

California University
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Cal U Seeks Federal Grant for Urban Maglev National Demonstration Test Facility

Project will create jobs, show feasibility of cost-effective 'green' transit option

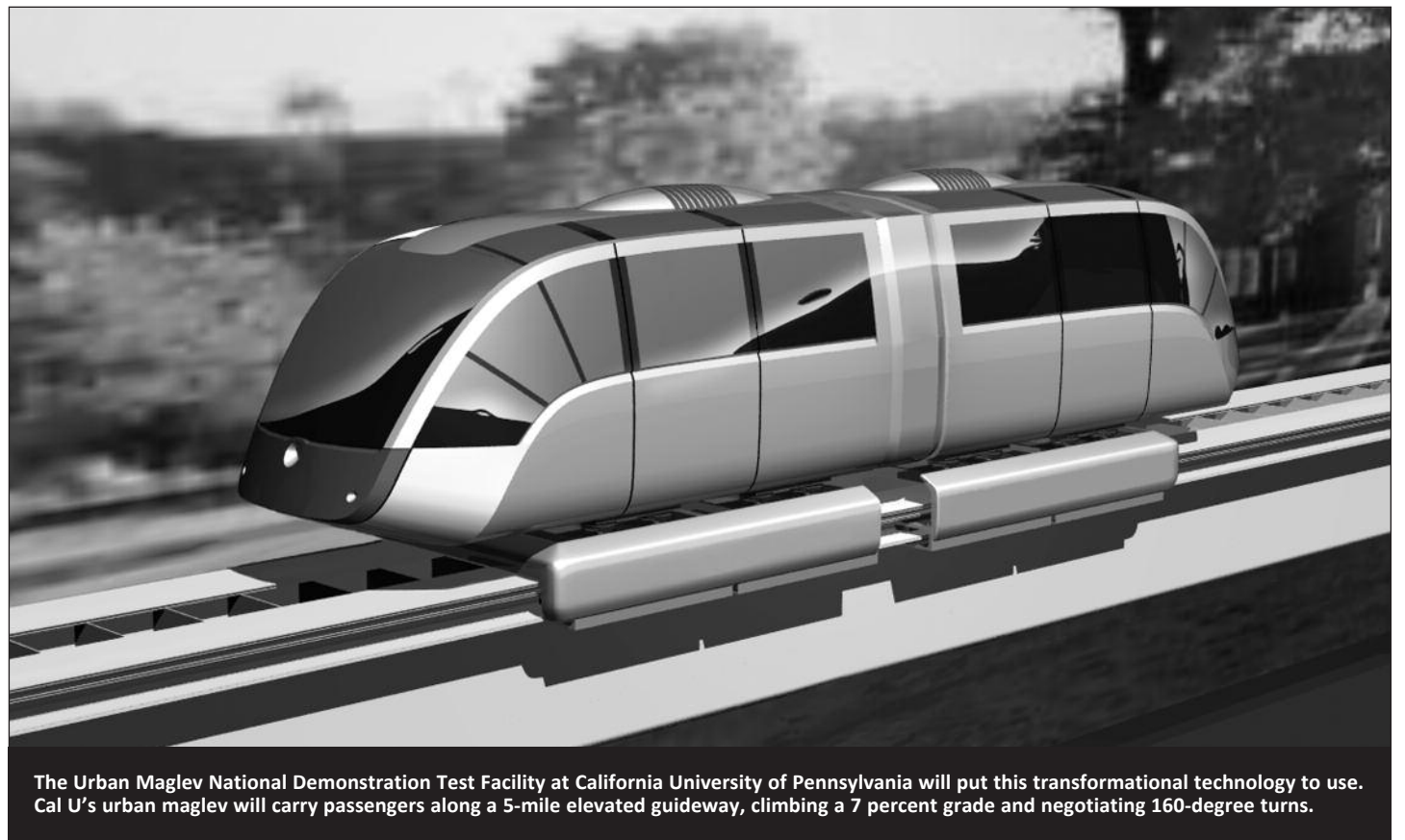
Cal U is seeking \$299 million in federal stimulus funds for the Urban Maglev National Demonstration Test Facility at California University of Pennsylvania.

The university applied for funding this month through the U.S. Transportation Department's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants Program.

