

California University
JOURNAL

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 16 • MAY 18, 2009



Dr. Kalie Kossar reviews teaching materials with a Cal U student. She and Dr. Katherine Mitchem, both of the Department of Special education, will lead a collaborative project funded by a grant of nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Federal Grant for Special Education Focuses on Teaching Math, Science

California University will receive nearly \$500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance special education teachers' ability to teach mathematics and science effectively.

HQ-TEEMS: Highly Qualified Teachers in Exceptional Education, Math and

Science is a collaborative project led by Drs. Katherine Mitchem and Kalie

Kossar, both of Cal U's Department of Special Education.

The award of \$478,862, to be delivered over four years, was announced by the University's Office of Grants and Contracts.

HQ-TEEMS will foster collaboration between faculty in Cal U's College of Education and Human Services and content specialists from the Eberly School of Science and Technology.

Together they will help special education teachers in grades K-12 become better qualified to teach middle school math and science, improving the education of students with disabilities.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to work with many other stakeholders to continue to produce qualified special educators both in our programs and in the schools, leading to a

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Chancellor: 'Be Smart Now'

For the second time in just eight months, PASSHE Chancellor Dr. John C. Cavanaugh visited the Cal U campus and met with faculty, staff and students.

His key message April 28 dealt with how the state budget and the federal "stimulus and stabilization funds" will affect the State System of Higher Education.

"I wanted to get some things on your radar," said Cavanaugh, who was president of West Florida University for six years before becoming PASSHE's third chancellor last summer.

The governor's budget for higher education proposes a rollback to July 2008 funding levels, he said, restoring the cuts made to this year's funding.

The bulk of the federal stimulus funding earmarked for education goes to elementary and secondary schools, he added.

Cavanaugh urged decision-makers to look ahead three years, especially when planning new programs or considering budgets. The 2011-2012 academic year will be crucial for PASSHE institutions, he said, because the stimulus funding will end and a new governor will be in office.

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Cal U Plans Gala, Alumni Festivities

California University will honor alumni, recognize faculty and raise funds for student scholarships during the 2009 Alumni Weekend and President's Gala, set for June 5-6.

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. and his wife, Barbara, will host the annual President's Gala, "A Night on the Riviera," in the Grand Ballroom of the Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit student scholarships.

The Gala reception begins at 6 p.m. on June 6, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A silent auction, Monte Carlo games and dancing also are on the agenda.

During the festivities, President Armenti will honor Dr. Rose Greco Hughes '25, winner of the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award. Also being honored are faculty members Dr. Mary O'Connor of the Department of Nursing, who will receive the

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President Angelo Armenti, Jr., slips an academic hood over the head of Indian rights activist LaDonna Harris, who received an honorary doctorate during Commencement ceremonies May 2.

Advice to Grads: Cling to Core Values

California University's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility took center stage when two distinguished alumni addressed graduates at Cal U's 168th Commencement.

Lt. Gen R. Stephen Whitcomb '81 spoke to master's degree candidates, and Michele M. Mandell '69 addressed the undergraduates. Indian rights activist LaDonna Harris received an honorary doctorate at the

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Global Online graduate Paul Grugin celebrates at undergraduate Commencement. Grugin lives in Japan but traveled to Cal U to receive his diploma.

Steele Hall Packed for Krauthammer Address

Speaking to a crowd of about 600 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre, Pulitzer Prize-winning commentator Dr. Charles Krauthammer focused on domestic issues as he analyzed President Barack Obama's first 100 days in the Oval Office.

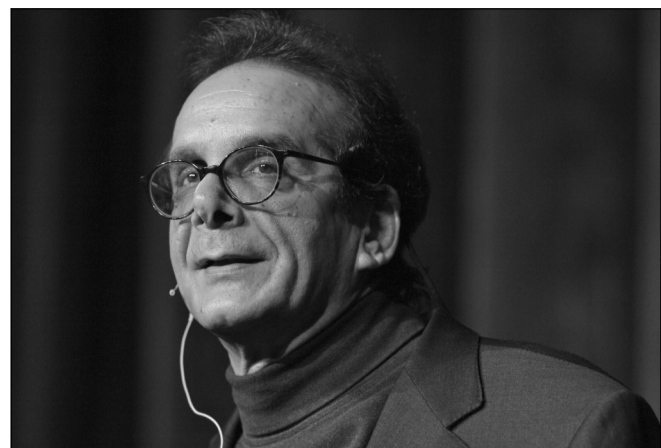
"Though as president he has to manage them, I don't think he's particularly interested in foreign affairs," Krauthammer said April 22. "His speeches and addresses reveal a man with an ambitious, almost breath-taking vision that is quite interesting and almost unique, at least in recent American history. I think he wants to rewrite the 'social contract,' as it were, that relates to government and the individual."

