

# California University JOURNAL

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Alcohol and drug prevention specialist Donna George (right) and graduate assistant Julie Mackenzie lead the Options@CalU prevention program.

## Risky Behavior? Consider the 'Options'

Cal U students have new options to help reduce underage drinking and other high-risk behavior involving drugs and alcohol.

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PCLB) has awarded the University a \$14,091 grant to support the Options@CalU prevention program.

Tim Susick, associate vice president for Student Affairs, applied for the grant through Cal U's Office of Grants and Contracts. Alcohol and drug prevention specialist Donna George will implement the grant.

The Office of Student Affairs has set a goal of reducing the level of underage or dangerous drinking incidents by 7 percent this academic year.

The program arises from the University's strategic plan, which calls for a comprehensive wellness center that encompasses the needs of all students.

"Prevention certainly is one of those

needs," said George, who came to Cal U in June.

"Although the Options program at Cal U is an educational program for the whole University, we're really targeting first-year students, because we find through research that's where a lot of the binge-drinking comes into play."

Upperclassmen are being recruited to serve as peer educators, said George, who is training them in prevention, education, mentoring and motivational interviewing techniques.

Once they are trained, the peer educators will give presentations to interested student groups.

"We've had a very collaborative relationship with the PLCB over the years, and this is the third grant we've received," Susick said. "One of the best practices in combating high-risk drinking among college-age students is the use of peer educators."

The grant funding has enabled the program to hire a graduate student, Julie Mackenzie, to assist George. The award also will be used to purchase resources for on-campus health classes, residence life groups or student organizations so they can conduct research, give presentations or simply make information readily available.

"We're looking to prevent some of the incidents that occur because of binge drinking, whether it be violence, sexual assault or alcohol poisoning," George said.

One of many program projects under way is called Quick Hits. Options@CalU is looking for theater majors, or other students who enjoy acting, to present very quick prevention messages to students. They hope to deliver their message to a "captive audience" of students waiting at bus

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## Internship Takes Senior to Harrisburg

Cal U student Michael Candiello, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., is working for the state Department of Community and Economic Development as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

A senior industrial technology management major and nanotechnology minor, he is one of 14 students

participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program, which provides students the opportunity to work in all areas of state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits.

THIS invites students from each of the 14 PASSHE universities to participate.

Candiello, the son of Susan Candiello, is a 2006 graduate of Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School. He and the other students participating in the program will attend several academic seminars during their fall semester internship. Each of the students also will complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

More than 500 students from PASSHE universities have participated in THIS since the program began in 1989, each gaining valuable insight into the workings of state government at the policy-making level. Interns have worked with dozens of state agencies and in the offices of the governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives and the attorney general.

PASSHE students interested in participating in THIS may obtain information on the program by contacting their individual campus coordinator or their university's cooperative or internship office, or by calling the Dixon University Center at 717-720-4089.

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education is the largest provider of higher education in the commonwealth, with nearly 117,000 students. The 14 PASSHE universities offer degree and certificate programs in more than 120 areas of study.

Approximately 454,000 PASSHE alumni live and work in Pennsylvania.



Michael Candiello

## Meakem Speaks at Cal U Sept. 28

California University of Pennsylvania will host an appearance by talk radio host Glen Meakem at 11 a.m. Sept. 28 in Room 110 of the Eberly Science and Technology Center on the Cal U campus.

Meakem's talk, *Help Save the American Dream: We Need You* is free and open to the public. Visitors may park in the Vulcan Garage, near the campus entrance.

Known for his conservative views, the speaker has hosted *The Glen Meakem Program* on radio since 2008. It reaches listeners in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Meakem is an entrepreneur who was the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of FreeMarkets Inc., a business-to-business Internet company that helped Global 1000 companies save money by automating and improving their purchasing functions. He founded the company in 1995, took it public in 1999, and sold it to Ariba Inc. in 2004.



Glen Meakem

In 2005 he co-founded Meakem Becker Venture Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm headquartered in the Pittsburgh area.

A trailblazer in electronic commerce, Meakem was named one of 40 technology pioneers by the World Economic Forum in 2003. He holds eight U.S. patents for electronic commerce inventions.

"Glen Meakem truly understands the role our American values play in achieving economic, professional, political and social success," says Dr. Michael Hummel, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at California University.

"Regardless of the profession we pursue, integrating these values into that process produces a synergistic effect: We reap more benefits than we originally planned for."

The program at Cal U is co-sponsored by the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute, the American Democracy Project, the College of Liberal Arts and the Leadership Club. For more information, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

# Geology Students Study New England Terrain

For the third consecutive year, Cal U students examined the diverse landscape of the U.S. through a field course in geology.

