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Mascara Reminisces, Receives Award

As he received Cal U's 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award, former U.S. Rep. Frank R. Mascara chose to reflect on his ties to Cal U rather than discussing federal policies, which he said "would take an entire semester" to cover.

"Little did I realize when I graduated nearly 40 years ago from what was then California State College that the journey of life would lend itself to so many facets of university growth and academic development," said Mascara, the lone Cal U alumnus to serve in Congress.

Mascara began his political career as Washington County controller, a position he held from 1974 through 1980. He served as chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners from 1980 through 1994, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

A Democrat, Mascara represented Pennsylvania's 20th District through 2002. A former member of the University's Council of Trustees, he received an honorary Doctor of Public Service from Cal U in May 1999.

In a warm and reflective talk before an audience at the Performance Center, Mascara discussed his student years and his role as a member of Cal U's Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, Mascara championed

Lifetime Achievement Honor Goes to Cal U Alumnus, Former Congressman and Trustee



Dr. Frank Mascara '72 proudly displays the Lifetime Achievement Award he received from President Angelo Armenti, Jr. at a dinner preceding his lecture during Cal Pride Weekend.

fee remission despite opposition from then-Gov. Milton Shapp, who opposed the plan for Cal U employees and their

children to attend classes at no charge.

"I was very proud to be associated with this program, because it enabled

family members of employees to attend college who may not have been able to afford the cost involved in obtaining a college education," he said.

Mascara resigned from the Trustees in 1999 to avoid a conflict of interest while seeking federal dollars for a low-speed magnetic levitation train at Cal U.

"This very innovative people mover at the University would not only solve problems of safety and eliminate traffic congestion but also provide manufacturing jobs for the Mon Valley region and construction jobs during the building of the project," Mascara said.

He suggested that President Barack Obama's stimulus funding package should include money for the maglev.

During his terms in Congress, Mascara also overcame political opposition to the development of Southpointe. Not everyone agreed that Cal U should establish an off-campus location at the 610-acre multi-use park in Cecil Township known in some circles as "Frank's Folly."

"Now, Southpointe is a jewel that generates \$300 million in private investments and creates over 6,000 jobs," Mascara said. "I guess we got it right."

The former Congressman said his greatest gift to the University was the selection of President Angelo Armenti,

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Dr. Thomas Kinsey is the recipient of the Pearson eCollege Excellence in Online Teaching (eOT) award. He is a professor in Cal U's Department of Health Science and Sport Studies.

Kinsey for Online Teaching

Dr. Thomas Kinsey, professor of Exercise Science in the Department of Health Science and Sport Studies, been chosen as a recipient of the Pearson eCollege Excellence in Online Teaching (eOT) award.

The award is presented to educators who demonstrate a significant commitment to quality in online education.

Kinsey will receive the award Thursday in Denver at a conference organized by the Consortium for ITS

Training and Education.

CITE is an organization of universities and industry associations focused on providing comprehensive advanced transportation training and education that is flexible and convenient for its students.

After seven years as Cal U's dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, Kinsey returned to the classroom in fall 2007. During his tenure as dean, Kinsey took a leadership role in expanding

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The fourth annual Hip-hop Conference features critically acclaimed artists and a nationally known educator.

Common, Chuck D to discuss Hip-hop

Grammy Award-winning hip-hop artist Common and Chuck D, founder of the rap group Public Enemy, will be among the speakers at Cal U's 2009 Hip-hop Conference.

The fourth annual conference will be held Thursday and Friday on campus, with workshops in break-dancing, graffiti art, and MC and DJ skills slated for 6 p.m. Thursday at nearby Jozart Studios.

The keynote panel will discuss youth activism and "The Hip-hop Generation's Embrace of Political Empowerment, Oral Tradition and Community" at 6 p.m. Friday in the Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Panel members are:

Common, aka Ronnie Rashid Lynn, a jazz-rap artist and actor who has appeared in films including *American Gangster*, *Street Kings* and *Terminator Salvation*. Winner of Grammy Awards for his work with Erykah Badu ("Love of My Life/Ode to Hip-hop," 2003) and Kanye West ("Southside," 2007), his latest album, *Universal Mind Control*, was released in 2008.

Chuck D, founder and former front man for the seminal rap group Public Enemy. Born Carlton Douglas Ridenhour, he also is an author, music producer and outspoken political activist.

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Walking a Mile

Cal U men's hockey players (from left) Philip Gigliotti, RJ Jurik and Ryan Dolan sport high heels while participating in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event at California University of Pa. on April 2. Walks are being held nationwide to raise awareness about the issues of sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence. The walk at Cal U was sponsored by the P.E.A.C.E. Project.