"This project will have an enormous local, regional and national impact by fundamentally changing the way people and cargo move through urban areas," said California University President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

"The local businesses involved in this project are setting the stage for a new, American-based industry that will create thousands of jobs. At the same time, the project will demonstrate how Urban Maglev, a safe and sustainable transportation option, will lead to a cleaner environment and more livable communities."

The Urban Maglev National Demonstration Test Facility at Cal U would consist of five passenger stations along a 5-mile (round trip) elevated guideway connecting the University's upper campus and the nearby Center in the Woods senior citizen complex with Cal U's lower campus and the borough



The Urban Maglev National Demonstration Test Facility at California University of Pennsylvania will put this transformational technology to use. Cal U's urban maglev will carry passengers along a 5-mile elevated guideway, climbing a 7 percent grade and negotiating 160-degree turns.

of California. An intermodal transfer terminal with a 2,500-car parking garage and a maintenance/operations facility, both on the upper campus, also are included in the plan.

Four 70-passenger cars will travel an

inch above the guideway, propelled by a magnetic levitation system that is safer and less costly to operate than previous designs. The climate-controlled cars will transport passengers at speeds of up to 50 miles per hour along a route that

demonstrates Urban Maglev's ability to handle 160-degree turns and a 7 percent grade — much steeper than the 3 percent maximum grade for traditional light-rail vehicles.

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Grant Addresses Alcohol Abuse

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education has received a grant of nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to expand and refine programs designed to reduce alcohol consumption and binge drinking among PASSHE students.

The funds will be used to develop a system-wide strategic plan to attack the problem of alcohol abuse, which is considered one of the key public health issues facing colleges and universities today. The plan will provide direction and identify critical activities relative to each university's needs.

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At Convocation, Students Pose Questions About Parking, Funding, Baseball

Building on the momentum of new-student orientation, Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. discussed the Cal U For Life program Sept. 15 at Student Convocation.

"We must instill a culture of philanthropy in every University stakeholder," he said. "Through awareness, appreciation and, ultimately, giving, we must have our students forge and maintain a lifelong relationship with Cal U."

New Cal U students were the first to hear about the initiative, which also will be the topic for next month's Mission Day.

"You've come here at a very interesting time," President Armenti told the students. "You are at the juncture of the past and future of this University."

During the question and answer session, many queries centered on parking. Manderino and Hamer parking areas now are closed for construction. Until the 650-space Manderino Parking Garage opens next summer, parking space at the lower



President Armenti informed the students that this academic year would be the most challenging from a parking standpoint until the new parking garage behind Manderino Library is completed next summer.

campus will be limited.

"This year is going to be a challenge, and we ask for your patience," President Armenti said. He urged students to use the free bus service to and from the new Roadman Park Lot.

Cal U will charge for on-campus

parking beginning next fall, he added.

"We've had free parking at this University for 157 years, and we're going to have it this year. But starting next fall, we are going to join the rest of civilization and pay for parking."

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Hand-in-Hand Helps Students Pay for Child Care

The Women's Center at Cal U will receive \$219,300 from the U.S. Department of Education for its Hand-in-Hand program to provide safe, nurturing child care for low-income single parents who wish to pursue a college degree.

Funding for the four-year project was awarded under the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program.

Hand-in-Hand will provide quality, faith-based child care and preschool for the children of low-income Cal U students.

Children will be cared for at The Village, a nonprofit child-care facility about 1.5 miles from campus along the Mid Mon Valley Transit Authority's Silver Line bus route, which also serves Cal U.

"As a nonprofit, we can only afford to give so many scholarships to parents going to school full time. This will enable us to help more people," said Cherie Sears, president of The Village. "If people can get the educational help now, they will soon be self-sufficient."

Low-income single mothers will be given first priority for Hand-in-Hand. If space remains, low-income single fathers



The Women's Center at Cal U is collaborating with The Village, a nonprofit child-care facility near campus, to offer child care for low-income, single-parent students.

and two-parent families may be included. The program can accommodate no more than 26 children

The state-licensed Village opened in September 2008 at The Center in the

Woods to provide care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years.