Krauthammer's appearance was this year's installment in the Noss Lecture Series, designed to bring thought-provoking speakers to campus. In his address, Krauthammer made the point that Obama has focused on three key issues in the early days of his presidency — health care, education and energy.

The president ultimately wants to nationalize health care, increase government involvement to ensure access to education from kindergarten through college, and subsidize these programs through a "carbon tax" on energy, he said.

"He's not trying to do too much, as his critics say," Krauthammer insisted. "He's trying to accomplish one thing: He wants to level the differences between classes, much like the European system of social democracy. He wants a fairness in American life he feels was jeopardized by the wild capitalism of the Reagan years."

Krauthammer, a licensed psychiatrist who no longer practices medicine, joked that in political Washington he still deals with people



Above: Dr. Krauthammer's April 22 lecture focused on domestic issues as he analyzed President Barack Obama's first 100 days in the Oval Office.

Left: Before his lecture, Pulitzer Prize-winning commentator Charles Krauthammer enjoys a moment in the Kara Alumni House with President Armenti and his wife, Barbara.

"(President Obama is) trying to accomplish one thing: He wants to level the differences between classes, much like the European system of social democracy. He wants a fairness in American life he feels was jeopardized by the wild capitalism of the Reagan years."

— Dr. Charles Krauthammer

"who suffer from paranoia and delusions of grandeur." He writes a syndicated weekly column published in more than 190 newspapers worldwide, and he contributes regularly to FOX News and the televised "Inside Washington" roundtable. He rushed

home to Washington after his talk to meet a deadline for an article in *The Weekly Standard*.

Moving the country from an "American" system with greater risks and rewards toward a more "European" system of social democracy has its challenges, Krauthammer told the crowd.

Another pressing concern is the economy, which can derail a president's agenda even though it is largely outside his control.

"The only way to save the economy is to have real reform of entitlements, which is simply a way of saying Social Security and Medicare," he said. "Those are the basic costs of the government that are out of control."

Raising the retirement age and rationing health care may be required to keep the country solvent, Krauthammer predicted.

"Even though I am conservative and have a lot of objection to the program I just outlined, I'm trying to present it in

the most analytical and least ideological and pretentious way I can as a fairly reasonable alternative."

Krauthammer called Obama "as mysterious and unknown a president as has ever been elected in American history," but praised his intellect and political skills.

"I think he was elected, unlike many of our presidents, not in order to *be* somebody but in order to *do* something," Krauthammer said. "He is very smart. He has a vision to make the country more like Europe. His plan is coherent, determined and thought through by a man of remarkable intelligence."

Humor permeated Krauthammer's address, but the jabs were not aimed at just one political party.

"A friend of mine told me that American is changing," he said, before answering a handful of questions from the audience. "Democrats are paying taxes, and Republicans have found the virtues of fiscal restraint."

Advice to Graduates: Be True to Core Values

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undergraduate ceremony.

Mandell retired in March as executive vice president of retail at Talbots, a leading specialty retailer and direct marketer of women's apparel.

Cal U's core values were blueprints that paved the way for what she called a wonderful life and an immensely rewarding career.

"There are no better markers in success for your life than these core values that will give you success as a person, a professional, a leader, parent and a friend," she said. "In every element of your life and every decision you will make, it is your integrity, your honor and your ethics that will define your reputation. They will define you as a person."

Mandell told the graduates that the knowledge and values instilled at Cal U give them a head start in their journey to success.

"You've been educated and influenced by people who live these core values every day and instill these values in everything they touch," she said. "This amazing University family expects that we will all hold ourselves to those same high standards."

Mandell concluded her remarks by emphasizing that today's challenges will change, but our values should not.

"Hold true to them, your inner compass," she said. "Value that



Above: Michele M. Mandell '69 told the undergraduates that Cal U's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility are blueprints for an enjoyable life and rewarding career.

Left: Lt. Gen R. Stephen Whitcomb '81 advised the master's degree candidates to stay focused and resilient and to believe in themselves.

tremendous gift of your experience here at Cal U. Embrace and embody those core values and live the life and career of your dreams."