On the Menu: Wild Game

Wildlife Society, Game Commission Plan Annual Dinner Saturday

Cal U's student chapter of the Wildlife Society, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the National Wild Turkey Federation, will serve its 12th annual Wild Game Dinner Saturday at the Denbo Vesta No. 6 Volunteer Fire Hall in Brownsville.

Doors open at 5 p.m., and dinner begins at 6. High-quality hunting and camping gear will be raffled, along with a wildlife print from the Game Commission. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the evening. Diners will be offered wild game including deer, elk, pheasant, rabbit, wild turkey, duck, goose, alligator and steelhead trout.

"This is this our biggest fund-raising event of the year," said Dr. Carol Bocetti, assistant professor in Cal U's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, the chapter's adviser. "More importantly, it provides our students an opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with folks from the Game Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation and other wildlife-related groups where they build lasting relationships to advance their professional careers."



Elk will be one of many delicacies served Saturday at the Wildlife Society's 12th annual Wild Game Dinner.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by contacting Dr. Bocetti at 724-938-5967 or bocetti@cup.edu. Tickets also will be available at the door.

'Burgh Big Band Back for Jazz Experience

A performance by the 'Burgh Big Band will wrap up the 27th annual California Jazz Experience, two days of master classes and jazz performances on the campus of California University of Pennsylvania.

Dubbed CJE XXVII, the event will bring high school and middle school jazz ensembles to campus April 21-22 for performances and master classes with Ken Karsh, Cal U's private guitar instructor, and Ralph Guzzi, a freelance composer, arranger, teacher and performer. The clinicians will work with students on sight-reading skills as well as prepared pieces.

The young musicians are from the Belle Vernon Area, Upper St. Clair, Kiski Area, Keystone Oaks, West Mifflin and Chartiers-Houston school districts.

The University's jazz ensemble will give lunchtime concerts at noon on both days in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center, along with an 8 p.m. concert on April 21 in the same location.

The Jazz Experience will close with a performance by the 'Burgh Big Band at 8 p.m. April 22 in the Performance Center. For the sixth consecutive year, Citizen's Bank will sponsor the band's appearance.

All concerts are free and open to the public, as well as the Cal U community.

The University's Music department and its chair, Professor Max Gonano, host the popular event.

For more information, contact the Cal U Music Department at 724-938-4242.

Cal U Partners With School on Renovation Project

Cal U students are partnering with the Uniontown School District and the community on a unique renovation project at Menallen Elementary School.

Groundbreaking for the Menallen Outdoor Learning Environment (MOLE) will be April 17. The unused school courtyard will be converted into a learning space that will include a performance space, a "performance" garden (where each plant "performs" in some way), a fitness trail, a weather station, a butterfly garden and more.

The MOLE project was designed by Cal U graduate students Brian Anderson and Paul Beard under the direction of Dr. Peter Wright, a professor in the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology.

Parents, teachers, their families and community members are volunteering the labor necessary to complete the project. Work will be done after school, on weekends and during the summer.

Grants and fundraisers are expected to offset the cost of materials and other expenses related to this project.

For more information please contact Principal Charles Yasechko at yasechko@mail.uniontown.k12.pa.us or Michelle Komacek, a third-grade teacher at Menallen, at michelle63@atlanticbb.net.



Later this month the work of Cal U technology education students will become a reality when the interior courtyard of Menallen Elementary School becomes a multidisciplinary outdoor learning environment. Featured in photo are Michelle Komacek, Menallen teacher and organizer; Dr. Peter Wright, Cal U professor; Brian Anderson, Technology Education graduate student; Christa Sabatula, Menallen librarian; Paul Beard, technology education graduate student; Linda Vekeli, Menallen teacher; Stephanie Dean, Menallen teacher; and Chuck Yasechko, Menallen principal.

Football Weekend to Feature Alumni Scrimmage

The Cal U football family will reunite Friday and Saturday for the 30th annual Alumni Football Weekend, which wraps up the Vulcans' month-long spring practice schedule with a scrimmage that includes former Cal U standouts.

Football Alumni Weekend begins at 10 a.m. Friday with a golf outing at the Madison Golf Club. The annual alumni "smoker" at the California Hill Gun Club begins at 7 that evening.

Saturday's activities begin with brunch at 10:30 a.m. in the Gold Rush Room of the Natali Student Center,

followed by the varsity scrimmage at 1 p.m. at Hepner-Bailey Field at Adamson Stadium. A post-scrimmage picnic will be held at the Farm Pavilion at Roadman Park, adjacent to the stadium.

Alumni players who wish to participate in the reunion festivities should register with the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418 or e-mail fleenor_1@cup.edu.

Because of a new NCAA bylaw interpretation, the alumni will not be able to compete against the varsity, as they did in previous years. However, alumni will be able to square off against one another as part of the scrimmage.

"The football festival is too important an occasion to

"The football festival is too important an occasion to let pass by. Therefore, as a football program, an athletic department and a University, we will continue to emphasize this great tradition."