The Village participates in the Keystone Stars Early Care + Education Quality Initiative as a Star 1 center, with

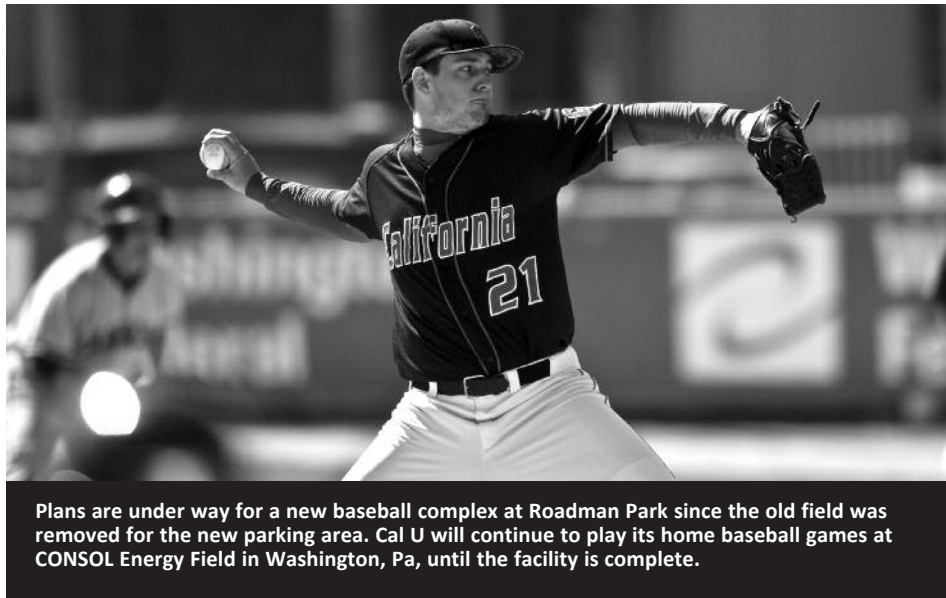
a goal of becoming a Star 4 facility. Keystone STARS (Standards, Training/Professional Development, Assistance, Resources, Support) is an initiative of the state Office of Child Development and Early Learning to improve and support early learning programs in Pennsylvania.

Project director Nancy Skobel, Cal U's associate dean for Student Development and Leadership, said Hand-in-Hand offers much-needed assistance, especially in these challenging economic times.

"Education is the ultimate equalizer, and Cal U's participation in the CCAMPIS program will help both students and their young children," she said. "Not only will immediate child care needs be met, but long-term family finances and child school readiness will also be positively affected."

Cal U students who need more information about Hand-in-Hand should contact Skobel at skobel@calu.edu or 724-938-5707.

Students requesting information about The Village child-care facility should contact Sears at sears.thevillage@centerinthewoods.org or 724-938-3554.



Plans are under way for a new baseball complex at Roadman Park since the old field was removed for the new parking area. Cal U will continue to play its home baseball games at CONSOL Energy Field in Washington, Pa, until the facility is complete.

Students Ask About Parking, Funding and Baseball

— Continued from page 1

The University's parking committee will accept suggestions and make adjustments "until we get it as good as it can be," he said.

In response to other questions, President Armenti explained funding for some high-profile projects. The state's \$19 million contribution toward the Convocation Center, now under construction, comes from capital funds that cannot be used elsewhere, he said.

Private donations were used to finance the bronze statue of the University mascot, Vulcan, that will be dedicated during Homecoming festivities on Oct. 17.

The President also addressed concerns raised by members of Cal U's baseball team, whose home field was displaced by the new 750-space parking lot at Roadman Park. Since 2003, the Vulcans have played the majority of their home games at Consol Energy Park, about 30 minutes away.

Plans call for construction of a \$3 million ballfield at another location within Roadman Park, the President said. He credited the team's 6-2 victory over Shippensburg in May with

putting Cal U on top of the Dixon Trophy standings for 2008-2009.

"I am very proud of our baseball team and always have been," he said. "We just have to rely on neighboring fields for practice until the new field is constructed."

Despite the inconvenience of ongoing construction, enrollment again has reached record levels, President Armenti reported. The student head count now stands at more than 9,000.

"Students and families are finding our institution very attractive for many different reasons," he said, touching on Cal U's relationships with the Smithsonian Institution, National Building Museum, National Gallery of Art and Library of Congress.

"I believe in the arts very much, and we celebrate them here," he added.