Whitcomb, who was appointed the 63rd Inspector General of the Army in February 2008, reminded the master's degree candidates to use the same formula for success.

"As you go out tomorrow I want you to demonstrate the same kind of discipline and commitment that brought you here tonight," he said. "There will be opportunities of a lifetime for some of you, while others, because life can be

unfair, will fight for survival, hopefully for a short period of time. But don't give up. Stay focused, stay resilient and believe in yourselves."

Whitcomb spoke about the need to "pay it forward," a concept the military calls mentoring.

"You're paying back what folks have invested in you," he said. "Each of you has had someone sacrifice in some way to get you here, and you must remember that."

Being a realist, Whitcomb said, he understands that no one can be at the top of his game every day, but he

challenged every graduate to make a consistent effort.

"You have to get up every day and ask yourself, 'What am I going to do, and how I am going to do it? (How can I) feel good in my heart at the end of the day and make a difference for somebody else?'"

Harris, founder and president of Americans for Indian Opportunity, praised Cal U for its progressive attitude and thanked the University for honoring her.

"You have such a wonderful opportunity to shape your community, your state and your country and have great influence," she told the undergraduates.

While congratulating graduates at both ceremonies, President Armenti urged them to become a part of the University's culture of philanthropy, known by the name Cal U for Life. He also asked the students to incorporate the core values as proud alumni.

"Our alumni constitute a very accomplished group of individuals and, as you join that elite company, I have every confidence that you will distinguish yourselves in similar fashion," he said.

"May your spirit encourage the best in others, and may your legacy be an inspiration to all who follow. Congratulations and best wishes on your magnificent achievement!"

Cal U Plans Gala, Alumni Festivities June 5-6

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President's Faculty Award for Service; Dr. Rebecca Hess of the Health Science and Sport Studies Department, winner of the President's Faculty Award for Teaching; and Dr. Joseph Heim of the History and Political Science Department, recipient of the President's Faculty Award for Research.

Retired professors William Kania (Business and Economics) and Leslie Parkinson (Art) will receive the President's Emeriti Faculty Awards.

Honorary chairs for the Gala are Thomas '64 and Nancy '66 Crumrine.

The President's Gala is the highlight of Alumni Weekend festivities that begin June 5 with a 5 p.m. reception at the Kara Alumni House. The annual Pioneer Dinner follows at 6 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the Class of 1959, but all alumni may attend; ticket price is \$15.

On June 6, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association will open at 9 a.m. in Room 206 of the Natali Student Center. At 11 a.m. guests will convene for the annual Alumni Association Awards Luncheon in the Performance Center of the student center. Cost is \$15.

Alumni award recipients are Dr. John Thompson, winner of the John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service; Dr. Carol Biddington, recipient of the C.B. Wilson Distinguished Faculty Award; Josh Cramer '05, winner of the W.B. Jackman Award of Distinction; coach John Luckhardt, receiving the Michael Duda Award for Athletic Achievement; Dr. Carol B. Mitchell '72, '75, winner of the Pavlak/Shutsy Special Service Award; William R. Maulsby '72, recipient of the Professional Excellence Award; Casey M. Durdines '07, winner of the Young Alumni Award; and Sebastian "Sibby" LoNigro '57, recipient of the Meritorious Award.



The annual President's Gala will again take place at the elegant Grand Ballroom of the Omni William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Chancellor's Advice: 'Be Smart Now'

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"The thoughtful, informed decisions we make now will determine how to position ourselves appropriately for 2011-12," Cavanaugh said. "That's why there's a lot of debate right now in the General Assembly on what to do with the stimulus money. If we don't want to be over a barrel in 2011-12, we have to be smart now in 2009-10."

The General Assembly seems to look favorably on PASSHE, he said, and many questions asked during the budget hearings reflected the State System's talking points.

"We have spent a lot of time educating legislators about the great job you and all your colleagues are doing here in the State System," said Cavanaugh. "We want to make sure they know more about why we do what we do to give the best possible education to the students we serve, which is the real reason we're here."

In addition to budget matters, the Chancellor briefly discussed the swine flu outbreak, which so far has had a minimal impact in Pennsylvania.



PASSHE Chancellor Dr. John C. Cavanaugh addresses the Cal U community. It was his second visit to campus in the past eight months.

Cavanaugh also answered questions from the standing-room-only audience in Natali 206-207. Associate professor Linda Toth, president of the APSCUF faculty union, asked about ways that faculty and administration might collaborate to give students the most effective education.