Led by Dr. Kyle Fredrick, assistant professor of Earth Sciences, 14 students spent 15 days driving up the coast of New England to study geological formations native to the region. The group stopped in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

All students earned three credits and had to complete a research paper on the geology of New England before their departure. They also were required to keep journals that highlighted their experiences throughout the trip.

This was Fredrick's first time leading the students through New England.

"New England has so much vegetation and varying terrain," he said. "In one trip, the students witnessed numerous coastal features, rock-type variations, forests and mountains."

Fredrick believes the exploration gives real-life visual examples to supplement standard course material. He also collects photos, rock samples and student accounts to enhance his introductory geology and mineralogy courses.

"You can tell students about the different types of beaches, but they don't completely understand until they see and feel those beaches themselves," he said. "This course provides the opportunity to see things outside of Pennsylvania and gives students a visual reference throughout the program."

Students first studied salt marshes and beach sediment composition in Cape Cod, Mass. Before leaving the state, they visited the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The institute specializes in the understanding of the ocean and its interaction with the Earth system. It is the world's largest private, nonprofit, research, engineering and education organization.

Students toured the research station and met three distinguished scientists who discussed their job responsibilities and educational background.

Another highlight of the field course was visiting Acadia National Park in Maine, where students hiked to the peak of Cadillac Mountain. Pushed up by the Earth's volcanic forces millions of years ago, the mountain stands at 1,532 feet and is the highest point along the North Atlantic seaboard.

"At Cadillac Mountain, we looked at some of the glacial erosion features and



Dr. Kyle Fredrick (left), assistant professor of Earth Sciences at Cal U, guides his geology students along Popham Beach in Phippsburg, Maine.

also got to see some of the rock-type variations across the island," said Fredrick.

After viewing a 5 million-year-old fault line on the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont, the students camped for three days in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

They toured the Barton Garnet Mines to view road cuts of varying rocks, and visited Lake Placid before ending their voyage at Niagara Falls.

"After our return, a friend of mine reminded me how important it was to teach students the basics of camping," said Fredrick. "When retrieving samples, many scientists hike to remote locations and set up camp by themselves. Hopefully, this experience will help to prepare my students for future careers in the field."

Camping also helped to minimize the price of lodging for students. Cal U provided vans and absorbed the cost of fuel; students paid for food and lodging.

"The administration has been wonderful to work with," said Fredrick. "They have never questioned the benefit of this course, or our use of the University's vans."

Last year, students drove from the Cal U campus to Wisconsin, into South Dakota, through Wyoming and finally to Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. The field course plans to visit the Colorado



Dr. Kyle Fredrick, David Danko and Tana Deklevar descend Great Head Mountain in Acadia National Park, Maine.

Plateau next summer.

If students continue the trips every year, they have the opportunity to study different parts of the country each time.

"The students seemed to really enjoy it, and I think they all learned some important things about geology, their future career choices and also about themselves," said Fredrick. "They seemed to develop a tight-knit bond that makes

for a great learning environment back on campus."

The participating students were Samuel Ambrose, Karen Babyak, Matthew Baird, Evan Bruce, David Danko, Tana Deklevar, Matthew Erkel, Joshua Greene, Nathan Hartman, Renee Jardine, Matthew Miller, Chantelle Parrish, Andrew Tomcik and Kristen Wesolowsky.



## Join the Homecoming Parade

Cal U's 2010 Homecoming Day will take place on Oct. 16, preceded by a week of activities beginning Oct. 11. One highlight of this festive autumn event is the annual Homecoming Parade, set for noon Oct. 16. Openings are still available for any pageant winners, marching bands (high school or junior/middle school), performers or organizations that would like to participate. For more information about participating, contact Melissa Dunn at 724-938-4269 or [dunn@calu.edu](mailto:dunn@calu.edu) or Nikki Arthur at 724-938-4303 or [arthur@calu.edu](mailto:arthur@calu.edu). A complete schedule of Homecoming activities is available at <http://sai.calu.edu/homecoming/2010/>.

## Summer Institute a Success

Twenty-four teachers from 13 school districts attended the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) fifth annual Summer Institute last month to learn about teacher resources at the Library of Congress and how to integrate oral history into classroom instruction.

This year's Summer Institute was held in collaboration with Intermediate Unit 1. The theme was "Teaching 'Pop Culture' Using Primary Sources: The Coca Cola Case Study."

The two-credit course was designed to introduce teachers to Library of Congress online primary sources and teacher resources, and to show them how to use primary sources in conjunction with oral history to enhance classroom instruction.