As Convocation drew to a close, one student asked why the University is run "like a business instead of like an academic institution."

"We have been here 157 years, and I am determined we'll do whatever we have to do to be here another thousand years," the President said. "We're just preserving our future."

Cal U Seeks Federal Grant for Maglev Test Facility

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Part of Cal U's master plan since 1993, the Urban Maglev project is "shovel-ready," with environmental assessments, engineering and municipal approvals for the initial phase already in place.

"This project is a game-changer," said David O'Loughlin, president of Pittsburgh-based U.S. Maglev Development Corp., which is working with Cal U on the project.

"Not only does Urban Maglev fill a real need for the University, it has the potential to jump-start similar projects throughout the United States by demonstrating the cost-effectiveness, safety and reliability of this new, 'green' technology.

"The national demonstration facility at Cal U will lay the foundation for a new high-technology, 21st-century manufacturing industry that creates jobs that cannot be outsourced to another country."

Based on projections by the Council of Economic Advisors, building the test facility at Cal U will result in more than 2,000 job-years of immediate employment in western Pennsylvania, primarily in design, manufacturing and construction. This is critically important in Washington County, where unemployment is nearly 8 percent, and in neighboring Fayette County, with 9 percent unemployment. Vehicle manufacturing jobs also will be created in Beaver County, where unemployment stands at 8.4 percent.

Overall, the Council estimates that a \$299 million investment will stimulate the creation of 3,261 total job-years of employment. A study promulgated by the American Public Transit Association places the figure even higher, at 7,136 jobs.

All full-scale components of the Urban Maglev system already have been manufactured and tested. The technology has been developed over the last decade with more than \$28 million invested by the U.S. Department of Transportation, PennDOT and a coalition of local businesses.

"This project is a game-changer."
— David O'Loughlin, president, U.S. Maglev Development Corp.

In addition to Cal U and Western Pennsylvania Maglev Development Corp., project parties from Pennsylvania are L. Robert Kimball and Associates of Ebensburg; P.J. Dick

Inc., Mackin Engineering Co., Sargent Electric Co. and Union Switch and Signal Inc., all of Pittsburgh; Hall Industries Inc. of Ellwood City; and New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. of Bedford County.

Also participating is General Atomics of Tupelo, Miss., and San Diego, Calif., where a full-scale Urban Maglev vehicle has been running on a 400-foot test track completed in 2004. Technical liaisons are Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories in Livermore, Calif., and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

"Federal leadership is key to developing this new transportation model," said O'Loughlin, who estimated the total project cost at \$370 million. In addition to the TIGER grant, funding comes from a 2003 authorization in the Pennsylvania State Capital Budget and other sources.

If a TIGER grant is awarded, the project could begin in April 2010 and be ready for public use within four years.

For more information about the Urban Maglev National Demonstration Test Facility at California University of Pennsylvania, visit www.urbanmaglev.com.

Signs Tell Drivers When Lots Are Filled

Digital signs have been placed near the California Volunteer Fire Department and at the intersection of Third and Green streets in California to inform motorists when the parking lots on Cal U's lower campus are filled.