Cavanaugh began by suggesting that PASSHE schools explore working together "to become more than the sum of their parts."

"The first thing to do would be to check all egos at the door and just talk," he said. "If you put smart, creative people together, incredible things can happen. This system is filled with an abundance of people who, at the end of the day, want what's best for the education of our students."

"Now is the time to do this, because you are at your most creative when times are tough."

Grant Focuses on Math, Science

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quality education for students with special needs," Kossar said.

The project addresses a shortage of special education teachers who meet the state Education Department's latest requirements for professional educators designated as "highly qualified teachers" in math and science.

It will present licensed special education teachers with information about science and math topics; Pennsylvania Academic Content Standards; and evidence-based interventions for students with mild to moderate disabilities and from diverse cultures.

Teachers currently working in Pennsylvania schools will participate in training opportunities designed and taught by Cal U faculty. The lessons will be delivered both on-site and online.

In turn, those working teachers will mentor pre-service educators who are placed in their classrooms for fieldwork or student teaching experiences.

The collaboration between classroom teachers and Cal U's math, science and education specialists also will produce highly qualified faculty at the university level, improving the quality of teacher preparation programs.

Spring Break Takes Students to Costa Rica

Costa Rica became a classroom for a group of Cal U students who traveled to the Central American country for 10 days during spring break.

The students, all members of the Hispanic Student Association, visited the Tamarindo Beach area along the Pacific Ocean for a study-abroad trip. They were accompanied by Dr. Margarita Ribar, club adviser and chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, and Dr. Mariana Pensa, assistant professor.

The trip was intended to improve the students' language skills while exposing them to the culture, history and natural beauty of Costa Rica.

The students spent the mornings in school, immersing themselves in the Spanish language with a teacher who did not communicate in English. The building itself had a roof with no walls to

protect the students from the light afternoon showers during the rainy season — and also from the monkeys that frolicked high above.

The students were able to practice their language skills outside of the classroom with "Mamasita," described by Ribar as a frail woman who worked at the group of stucco houses the students called home.

She cooked the visitors "gourmet feasts with plenty of beans and rice, *platinos* (plantains) and heaps of chicken and real natural fruit juices made from fruits we never heard of before," the travelers reported. And she was often amused by the students' attempts to practice their Spanish by answering in the subjunctive mood.

Afternoons and evenings were for organized out-of-school activities or for



Cal U students experienced all facets of a different culture during their memorable spring break journey to Costa Rica.

personal time to explore the Costa Rican culture. The trips included a visit to the Arenal Volcano.

"There is rainforest all around the volcano," student Katie Chappel reported on her blog. "We drove out 4 hours and spent the day doing canopy tours (zip lines), riding horses, learning about indigenous people and seeing a butterfly/plant/frog area."

The 10-day adventure became

personal for the group just before leaving Costa Rica, when the students met a mother and her two sons, ages 5 and 3. She was seeking work and planning to spend the night sleeping on the beach. The students were able to provide the family with a meal from the food they had ordered at a nearby restaurant.

And then, it was time to leave, with improved language skills and a cultural experience to be remembered forever.



The many PSAC and NCAA Regional championship trophies that were on display at the April 23 Vulcan Pride Celebration clearly depict the success achieved by Cal U athletes during a memorable 2008-2009 sports year.

Convocation Honors 'World Class' Athletes

Nine teams and a number of individual student-athletes who contributed to Cal U's rich athletic tradition over the past year were honored at a Vulcan Pride Celebration April 23 in Hamer Hall gymnasium.

The women's basketball, golf, volleyball, tennis, swimming and hockey teams were honored, along with football and men's soccer and hockey.

A dozen individual students and two relay teams were recognized for achieving All-American status.

"We gather to celebrate with awe, respect and admiration the achievements of nine Cal U teams that gave us a rare glimpse of perfection — a state that is not usually available to humans — even as they gave us inspiration, hope and confidence, not just for the future but, more importantly, for our future," said Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr.

"When Cal U teams show themselves to be world class, as these nine teams and All-Americans clearly did, they remind us by their excellent example of our own personal and professional possibilities, even as they inspire us to believe that we, too, might become world class in our own individual domains by emulating the tremendous effort, selflessness, team work and determination that they clearly practiced."

Dr. Thomas Pucci, Cal U's athletic director, added that it "has been a memorable year — and we're not done yet."