The TPS program is housed in Cal U's College of Education and Human Services.

Affiliation with the program "enables Cal U to provide both pre-service and in-

service teachers with high quality professional development opportunities, so they can remain current with leading educational trends," said Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College.

For more than six years, Cal U has been a member of the TPS Consortium, which includes just 24 institutional partners from 11 states.

"This exclusive membership not only gives us access to Library of Congress resources, it gives us opportunities to interact with some of the country's finest institutions," said Dr. Michael J. Brna, director of Cal U's TPS program. "The result is a strong teacher professional development program that enhances our region's educational network and enables us to share with our teachers the work of experts from across the nation."

For more information about TPS teacher professional development opportunities, contact Brna at [brna@calu.edu](mailto:brna@calu.edu) or 724-938-6023.



## Dancing on the Quad

Student T.J. Holcombe, a former professional ballroom dancer and president of the Latin and Ballroom Dancing Club at Cal U, dances with friend Joelle Parise near the Vulcan statue on the Quad outside Herron Hall. Holcombe is a former professional ballroom dancer and teaches most of the club's classes. The club is open to all students, faculty, staff and members of the community. No experience is required. During the fall semester, the club meets 6-8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in the Old Main Chapel. The club also is considering holding sessions at 11 a.m. Thursdays at a location to be determined. For more information, contact faculty sponsor Dr. Connie Monroe at [monroe@calu.edu](mailto:monroe@calu.edu).

# Veterans Use Road Trip to Raise Funds

Over Labor Day weekend, six members of the Cal U Veterans Club achieved victory for a good cause and then enjoyed the Vulcan football team's exciting come-from-behind season-opening overtime win at Saginaw (Mich.) Valley State.

Robert Prah, club director and director of veterans affairs, made the trip to Saginaw with students and military veterans Joshua Furlong, Chris Gray, Josh Hager, Mike Lukas and Robert Marrone. On the way, they stopped at various American Legion halls and collected donations for Global Online graduate student Jacquelyn Syverson, whose husband, Maj. Paul Syverson, was killed in Iraq six years ago.

"She definitely could use the money," said Prah, "and even though it's been six years (since his death), something like this never blows over. We wanted her to know that we have not forgotten about her and her husband making the ultimate sacrifice.

"We also want it known that we support our online students, too. They are part of the Cal U family, even though they don't come onto the campus."



Six members of the Veterans Club joined Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. at the season-opening football game at Saginaw Valley State, which the Vulcans won in overtime.

During the trip, the veterans posted entries on the American Legion's national blog, and they were interviewed by the TV news crew from a local NBC affiliate.

"Josh Furlong spoke about what we were doing at each American Legion we

visited, and they responded," Prah said. "I just reserved a van.

"I think of the world of Josh after this," he added. "He took this to heart, ran with it and coordinated everything."

The Veterans Club hopes to present

the money to Syverson on Veterans Day, Furlong said.

"We just wanted to take a trip and do something worthwhile," he explained. "The bigger thing is that we have guys coming out of Iraq or Afghanistan having problems, and to best help them we have to get back to being involved with the American Legion. These older guys have the resources and political connections to get us the help we need."

The veterans raised more than \$1,000 on their trip, and the donations have not stopped.

"Some of the American Legion groups are now contacting us, saying they want to make a donation specifically from their post," Prah said. "On the trip we did not take donations from the whole organization but rather from individual members."

The journey culminated with the Vulcans overcoming two double-digit deficits and defeating the host Cardinals, 42-41.

"It was a quick weekend with a lot of driving but for a good cause," said Prah. "I'm proud of our people for stepping up."

## Campus BRIEFS

### Wildlife Society Plans Field Day

The student chapter of The Wildlife Society will present its fifth annual Family Field Day from 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday in Frich Hall.

The public may attend this free event conducted in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Held rain or shine, the field day includes an archery demonstration, a fly-tying demonstration and casting contest, a display of animal tracks and scat, displays of pelts from Pennsylvania fur-bearers, and information about bluebird box construction.

This year's special event is a bird dog demonstration by Nick Mellon of Team Hunt Smith. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact Matthew Malesic, president of the student chapter, at [mal5197@calu.edu](mailto:mal5197@calu.edu)

### Wrestling Event Saturday

A professional wrestling event 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Hamer Hall will benefit Cal U hockey teams and the Mario Lemieux Foundation.