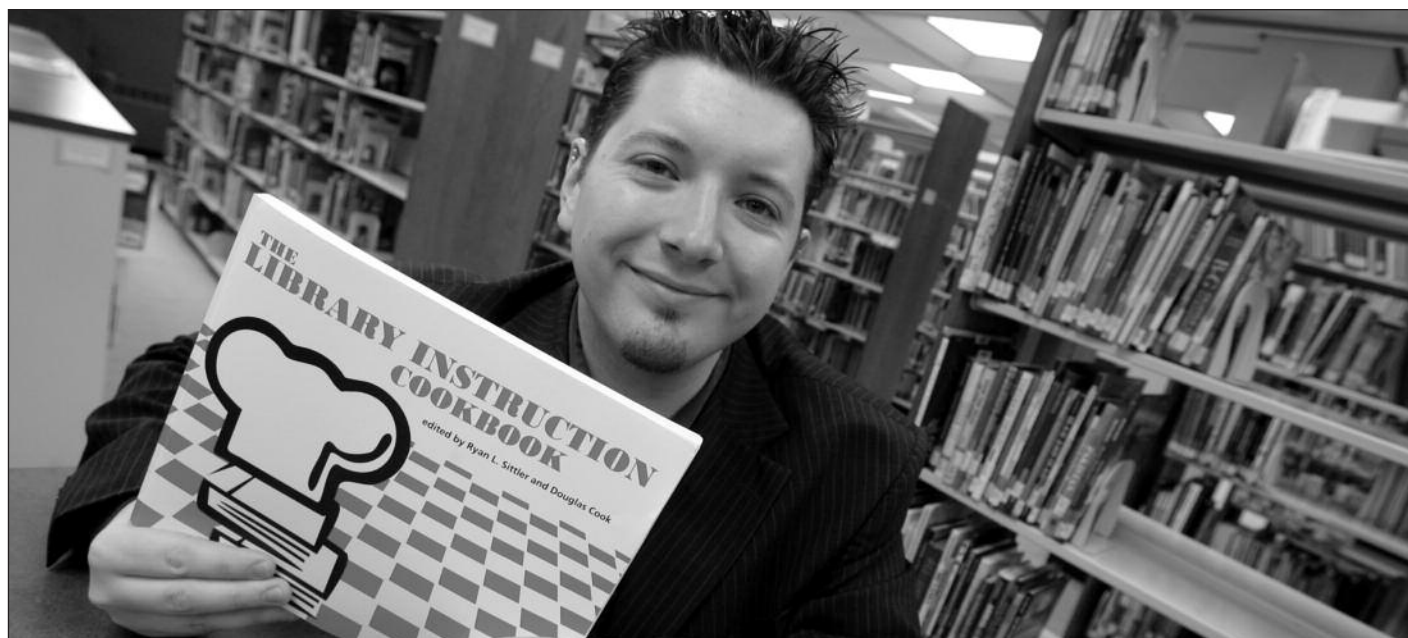
It is recommended that drivers park in the Roadman Park lot near Adamson Stadium and ride the free bus to and from the main campus.

Buses operated by the Mid-Mon Valley Transit Authority leave Roadman Park and stop at Manderino Library, Natali Student Center and near Gallagher Hall.

Beginning at 7:20 a.m., the route from Roadman Park to the lower campus also will include stops at Vulcan Village and the MMVTA Park-n-Ride Lot.

University Police patrol the campus lots and redirect drivers when all spaces are filled. They also make regular visits to the Roadman Park lot during their daily patrols.

For more information about parking and the bus service, or directions to Roadman Park, visit the Cal U website, www.calu.edu; click on the traffic/parking update on the left side of the homepage.



Assistant professor Ryan Sittler co-edited and published two academic books this year.

Librarian Cooks Up 'Recipes'

Assistant professor Ryan Sittler, Cal U's instructional technology and information literacy librarian, co-edited and published his second academic book this calendar year.

His most recent publication, *The Library Instruction Cookbook*, was edited with professor Doug Cook, distance services librarian at Shippensburg University.

The publisher is The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), the largest division of the American Library Association.

The Library Instruction Cookbook is a practical collection of "learning recipes." Each includes a plan for conducting a specific type of learning session and indicates how the recipe reflects specific ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education.

All told, Sittler and Cook have gathered 97 of the best lesson plans from academic librarians from around the world.

"It's a different kind of academic publication with a lot of fun graphics," Sittler said. "Both books

have been well received."

Earlier this year Sittler and Cook, through ACRL, created *Practical Pedagogy for Library Instructors: 17 Innovative Strategies to Improve Student Learning*. This book gathered 17 case studies using unique instructional methodologies framed by sound pedagogical theory. It has helped many librarians who come from disciplines other than education upgrade their skills in the area of instruction and use in research methodologies, according to Sittler.

Inkwell Accepting Nominations

The Inkwell, Cal U's online literary magazine, invites students, staff and faculty to contribute original fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry and photos for the 2009 edition.

Submission deadline is Oct. 2. The student-produced webzine will be online by the end of the semester.

Students in Publishing the Magazine (ENG 351) are responsible for creating, selecting, editing and producing the 'zine. They rely on the Cal U community to contribute literary and photographic work. Professors are urged to encourage their students to contribute.

The 2005 and 2007 editions of *The Inkwell* can be viewed at: <http://sai.calu.edu/inkwell>.