Coached by Heather Kearney, the 2008-2009 women's basketball team went 29-5 overall and advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight for a second consecutive season and the fourth time in seven years.

The 2008 Vulcan football team, under the guidance of coach John Luckhardt, finished 12-2 overall and won a fourth straight PSAC-West title, the first PSAC championship the sport contested in 21 years. The team advanced to the national semifinals for the second consecutive year.

Men's soccer coach Dennis Laskey, the dean of Vulcan head coaches in his 23rd season, led his team to the program's first PSAC championship and

second NCAA tourney appearance.

Coached by MerriLyn Gibbs, Cal's 2008 women's golf team also collected the program's first PSAC team title after winning four regular season invitationals last fall.

Volleyball head coach Stephanie Burner, in her inaugural season, led the Vulcan women to a school-best 40-2 overall record. This was the team's second consecutive PSAC title — its third in four years — and its second consecutive NCAA Elite Eight appearance.

The 2008 women's tennis team and head coach Pablo Montana compiled a 26-3 overall record last spring. The team won its second straight PSAC title and advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 round.

The 2008-2009 women's swimming team, coached by Ed Denny, finished 14th at the NCAA Division II National Championships after a strong third-place finish at the PSAC championships.

This winter the men's hockey team became the first in the 38-year history of College Hockey East to win three consecutive league titles. The team finished 19-8 overall under head coach Justin Berger.

In its first year, the women's hockey team compiled a 13-6 record and won the Delaware Valley Collegiate Hockey Conference regular season and playoff championships. Head coach is Dave Yanko. Assistant coach Pat Kenny spoke on behalf of the hockey teams.

President Armenti expressed his hope that Cal U will bring home the Dixon Trophy, an annual award given to the best overall athletic program in the PSAC.

Heading into the spring sports season, the Vulcans were ranked No. 7 nationally for the 2008-09 U.S. Sports Academy Directors' Cup.

President Armenti closed his remarks by telling the student-athletes that they had "honored yourselves and your families, and set a great example for others."

"Your achievements will always be remembered here," he said. "Your names will always be honored here, and your presence will always be welcome."

DeLorenzo Honored at International Conference

Dr. Gary DeLorenzo, assistant professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, received the 2008 Ben Bauman Award for Excellence at the 48th annual conference of the International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS). The award is named in memory of Bauman, a faculty member at James Madison University, in Virginia, who was a longtime IACIS member, officer, director and contributor. The award recognizes faculty excellence and service to the profession, the university and the community.



Dr. Gary DeLorenzo

faculty member, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses.

Since coming to Cal U in 2005, DeLorenzo has gained a reputation as someone who excites his students and shares his industrial background to make courses more timely and relevant. In addition to teaching, he has developed a passion for research.

DeLorenzo has published a number of papers in

academic journals and has made numerous conference presentations, both nationally and internationally.

He also has formed a partnership with the Sen. John Heinz Regional History Center in Pittsburgh to secure service learning opportunities for his students by providing database development and technical support to help manage the museum's collections.

The conference was held in Savannah, Ga.

DeLorenzo spent more than 30 years in manufacturing and banking as a manager, senior systems analyst, technical consultant and programmer. During his business career he served for more than 15 years as an adjunct

Staff dinner reservations due June 5

All RSVP cards for the Staff Recognition Dinner on June 26 must be submitted to Campus Box 5 by June 5. Dinner tickets will be distributed to each department via campus mail prior to the dinner. Please remember to bring your tickets with you to the Performance Center on the evening of the dinner.

A reservation made is a reservation paid. If you are unable to honor your RSVP and must cancel for any reason, please contact Ext. 4432 with your regrets.

The President, Trustees and vice presidents look forward to celebrating an evening in your honor and recognizing all the staff anniversaries previously mentioned in the President's memo. Reserve your seat now for what promises to be a very memorable evening.



Cal U Students Tour Airport

Cal U students Carlyle Meekins (right) and Julia Engelhart look over land samples at Pittsburgh International Airport. Last month Kevin Gurchak '84, manager of Environmental Compliance at Pittsburgh International Airport, invited students from Dr. Robert Whyte's Ecology class to tour the airport and observe the environmental and natural resource efforts. Whyte, a professor in Cal U's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, plans to bring Gurchak back to campus this fall as a guest lecturer.

The California Journal is published weekly by California University of Pennsylvania, a member of The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

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The Journal is printed on paper made from trees harvested under the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (www.SFIprogram.org).

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