Presented by the International Wrestling Cartel, "College Fightfest" will pit wrestling legend Tito Santana against Star 100.7 radio's Bubba the Bulldog. In addition, Shima Xion will take on Cal U alumnus and Uniontown native Jon Bolen '00, an All-American nose-tackle with the Vulcan football teams in the late 1990s.

Other matches feature wrestlers including Mia Yim, Jimmy DeMarco, John McChesney and Shane Taylor. A women's tag team match will be held, along with a lumberjack match featuring Cal U hockey team members at ringside.

Cal U students with valid CalCards will be admitted free to general admission seating or pay \$5 for ringside seats. Student tickets are available at the Natali Student Center Information Desk.

Tickets for the general public are available at the door, by phone at 412-995-7688 or online at [www.iwcwrestling.com](http://www.iwcwrestling.com). Adults tickets cost \$10 for general admission or \$15 for ringside seats; children younger than 10 pay \$5 for general admission. The show is intended for mature audiences, and parental discretion is advised. Visitors may park in the Vulcan Garage, near the campus entrance.

## 'Christmas Carol' Auditions Set

The Department of Theatre and Dance, along with the Mon Valley Dance Council, will audition singers and dancers for roles in *A Christmas Carol, the Musical* on Oct. 2 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Performers may audition for singing and/or dancing roles in this musical version of the holiday classic. Participants should dress appropriately and arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled audition times.

Male and female performers of all ages and ability levels are needed. Auditions are scheduled by age:

**Ages 6-8:** dance, 11 a.m.; singing, 11:55

**Ages 9-12:** singing, 11 a.m.; dance, 11:55

**Ages 13-18:** dance, 12:50 p.m.; singing, 1:35

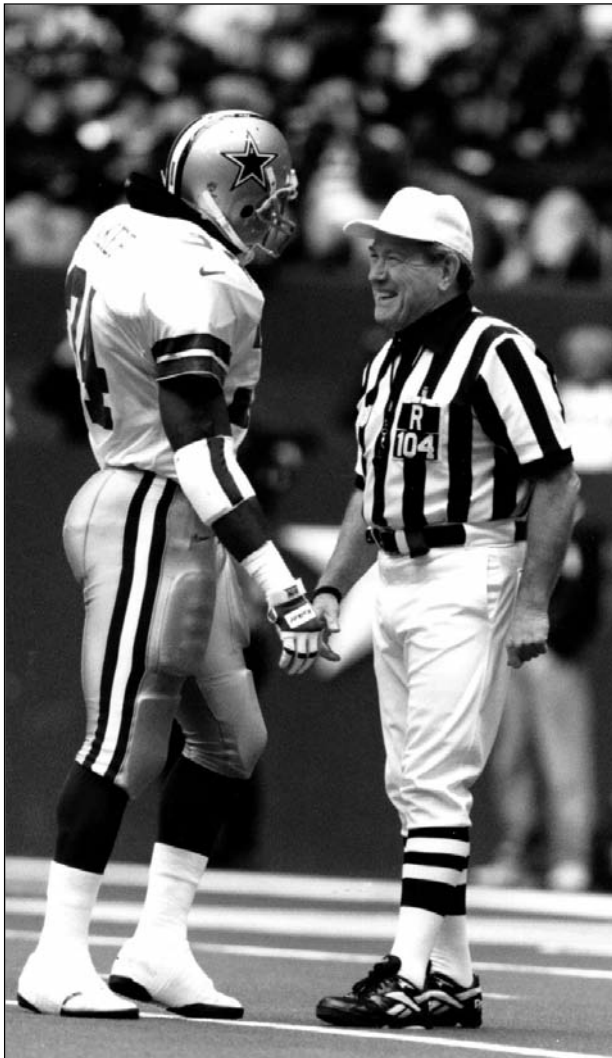
**Adults:** singing, 12:50 p.m.; dance, 1:35

Performance dates will be Dec. 9-12. Dr.

Michael Slavin will direct the musical, with choreography by Donna Marovic.

For more information, call Cal U's Department of Theatre and Dance at 724-938-4220.

# Fifth Hall of Fame Sweetest for Hamer



Next month, Dale Hamer will be inducted into his fifth different Hall of Fame. The veteran official shares a laugh with former player Herschel Walker.

**Editor's Note:** Cal U will hold its 16th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 15 at the Performance Center. For reservations, contact Montean Dean at 724-938-4418. Throughout the fall, *The Journal* will profile each of the 2010 Hall of Fame inductees.

A dedicated alumnus who has served the University in several capacities, Dale Hamer '60 is in his 33rd season as a National Football League official and his ninth year as an instant replay official for the league.

Next month Hamer will be inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame — the fifth hall of fame in which he has been enrolled, and perhaps the most special, he said.