Writers and photographers may contribute work in these categories:

— **Fiction.** Only original pieces will be accepted; no fan fiction or previously published work. Submissions may not exceed 10 pages in length and should be double-spaced and numbered. Please include the title of your piece, your name, e-mail and phone number, a brief biography and a JPEG photo of yourself, if available. E-mail in rich text format to caluinkwellfiction@gmail.com.

— **Creative nonfiction.** Only original pieces will be accepted; contributors may submit no more than three pieces. Editors are seeking well-written, focused and structured narratives based on fact, with a distinct voice. Maximum length is 10 pages, double-spaced and numbered. Please include the title of your piece, your name, e-mail and phone number, a brief biography and a JPEG photo of

yourself, if available. E-mail in rich text format to caluinkwellnonfiction@gmail.com.

— **Poetry.** Only original pieces will be accepted. Writers should use common sense about the length of poems. The *Inkwell* cannot guarantee that "shape" poems will remain in the same form when published. Please include the title of your piece, your name, e-mail and phone number, a brief biography and a JPEG photo of yourself, if available. E-mail in rich text format to caluinkwellpoetry@gmail.com.

— **Photographs.** Submissions will be accepted from new and established photographers. *The Inkwell* will use photos that best suit our articles and publication. Emphasis is on the photo itself; no photos of original paintings,

drawings, sculpture, photos or other art will be accepted unless that art is part of the overall photo composition. All photos must be sent as a JPEG image. Please include the title of your photo, your name, e-mail and phone number, a brief biography, and JPEG photo of yourself, if available. E-mail JPEGs and information to caluinkwellphoto@gmail.com.

Student editors for *The Inkwell* are: Hilary Scott, fiction; Rodney Taylor, creative nonfiction; Erica Zechender, poetry; Jaclyn Schwirian, photography; Dan John, public relations; and A.J. Carpinelli, Web.

Margo Wilson, associate professor of English, supervises the class. She can be reached at 724-938-1585 or wilson_m@calu.edu.

Campus BRIEFS

'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. 3 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.



Singing and/or dancing roles are available. Performers should dress appropriately and

arrive 30 minutes before their audition. 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 a.m.

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

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

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

Performance dates will be Dec. 10-13. Dr. Michael Slavin will direct the musical, with choreography by Donna Marovic-Anthony.

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

Internship Fair Coming Oct. 6

Cal U has partnered with the Regional Internship Center (RIC) of Southwestern Pennsylvania to hold a free internship fair open to all students. The fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center.

Part of RIC's internships-to-jobs initiative, the fair supports regional employers who recognize the value

of internship programs and are looking to hire a full-time intern within the next two years.

The RIC is an online clearinghouse that connects bright, talented college students with regional businesses. It strives to increase the number of organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania offering internships by working with employers to develop programs and connect them with potential interns.

Cal U has worked with the RIC for five years, said Karen Primm, director of the Cal U Internship Center. The University's primary RIC contact is alumna Trish Ross '08.



Center Was Key to '04 Women's Basketball Title

Editor's Note: Cal U will hold its 15th annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet Oct. 16 at the Performance Center. For reservations, contact Montean Dean at 724-938-4418. Throughout the fall, The Journal will profile each of the 2009 Hall of Fame inductees.

In two years at center, Becky Siembak helped the Vulcan women's basketball team win 68 of 71 games, including the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship.

Siembak earned her bachelor's degree in special education from Cal U in 2004 and now is an eighth-grade learning support teacher at Trinity Middle School. She has been the head girls basketball coach at both Burgettstown and Trinity high schools, as well.

"I was very fortunate to have a scholarship that has really prepared for me for the rest of my life," said Siembak, now of Houston, Pa. "I could not imagine having all those student loans just starting my career, and I am very thankful and grateful to Cal for that. The school has played a big part in my career."

After sitting out the 2001-2002 season as a transfer, Siembak averaged 18 points and 10 rebounds a game in 2002-2003 while shooting 62 percent from the floor.

In 2003 she was named the State Farm/WBCA Division II Player of the Year, as well as PSAC-West Player of the Year. A first-team national All-American, she helped the Vulcans compile what was then a school-best 33-2 overall record and advance to the NCAA II National Final Four.