— **John Luckhardt, Cal U head football coach**

let pass by," said Cal U head football coach John Luckhardt. "Therefore, as a football program, an athletic department and a University, we will continue to emphasize this great tradition."

The Vulcans are the four-time defending PSAC-West champions. They are coming off a 12-2 season that culminated last fall with a second consecutive



Eighth-year head coach John Luckhardt and the Cal U football team will welcome back alumni football players this weekend as the team wraps up its spring drills.

undefeated showing in the PSAC-West, the first PSAC championship contested in 21 years, an NCAA Division II Northeast Region championship, and an appearance in the national semifinals.

Over the past four years Cal U football has compiled a 41-8 cumulative record and a 23-2 mark against the PSAC-West. The Vulcans finished with a national ranking of sixth in the final American Football Coaches Association Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

For the second consecutive year, Cal received the Lambert Trophy for finishing first in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Lambert Meadowlands Division II

football poll. Established in 1936, the Lambert Trophy recognizes supremacy in all NCAA divisions of Eastern college football.

Luckhardt begins his eighth season on the Vulcan sideline with a 57-24 record at Cal U and a 194-61-2 overall mark in 24 seasons at Cal and Washington & Jefferson College.

The Vulcans will open the 2009 season Aug. 27, playing Saginaw Valley (Mich.) University at Adamson Stadium. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. For the fifth straight year, the Vulcans will open their season at home in a game broadcast on Fox SportsNet Pittsburgh.



Cal U Student Directors Shine

Closing its 2009 spring season, the Department of Theatre and Dance will present "An Evening of One-Acts" at 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee added on Saturday, in the Gerald and Carolyn Blaney Theatre in Steele Hall. Cal U student directors will present plays that are humorous, thought-provoking, often shocking but always entertaining. Some subject matter may not be suitable for all audiences. Stage manager is SaraBeth Grimplin. The show is open to the public. Cost is \$10; admission is free for all Cal U students with a valid CalCard. For ticket information or to order tickets (with a credit card) by phone, call the Steele Box Office at 724-938-5943.

Mascara Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

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Jr. in 1992. Mascara chaired the search committee that selected Cal U's sixth president.

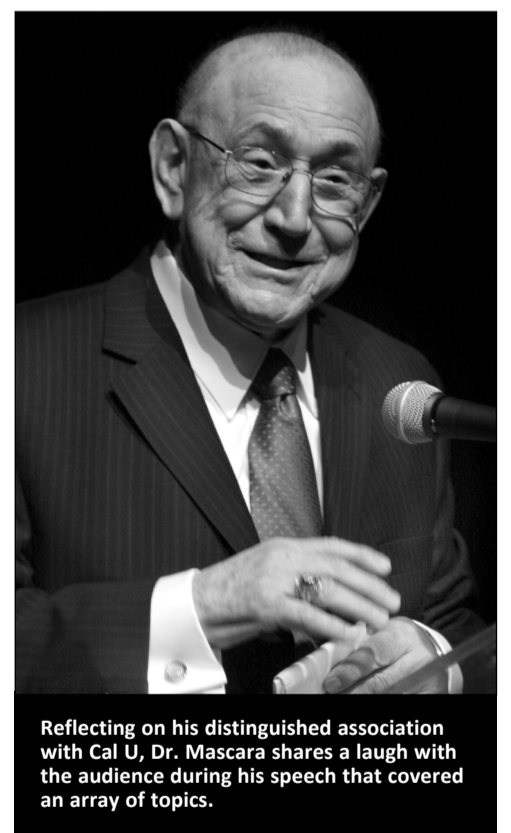
"We considered several qualified candidates, but Dr. Armenti stood out like a shining star," said Mascara, who praised the changes that have come about during the President's tenure.

"Beyond the bricks and mortar, the University is recognized nationally for its academic quality," he said. "The campus is absolutely beautiful and something we can all be proud of. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Armenti and his wife, Barbara."

His advice to current students?

"There is no substitute for hard work," said Mascara, who worked nights as a drummer in a nightclub during his student years, often studying during breaks.

"That is what got me to where I am today. You can substitute for almost anything, but not hard work and dedication."



Reflecting on his distinguished association with Cal U, Dr. Mascara shares a laugh with the audience during his speech that covered an array of topics.

Annual Hip-hop Conference Set

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Dr. Tricia Rose, a professor, scholar and author of *The Hip-hop Wars* (Perseus Publishing, 2008), which examines tensions within the hip-hop music industry and analyzes the genre's place within the black community.

Ursula Rucker, a hip-hop poet and spoken-word artist whose releases include *Silver and Lead, Ma' at Mama* and *Ursula Soundsystem*. She appeared last year in the film *The Black Candle*, narrated by poet Maya Angelou.

