

California University JOURNAL

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Dr. Taunya Tinsley is the coordinator for the new Sports Counseling certificate program. Classes for this online program begin in May.

Cal U Launches Graduate Online Sports Counseling Certificate Program

Counselors, educators, coaches and other professionals who want to help athletes raise their games on and off the field can earn a sports counseling certificate through a new Global Online graduate program at California University of Pennsylvania. Classes begin in May.

The Graduate Certificate in Sports Counseling program will examine current counseling strategies used with athletes of all ages and skill levels;

provide an overview of various life skills, including career development, time management and study skills; and provide an overview of professional ethics, legal issues and NCAA guidelines. Courses may be used for additional credits toward professional counselor licensure or for continuing education credits.

Cal U's Global Online program offers a high-quality educational experience that is tailored to fit into any schedule. An

asynchronous format allows studies to be completed at any time, and the coursework is offered entirely online.

To apply online, visit www.cup.edu/graduate. To request an application, call Global Online at 724-938-4187. For more information about the Graduate Certificate in Sports Counseling program, e-mail Dr. Taunya Tinsley, coordinator, at sportcounseling@cup.edu or contact the Office of Web-based Programs at 866-595-6348.

Internship Takes Student to Harrisburg

Justin M. Piper of Mount Pleasant is working in the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by PASSHE, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

A junior political science major, he is one of 11 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.

The semester-long program invites students from each of the 14 PASSHE universities to participate.

Piper and the other students participating in the program will attend several academic seminars during their spring semester internship. Each of the students also will complete an individualized research project as part of the program's requirements.

More than 400 students from PASSHE universities have participated — continued on page 2

Parks Program Accreditation Should Help Job-Seekers

The recent national accreditation attained by Cal U's Bachelor of Arts in Parks and Recreation Management program gives its graduates a considerably faster path to professional certification and, ultimately, better job opportunities.

Cal U received the maximum five-year accreditation from the Council on Accreditation For Recreation, Park Resources and Leisure Services, which is sponsored by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

"It's something that the students who are here currently can use to their benefit upon graduation, and we can talk about the benefits of coming into an accredited program to potential students," said Dr. Tom Wickham, program director and chair of the Department of Earth Sciences.

"Besides being a very positive item to put on their resume, graduates from an accredited parks and rec program can apply for professional certification within one year. Otherwise it would take them three to five years. This significantly enhances their career opportunities."

Graduates of the program may find employment in national and state parks or at commercial recreation facilities such as Nemaquin Woodlands Resort, Seven Springs Mountain Resort or even



The recent accreditation attained by the Parks and Recreation Management program gives its graduates, such as Dan Reid '08, a competitive advantage in obtaining better jobs or acceptance into graduate degree programs.

Walt Disney World. They also might work at a community recreation center or for a nonprofit organization such as Special Olympics.

Achieving the accreditation is a welcome relief for Dr. John Confer, the program's other full-time tenure-track

faculty member, and for himself, Wickham said. Last fall's addition of adjunct faculty member Dr. Jinhee Jun helped the program meet NRPA requirements.

Cal U is one of only five PASSHE schools that offer a Parks and Recreation

Management program.

"For us, accreditation is a sign that we have a high-quality program," Wickham said. "It shows that our courses, materials facilities and faculty meet a standard that the NRPA Council on Accreditation believes is necessary to have the very best program."

Wickham and Confer altered and expanded course offerings during four years of preparation for the accreditation, which included a visit from a three-person review team.

In the end, Cal U's state-of-the-art facilities in the Eberly Science and Technology Center proved most beneficial.

"They felt our facilities and the computers and the software we have are outstanding compared to other programs they visited," Wickham said. "What we have surpassed their expectations."

The program's next accreditation review will be held in spring 2013, with a site visit set for fall 2012.

"Our Parks and Recreation Management program has been around for a while, but it has evolved and changed, especially lately, to meet their demands," Wickham said. "It took a lot of work to get accredited, but now we must build on this and continue to improve."

Cal Pride Weekend Connects Alumni, Students

A simple but important question often asked by alumni is, "How are the students?"