As an encore in 2003-2004, Siembak helped Cal U become the first and only PSAC team ever to win the NCAA Division II national championship in women's basketball. The Vulcans rolled to a 35-1 overall record with a third straight PSAC-West and PSAC championships.

At Cal U, Siembak scored 1,139 points with 651 rebounds; her field goal percentage was nearly 61 percent (475 of 781).

"All the pieces of the puzzle just came together, and we just had the right teammates and coaches," Siembak said. "We all had the right attitude and worked for the one common goal."

Siembak praised previous women's basketball coaches Darcie Vincent and Heather Kearney, who also coached her at Slippery Rock.

"Both are great coaches, and I could not have imagined playing for anyone else," she said. "They pushed us and got things out of us that I know I never thought I would be able to do."

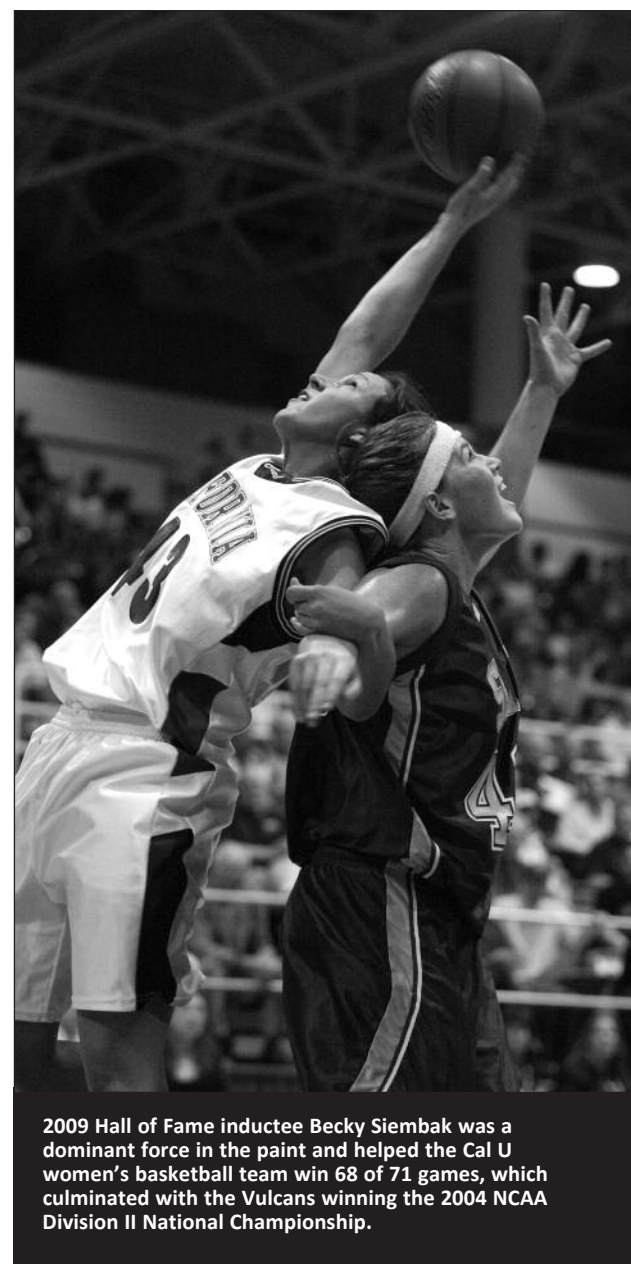
At Slippery Rock, Siembak scored 880 points in two years and was the team's leading scorer and rebounder both seasons. With Siembak, Slippery Rock won its only NCAA women's basketball regional title, in 2000.

One of only 15 players in NCAA Division II history with 2,000 career points (2,019) and 1,000 career rebounds (1,203), Siembak was a four-time all-conference selection.

"President Armenti and his administration have been very dedicated to athletics and especially women's basketball," Siembak said. "They push for the best, and we would not have been as good if they did not provide the resources. They were dedicated and the players and coaches were dedicated back, so it went both ways."

Siembak joins teammate Sameera Philyaw as the first two inductees from Cal U's national title team.

"It's really an honor to get this award so quickly, in my first year of eligibility," Siembak said. "I can't believe how fast time goes by. I think as I have become older I appreciate more how good we were and what we did. This really does mean a lot."