Admission and parking are free. For a complete schedule, visit www.cup.edu.

Forecast is Sunny for 'Weather Watch' Intern

A friend's recommendation and Cal U's reputation have led to a rewarding internship with the WTAE Weather Watch 4 Team for Cal U senior Matthew Owens.

Owens, 22, of South Park, Pa., first learned about the opportunity with WTAE from fellow Meteorology major Kevin Wagner, who interned at the station last year.

Owens interviewed last fall and was hired immediately for a spring semester internship with WTAE meteorologist Stephen Cropper.

"I have been very pleased with the caliber of students coming out of Cal U," Cropper said. "As a graduate of an online broadcast meteorology program, I am a firm believer in campus training, and I am excited about Cal U's commitment to the science of meteorology and the great blend of broadcast training."

Cropper said he also encourages high school students to look into Cal U's meteorology program because of its proximity and program growth.

Owens has carried out a variety of assignments at WTAE, including loading, editing and organizing graphics, working with radar and setting up for broadcasts. One week, he was in charge of preparing the weather broadcast.

Students in the Department of Earth Sciences are not required to complete internships, but Cal U adjunct faculty member Dr. Jinhee Jun, who serves as Owens' internship adviser, called this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"Matt gets to apply what he has learned in the classroom in a real-world setting with real responsibilities," Jun said. "Internships give students the professional foundation upon which to build their careers."

Owens, who has dual majors in Geographic Information Systems and Emergency Management, has been pleasantly surprised with all the responsibility he has been given at WTAE. He even had the chance to develop his broadcasting skills in front of a "green screen" while being critiqued by Cropper and his colleagues Erin Kienzle and Demetrius Ivory.

"They are very adamant about helping interns get real experience to help build our resumes," Owens said. "They are really nice people, and they want to see others do well in this industry."

Cropper said Owens' dependable help has enhanced the effectiveness of the WTAE meteorologists' work.

"Matt's mastering of our computer graphics system has allowed our meteorology department to spend more time forecasting and gearing up for severe weather season," Cropper said. "Since we operate 24/7, our schedules are hectic, and any reliable help is a welcome relief."

Dr. Chad Kauffman, Cal U's Meteorology Club adviser and co-director of the broadcast meteorology studio, said WTAE's relationship with Cal U interns dates to the days of legendary meteorologist Joe Denardo.

"It is a classy organization, and I wish all of our students could interact with them on a consistent basis," he said.

Owens expects to graduate in December and realizes he will have to begin his career in a small market. He has not decided whether he wants to be in front of the camera or behind the scenes, but Cropper believes he has the ability to make a positive impact as a broadcast meteorologist.

"He has become more comfortable



Matt Owens carries on a solid Cal U tradition of effective interns getting real opportunities to work and learn with WTAE meteorologists.

at the chroma key (on-air weather map), and his storytelling continues to evolve," Cropper said. "There is no doubt he has

the technical knowledge, and if he continues to grow on air, he should be successful."



Honors Address

Dante Morelli '02 delivers a moving keynote address emphasizing the role his grandfather played in helping him attain a college education at the 2009 Honors Convocation on March 21 in Hamer Hall. Morelli established the Edward V. Morelli Scholarship Fund in his grandfather's memory to benefit sophomore communications studies majors at Cal U. Morelli is now working toward a doctorate at Ohio University.

Kinsey Honored for Online Teaching

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Web-based graduate programs through Cal U's Global Online.

A former secondary school teacher of science and environmental studies, Kinsey now teaches research and leadership courses online.

Kinsey's eOT award recognizes the innovations he has made in the online Research in Fitness and Wellness course and Research in Performance Enhancement and Injury Prevention, which both use an embedded librarian. The faculty-level librarian, an active participant in the course, interacts with students to help them find information.

Kinsey credited William Denny, Cal U's distance learning/government documents librarian, for his essential contribution.

This semester Kinsey is teaching three sections of Leadership and Professional Development. He also has directed three students in the Applied Engineering and Technology Department's thesis seminar.

Millie Rodriguez, director of Web-based programs, nominated Kinsey for the eOT award.

"From day one back in the 'classroom', Dr. Kinsey has been fascinated and dedicated to improving the content and expanding the learning opportunities for his students," said Rodriguez. "He spends a great deal of time incorporating content within his courses that not only meet the outcomes requirements of the course but also hold the interest of this new kind of learner."

Added CITE spokeswoman Christy Ferguson, "E-learning is revolutionizing education, and committed educators such as Tom Kinsey are changing the landscape of online learning. The work he's done, and his dedication to quality, has paved the way for many online educators to follow."

Kinsey is the second Cal U faculty member to receive the eOT award. Dr. Barry McGlumphy, associate professor and program director for exercise science and health promotion, received the award in 2006.

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