"California obviously means a lot to me, and I certainly consider this the most prestigious honor of them all, because it kind of a collectively takes in all the others," Hamer said. "I guess this is 'one for the thumb,' as people like to say. I am honored and humbled."

Hamer started officiating in 1962. He was the head linesman for two Super Bowls, in 1983 and 1988. He served as referee of the 1992 American Football Conference championship and was the alternate referee for the 1993 Super Bowl. He is a past president and the current

secretary-treasurer of the National Football League Referees' Association.

Hamer's No. 104 striped jersey was pictured on the cover of the 2009 NFL Referees Association directory, and *Inside Sports* magazine labeled him the "NFL's Best" in 1998.

"If you can't play it or coach it, there's nothing to do but officiate it," said Hamer. "I've been blessed to have found my niche a long time ago."

"I've never felt uncomfortable in the narrow stripes of high school or college (referees) or the big stripes of the NFL. (When you're officiating,) you're in control, and everybody else around you is going totally nuts."

Before making his mark in the corporate world, Hamer was a secondary mathematics teacher and coach at Clairton and West Mifflin North high schools. He retired in 1992 after a 28-year career as vice president for leasing and finance at USX Corp.

For 13 years Hamer has been a board member of the Foundation for California University; he was the foundation's president from 2005-2009. He also served Cal U as interim alumni director from 1994-1996.

The speaker at Cal U's 2007 winter Commencement, Hamer

received the University's Michael Duda Athletic Achievement Award in 1988, the Job Johnson Award for Notable Achievement in 2004 and the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award. He is a member of the Board of Presidential Advisors.

Hamer said he views his involvement with Cal U over the years as a continuation of his undergraduate days.

"I am living my college career vicariously now, with my active interest," said Hamer, who was president of the Math Club his final two years as a student. "My involvement today gives me a piece of the campus life I missed as a student."

"What President Armenti has done to this University has given me so much pride," he added, "and I try to convey that to other alumni. I ask them when was the last time they were on campus, and I tell them they need to come back. That's all it takes to get alumni more involved. You just need to get them on this campus, because once they get here and see it, they want to be part of it."

Hamer and his wife, Dr. Arden Hamer, served as honorary chairs of the 2004 President's Gala. The couple resides in Murrysville, Pa. They have three children — Lauren (deceased), Lisa and Megan — and five grandchildren.

## 'Options' for Risky Behavior

— Continued from page 1

stops or standing in cafeterias lines, for example.

George compared this endeavor to the national "Above the Influence" campaign.

"As the name indicates, Quick Hits will be very unannounced and over-the-top," George said. "This will grab their attention and give students something to think about."

During the program's initial stages, George received recruiting help from residence hall Community Assistants and from the Peer Mentoring Program.

"They've been excellent," George said. "Karen (Posa, director of Peer Mentoring) has helped in our recruitment phase and had some great ideas."

George also praised PASSHE for implementing the BASICS program — Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students — at all 14 state-owned universities.

"Cal U and all the other PASSHE schools are addressing alcohol and other drug issues in their strategic plans for a reason," George said. "The productivity of all students while they go to school here — and potentially long beyond their years as college students — can be compromised by choices made now."

## Tennis Team Serves Academic Ace

Cal U's women's tennis team does as well in the classroom as it does on the court.

For the seventh consecutive year, the team was recognized as an Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) All-Academic Team.

Six players were honored as ITA Scholar-Athletes.

Senior Nina Kowalski, a business administration major, earned ITA Scholar-Athlete status for the third straight year. In the Spring 2010 semester, the College Sports Information Directors of America also named her an *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-District II selection.

Juniors Axelle Fernandez and Mariana Oliveria both repeated as ITA Scholar-Athletes. Sophomores Jutta Bornefield and Jade Pondicas, and first-year player Julia Cohen, also received the honor.

With six ITA Scholar-Athletes, the team matches the program record set in 2006-2007.

The ITA All-Academic Team award for 2009-2010 was given to programs that had a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.20 or higher on a 4.00 scale.

To earn ITA Scholar-Athlete status, an individual player must be a varsity letter winner, have a grade-point average of at least 3.50 for the current academic year, and have been enrolled at his or her current school for at least two semesters.

Under the guidance of ninth-year head coach Pablo Montana (165-49), the women's tennis team has won four consecutive PSAC and NCAA Regional championships.



Senior Nina Kowalski earned ITA Scholar-Athlete status for the third straight season last spring while helping Cal U's women's tennis win four consecutive PSAC and NCAA Regional titles.

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