2009 Hall of Fame inductee Becky Siembak was a dominant force in the paint and helped the Cal U women's basketball team win 68 of 71 games, which culminated with the Vulcans winning the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship.

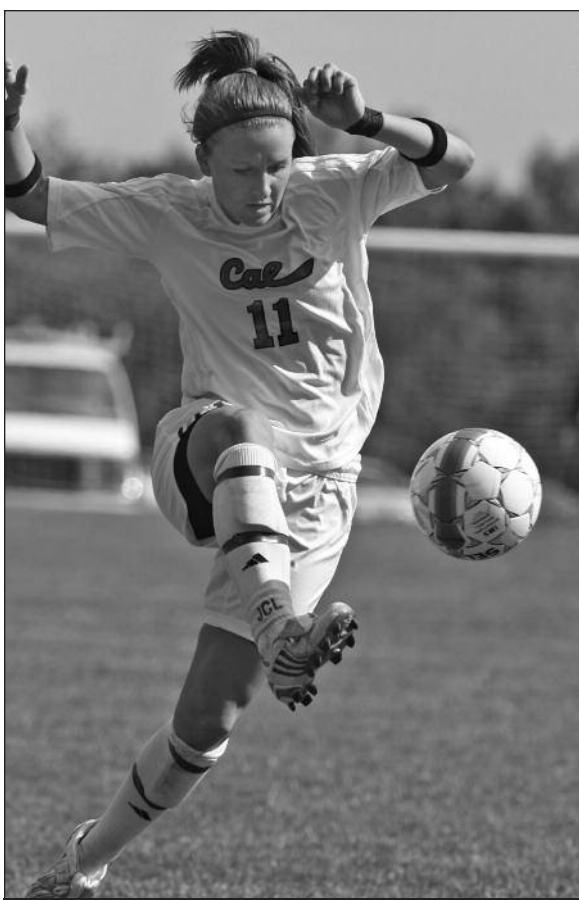
Soccer Team Gets Their Kicks

Playing an effective and early role this fall in Cal U's quest for a second consecutive Dixon Trophy as the PSAC's top overall athletic program is the women's soccer team.

Under the direction of third-year head coach Al Alvine, the Vulcans are off to a program-best 7-1 start as of Sept. 25 with a 6-1 PSAC-West mark. Cal is also ranked tenth in the latest National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Top 25 poll. This is the Vulcans' highest national ranking in program history.

Cal U is also ranked among the leaders in the NSCAA Atlantic Region with hopes of making their program's first-ever NCAA Division II tournament appearance. Last year the team went 12-7-5 overall and missed qualifying for the PSAC Tournament by point after winning just four games and one conference game in 2007.

The team's next action at Roadman Park will be home games against Ohio Valley at 1 p.m. Oct. 3 and Slippery Rock at 3 p.m. Oct. 6



One of many bright spots for the team has been the stellar play of junior forward Sam Regney, who has three goals and two assists for eight points.

Alcohol Abuse Focus of Grant

— Continued from page 1

Cal U joined East Stroudsburg, Indiana and Shippensburg universities in preparing the grant application with support from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. The PLCB and state Department of Health's Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs will work with PASSHE on the new program.

The 14 PASSHE universities have been working together for several years to develop programs that meet standards established by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcohol (NIAA).

Tim Susick, Cal U's associate vice president for Student Development and Services, said the program is aimed at first-year resident students.

"A primary focus is to develop a statewide consortium on identifying best practices to combat binge drinking among college-aged students," said Susick, who was part of the grant-writing team.

Another goal will be to help

students more accurately gauge alcohol use among their peers. An earlier PASSHE research project indicated that many students believe their peers drink more heavily than they actually do, a perception that might affect their own decisions.

Susick praised the ongoing University's alcohol- and drug-awareness programs and education efforts based in Carter Hall. Awareness programs are provided by the Wellness Center's Options program; the CHOICES program provides education, intervention and assessment.

"This is a nationwide problem, and we are fortunate here at Cal to have great support," said Susick. "Through this grant we will ultimately develop a system-wide mission statement."

The grant also will enable Cal U to begin training individuals for the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program. This is a form of motivational interviewing that assists students in recognizing the need for behavior change relative to their use of alcohol.

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