Cal U graduates can see the answer firsthand during the third annual Cal Pride Weekend, April 3-4.

The weekend will feature a number of events designed to connect alumni with current and prospective students. On April 3, a group of accomplished alumni will speak to classes related to their particular disciplines about their experiences after leaving the University.

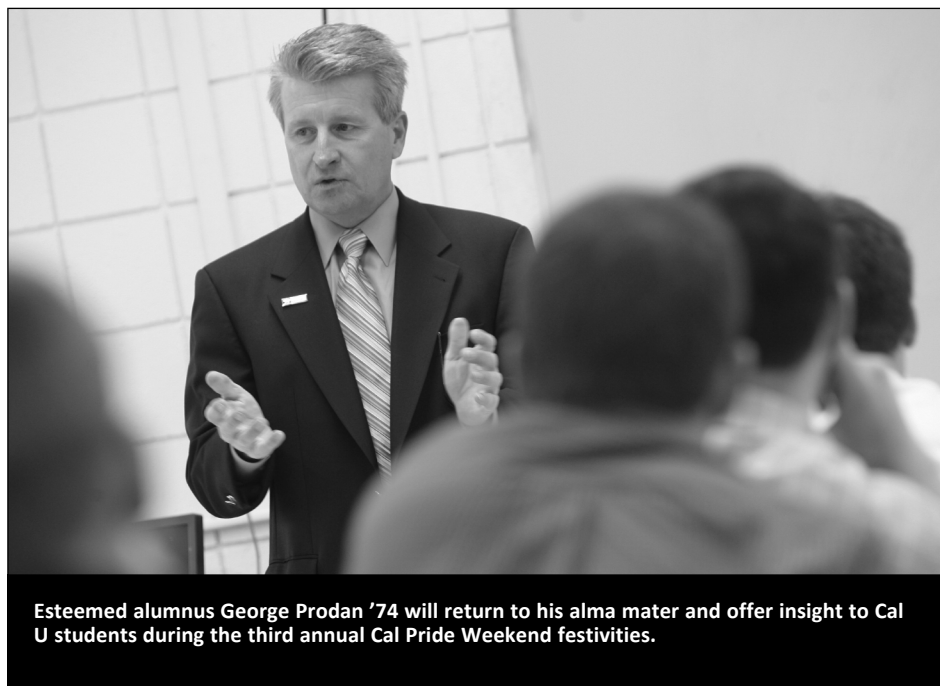
Among the 22 guest speakers returning to campus are Bill Booker '74, Bob Lippencott '66, George Prodan '74, Jim Lopez '81 and Jay Helsel '59.

Deans' Receptions will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., and awards will be given to distinguished alumni from Cal U's four colleges.

The College of Education and Human Services will honor Carol Mitchell '72, '75, president and CEO of Verland Inc.

The Eberly College of Science and Technology will honor Mary Beth Buchanan '84, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The College of Liberal Arts will



Esteemed alumnus George Prodan '74 will return to his alma mater and offer insight to Cal U students during the third annual Cal Pride Weekend festivities.

honor Steven Toprani '01, Washington County's district attorney.

The School of Graduate Studies and Research will honor David Amati '70, '72, director of Global Automotive Business and Automotive Headquarters, SAE International.

Following the receptions at 5 p.m.,

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will host a by-invitation dinner and present the Lifetime Achievement Award to former U.S. Rep. Frank R. Mascara '72. Chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners from 1980 to 1994, he was elected to Congress in 1994 and

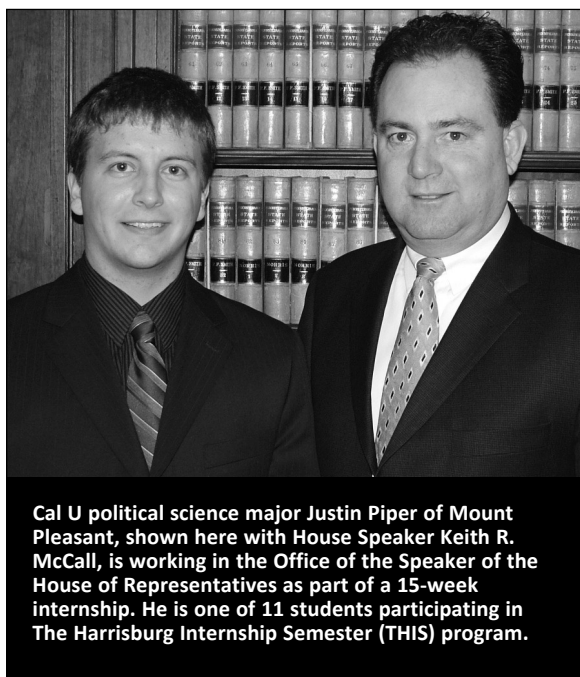
represented Pennsylvania's 20th District through 2002.

Mascara will speak at 7 p.m. in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center. The talk is free and open to the public; a reception will be held after his address.

On April 4, Cal Pride Weekend will feature an Alumni Panel Discussion from 9 to 10 a.m. in the Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Moderated by President Armenti with alumni panelists James Lokay '02, Thea Kalcevic '06, Savannah McConnell '08 and Jen Smith '08, the discussion will focus on the character- and career-building effects of a Cal U education.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Cal Pride Video Vignettes will be aired in the Booker Great Room at the Kara Alumni House. The video pieces highlight alumni experiences as students at Cal U and in real-world work situations. Both April 4 events are open to the public.

For information about Cal Pride Weekend and specific classroom presentation times, contact Amy Lombard, executive director of Alumni Relations, at 724-938-4418 or e-mail lombard@cup.edu



Cal U political science major Justin Piper of Mount Pleasant, shown here with House Speaker Keith R. McCall, is working in the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives as part of a 15-week internship. He is one of 11 students participating in The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program.

Internship Takes Student to Harrisburg

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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, as well as in the governor's office, the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Office of Attorney General.

Piper is a 2007 graduate of Mount Pleasant Area Junior-Senior High School and the son of Timothy and Mary Ellen Piper.

During his internship, Piper is working with public policy and will compose an extensive research paper as part of the THIS program. He also will work on projects that House Speaker Keith R. McCall, of Carbon County, hosts at the Capitol.

"Having this opportunity to intern in the Speaker's office is a perfect way to challenge myself," said Piper, an Honors Program student.

PASSHE students interested in participating in THIS in a future semester 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.

Cal U Ready for 'The Big Event'

For the third consecutive year, California University's Student Government members will show their appreciation to the California community by participating in The Big Event.

A student-run service project, The Big Event began at Texas A&M University in 1982, when student leaders saw a need to give back to the surrounding community, which continually had supported their university.

The Big Event now has become the largest one-day, student-run service project in the nation, with students at more than 100 universities completing service projects such as yard work, window-washing and painting for community members.

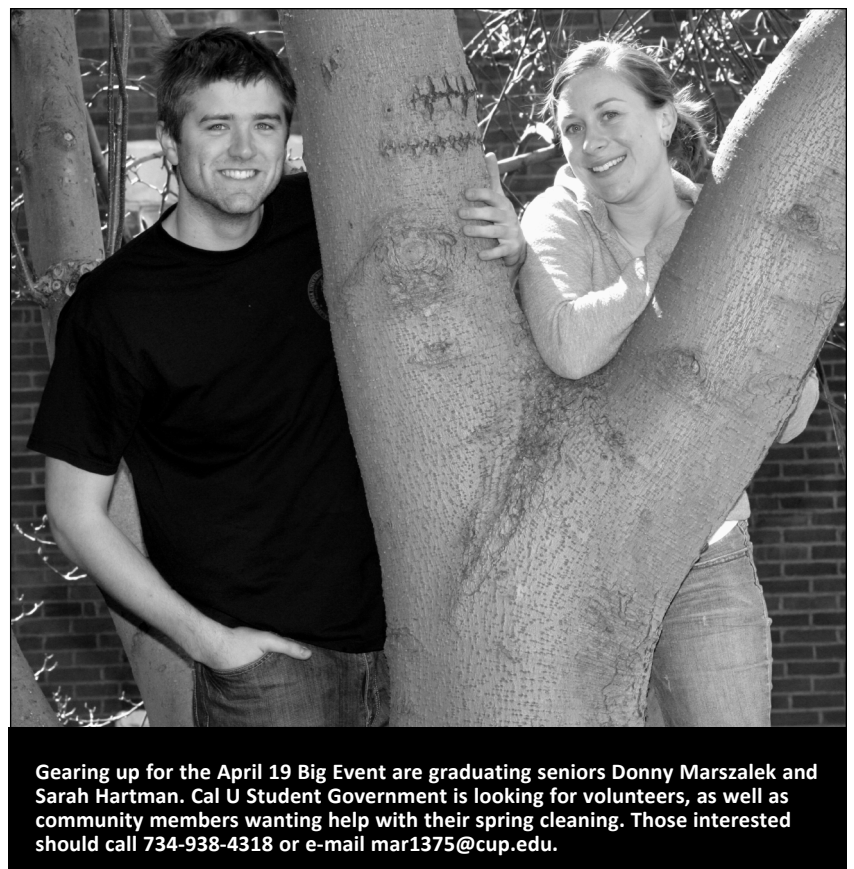
Cal U began participating in 2007.

This year's event at California will take place on April 19. Interested students can register at noon that day in the Performance Center.

Over the next few weeks, committee recruiters will be calling on members of Cal U clubs and organizations to participate in the project. Individual students may participate, as well.

California residents who wish to request service work should phone the Cal U Student Government Office at 724-938-4318 or send e-mail to Donny Marszalek, vice president of Student Government, at mar1375@cup.edu.

"This our way of saying one big thank-you to the community for



Gearing up for the April 19 Big Event are graduating seniors Donny Marszalek and Sarah Hartman. Cal U Student Government is looking for volunteers, as well as community members wanting help with their spring cleaning. Those interested should call 734-938-4318 or e-mail mar1375@cup.edu.

their support and even putting up with us this year," Marszalek said. "Seriously, we want residents to contact us so we can help them and show our appreciation."

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, associate vice president for Student Development and Services, pointed out that Student Government established a community service committee this academic year.

Previous projects have included participating in Toys for Tots, creating student scholarships through sales of "Armenti's Army" T-shirts at sporting events, and

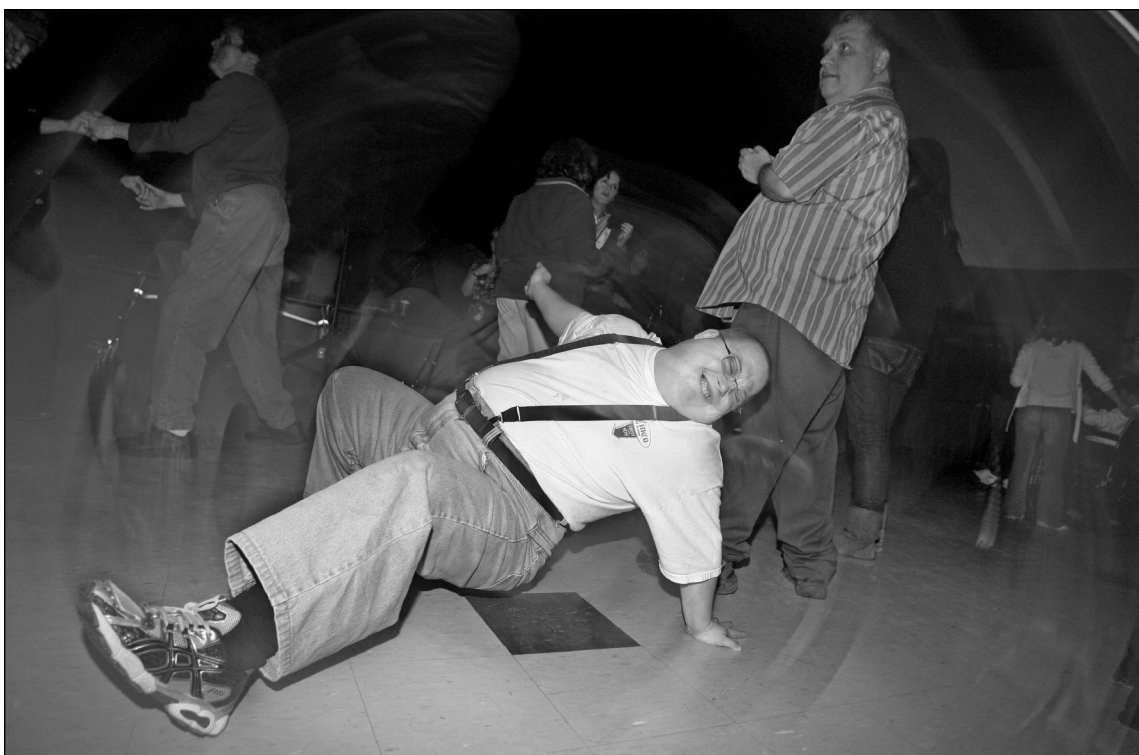
raising funds for troops overseas.

"Student Government and all the committees have been very active and focused, with community service leading the way as the underlying theme with all activities," Pinardi said. "The Big Event further emphasizes their devotion to 'giving back.' Our Student Government members lead the way, grabbing shovels, brooms, paintbrushes and more, encouraging all student groups to say 'thank you' to the California community by joining them as they complete service projects."

Annual Staff Recognition Dinner Set for June 26

California University's annual Staff Recognition Dinner will take place Friday, June 26, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Performance Center of the Natali

Student Center. Mark your calendars today. More information will be announced in a future edition of *The Journal*.



At left, Jesse Dias, a resident of Greene Arc, break dances with friends in the Performance Center. Above, Connie Mousseau, a senior majoring in Elementary and Special Education, dances with Frankie Iacanno during a dance hosted by the Council for Exceptional Children.

Group Home Residents Enjoy Chance to Dance

For the past 30 years the Council for Exceptional Children has hosted dances for adults who reside in group homes or community living arrangements in Fayette, Greene and Washington counties.

Student members of California University's CEC chapter host the dances twice a semester in the Performance Center.

Mary Seman, CEC faculty adviser for the past 11 years, said the participants are always ready to have fun.

"Unlike dances that are held in public schools, our guests are all eager to be out on the dance floor and don't think twice about what they are wearing, whether

or not they have on designer shoes, or who might not ask them to dance," she said.

"All inhibitions are gone, and they simply have fun. It is certainly one of the highlights of the season for them, and we are told by their group-home supervisors that they carry their invitations around for weeks before the dance and are so excited the night before that they cannot sleep," she said.

The event is not open to the public, and invitations are limited to about 100 participants. Few turn down the chance to dance.

"Everyone enjoys these events," said Nicole Kitta, treasurer of the CEC chapter. "From the members of

CEC to the invited guests, we are all excited to be a part of this."

Everyone in the club helps out to make the evening special, she said.

"We send out the invitations, bring sugar-free food, hire a DJ and put up decorations. We dance with the guests and just hang out with them. We do whatever we can to make sure they have a good time.

"The most important thing about the dance is how good everyone feels," Kitta added. "The way everyone works together to make this event happen is really inspiring. And everyone walks away smiling and looking forward to the next dance."

Awards Help Students Land Impressive Internships

Cal U Internship Awards have helped three students complete internships within the sports world. Juniors Matthew Saeler and Sarah Devlin and senior Steffany Smith received the monetary awards to help defray expenses incurred in accepting an internship.

Saeler, an athletic training major from Butler, Pa., interned last fall as a trainer at Elizabeth Forward High School. After graduation he plans to earn his master's degree and eventually work as an athletic trainer in a university setting.

Athletic training major Devlin interned with trainers at Washington and Jefferson College. A native of Johnstown, Pa., she hopes to earn her doctorate in physical therapy.

"These two represent our profession and California University in an exemplary manner," said Dr. