cal U is officially StormReady

— continued from page 1

director of environmental health and safety.

The President emphasized the Weather Center's key role in helping Cal U to meet the StormReady guidelines and noted that the GIS Club purchased weather radios that receive severe weather forecasts and warnings.

"There is an old saying: 'Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.' At Cal U, that's not entirely true," President Armenti said. "Two of our students, and many other people on our campus, *did* do something about it. They believed that Cal U could play a role in keeping the people of southwestern Pennsylvania safer through planning, education and awareness — in short, by becoming 'storm ready.'"

Speaking on behalf of the students, Smith described her desire to "make a difference."

"I am so proud to go to school here and work with such a dedicated group of students who are trying to make things better," she said. "Being named StormReady is a capstone to my internship."

Mueller also praised the students for their teamwork: "Our students are amazing. This endeavor shows not only the excitement on campus from the students right to the administration but it talks about the unity of this university, working together doing what each of us can to get the job done."

Strager recalled a situation in Northwest Ohio last November when a StormReady alert enabled a movie theater filled with children and parents to be evacuated quickly. Minutes later, a tornado swept a vehicle into the theater's front row.

"Being StormReady can and does save lives," he said.

Smash the Cards, Cal U Style ...



California University student Stephen Heisler, president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, takes a super swing at a car painted in Arizona Cardinals colors. Throughout Super Bowl week, the fraternity invited Steelers fans to 'Take a Shot at the Arizona Cardinals.' From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, students paid \$1 to grab a sledgehammer and pound a car painted Cardinals red. All proceeds benefitted the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The Cal U spirit was rewarded when the Steelers defeated Arizona, 27-23, to win an unprecedented sixth Super Bowl championship on Feb. 1.

Computer Sciences Student 'Destined' for Internship

7 Most high school students are uncertain about the future. Not Richard Beal, 21, of Vanderbilt, Pa. Now a senior computer science major at California University of Pennsylvania, he not only knew what he wanted to do with his career, he knew where he wanted to do it.

Beal discovered Advanced Acoustic Concepts Inc., based in Lemont Furnace, when he was still a teenager. The firm is a leader in software design and development, and Beal's dad told him that the company designs software for the U.S. Navy.

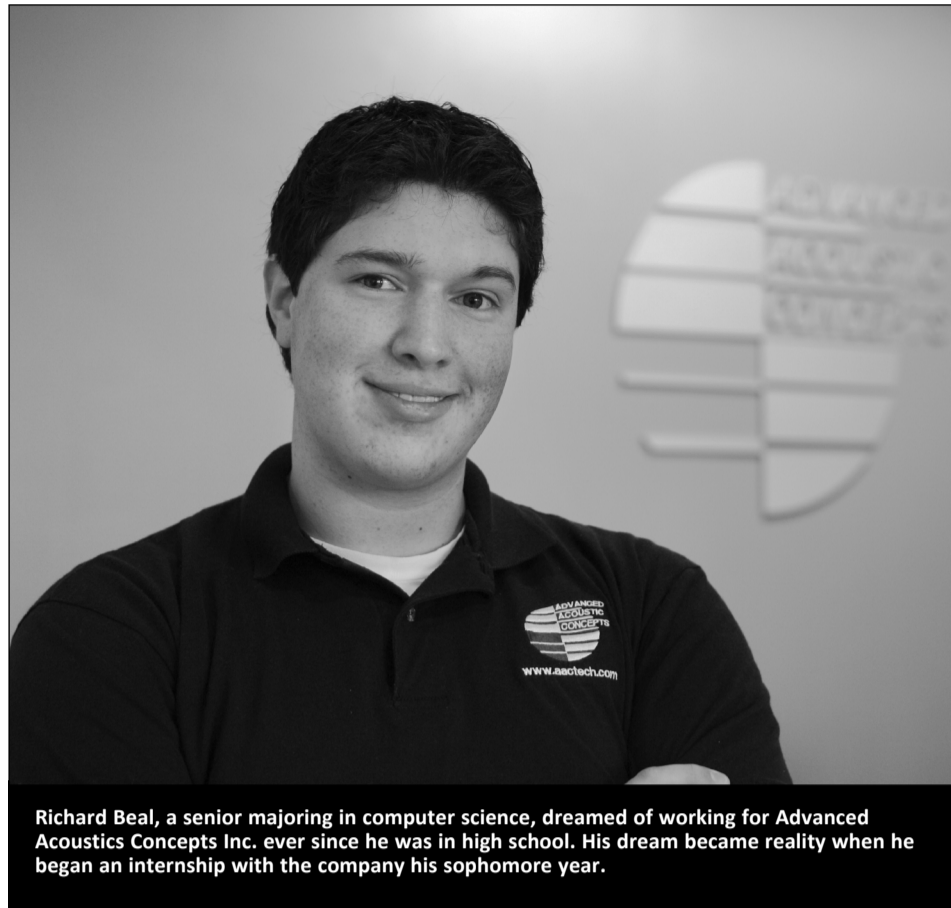
Intrigued, Beal set up an interview with an AAC representative while he was still a student at Uniontown Area High School. Although he knew that obtaining a job was unlikely, he went to the interview with a specific goal in mind: to learn how to get a job with AAC.

Specifically, he wanted to know what to do in college so he could return in a few years as an intern.

Two years later, Beal landed that internship. "I was destined to intern at AAC," he said.

Beal began his software engineering internship with AAC as a Cal U sophomore. He remained with the company for two summers, completing two 10-week programs, and did "everything you could do with software" – developing, testing and documenting it, as well as writing user guides and help manuals that accompany the programs.

"AAC is a company about hardware and software, and while I was with it, I actually produced something," Beal said. "The best part of my internship is knowing that my efforts made a difference



Richard Beal, a senior majoring in computer science, dreamed of working for Advanced Acoustics Concepts Inc. ever since he was in high school. His dream became reality when he began an internship with the company his sophomore year.

globally.

"Internships in the software field are notorious for having you work on internal systems that may never be put to use," he added. "Instead, I worked on computer systems for the U.S. Navy, and it is refreshing to know that, even though I am still a college student, my work at AAC was put to good use and was incorporated with the new software installed on naval assets."

In addition to letting him see his work in action, Beal said the internship satis-

fied his thirst for new challenges.

"I always have to have something new and different to try, something that forces me to be creative," he said. "Creativity drives me."

As the internship coordinator for the computer science department, Dr. George Novak is in constant contact with many student interns. Beal, he said, is among the best he's seen.

"Richard is very bright, outgoing and ambitious," Novak said. "He has a great personality, is well liked by his professors

and his peers, and is a fine representation of this school."

Because of his outstanding performance with AAC, Beal was awarded the Cal U Co-op/Internship Student of the Year Award for students studying in a technical field. The award is given by Cal U Career Services.

"It shows that not only do I think well of him, the school and the committee who chose him do as well," Novak said.

"Knowing Richard, he will get hired by Advanced Acoustics or another company and he will work up to an extremely good position," Novak added. "I know he has a lot of good thoughts about Cal U, and he will come back to help other students get internships and experiences like his."

Beal expects to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

"I have a lot to offer a company," he said. "I can create reliable software, write user manuals, and prove to my fellow workers that my software works. I have a lot of potential, and now the only question is 'What do I do with it?'"

As one of the founding members of the Internship Ambassadors Club, Beal encourages other students in his field to attain internships, too.

"I highly recommend AAC's internship program to others because the experience allows you to explore the field of computing from a company that revolves around computing," he said.

"Working with a company exclusively dedicated to your field can help you define your profession and begin your career."

Assembled Staff Hears Positive Report

President Delivers Good News at Spring Staff Convocation

Even in hard economic times, the mood of the 2009 Spring Staff Convocation was upbeat as a scholarship student described her "good fortune" and President Angelo Armenti, Jr. said the University is "doing well."

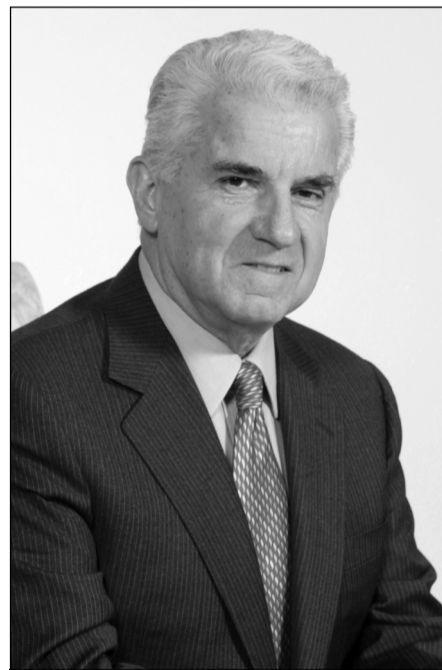
Katie Mercadante, who is studying secondary earth and space science and meteorology with a minor in GIS and emergency management, spoke to the staff at the annual event.

The recipient of several scholarships, Mercadante helped to organize StormFest, an educational program for middle school students presented in partnership with the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh. Consequently, she was one of five students selected to give an oral presentation last summer at the National Weather Association conference in Louisville, Ky.

"I cannot begin to describe the feeling of giving a presentation in front of over 200 professionals," Mercadante said.

"I have had the good fortune of attending a University that believes in its students and encourages them to pursue their dreams. Additionally, we have generous benefactors who allow students to receive scholarships that help them to pursue these dreams. By paying it forward, we allow others to leave their marks, as well, and to reach for and achieve more than they ever thought possible."

As he does at each Convocation, President Armenti addressed a number



As he does at each Convocation, President Armenti addressed a number of university, including Cal U's current enrollment, performance funding, privatization and the University's master plan.

of university topics, including Cal U's current enrollment, performance funding, privatization and the University's master plan. The slides used during his presentation are available in the public folders section of the University website.

President Armenti discussed the "new reality" facing Cal U and Pennsylvania's 13 other state-owned universities as state funding declines.

"We need to ... begin functioning

"Our success is predicated on what you do. All of you play an important role ... I am happy to have all of you here."

— President Armenti

more and more like the private institution that we are inexorably being forced to become," he said. "We need to do this so we can compete successfully in this rapidly arriving future environment."

Despite a shaky national economy, the report was positive: Cal U's total enrollment increased by about 4 percent this semester, President Armenti said, and applications are up by 15 percent over last year's Jan. 1 figures, exceeding both the state and national averages. In addition, the average SAT score of incoming first-time, full-time baccalaureate degree-seeking students has increased to 1028 — a jump of more than 100 points over the past 15 years.

Increasing scholarship dollars and alumni participation remain two crucial goals, but overall, President Armenti said, "we are doing well."

He praised the staff for its part in helping Cal U thrive.

"Our success is predicated on what you do," the President said. "All of you play an important role. ... I am happy to have all of you here."



One of the initial events during Cal U's celebration of Black History Month was a presentation by the Rev. Michael Robinson, a widely known motivational speaker who visited the Cal U campus on Feb. 2.

Black History Month Events Set

— continued from page 1

who organized the first Negro History Week in 1926. It was held during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, two men who had made an enormous impact on blacks in America.

Eventually, it evolved into a month-long celebration of African-American history and achievements.

For more information, contact Dr. Kelton Edmonds (edmonds_k@cup.edu), Cindy Speer (speer@cup.edu) or Timothy Williams (wil2436@cup.edu) at 724-938-4054.



Weather or not ...

Kayla Havavan (right) helps a future scientist create a lava lamp from a mixture of chemicals and a water bottle during the Stormfest activities at the Carnegie Science Center. Cal U Earth Science students volunteered at the two-day annual event and developed more than 25 other activities to teach children about the science behind common and uncommon weather and natural phenomena.

In Brief

PASSHE schools raise \$52M

Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities raised a record \$52 million in private donations during the 2007-08 fiscal year. Officials from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education said that amount is about 20 percent more than the universities raised in the previous year.

In contrast, the total market value of the schools' endowments declined during the same period, from \$240 million to \$227 million.

Roughly one-third of the contributions came from university alumni, while individuals donated 18 percent and organizations and corporations contributed 17 percent each. Most of the gifts were designated for specific purposes, such as scholarships or campus construction and renovation projects.

PASSHE officials say the fundraising totals do not reflect the national economic downturn that occurred during the second half of 2008.

Cal U Professor's Design Stands Out

Robert Meyers, an assistant professor in Cal U's Department of Art and Design, has learned that five projects designed by his firm are being published in *American Corporate Identity 2009*.

The winning designs include an event identity for First Night Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, a corporate identity for O'Toole + Company, a series of five logo designs for Three Dog Creative, and a business card and moving announcement for Robert Meyers Design.

American Corporate Identity 2009 selected the five projects through a national, juried competition with more than 10,000 entries.

Meyers' work has appeared in six *American Corporate Identity* annuals since 1999 and received 24 Awards of Excellence. Meyers joined the Cal U faculty this academic year.

Deadline Near for FPDC nominations

Feb. 16 is the deadline to nominate a faculty member for the Faculty Professional Development Committee's 2009 merit award. Each 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 appropriate professional activities.

The form to nominate a faculty member for the Merit Award can be downloaded from the FPDC website. Self-nominations for the merit award are also acceptable.

The completed nomination form must be received in the Faculty Center, 134 Azorsky, by noon on Feb. 16.

Businessman Wins Medallion

In recognition of his exemplary dedication and support of his alma mater, Len Keller '61 has been awarded California University's Medallion of Distinction Award.

The award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves and brought credit to the University through their professional and personal achievements.

A highly successful businessman, Keller is a semi-retired sales consultant with Triumph Learning, the largest publisher of test preparation materials for state-mandated tests for grades K-12. The firm develops and distributes the widely used Coach™ series for test programs in 25 states.

Keller has supported a number of

scholarships for Cal U students, including the Michael Keller Memorial Scholarship and three school district scholarships.

"Len has long been a model business leader whose dealings with the community at large have been something we here at Cal U admire," said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. "Only a handful of our 53,000 alumni have received the Medallion of Distinction award, and Len is very deserving of this honor. Students are the ultimate benefactors of his generosity, and we are thankful to call Len one of our own."

Keller and another distinguished alumnus, Dr. Harry E. Serene '65, were reappointed to serve their second three-year terms on the University's Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Len Keller '61 is all smiles as his grandchildren help him celebrate being awarded the Medallion of Distinction. Keller also serves as a member on the Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

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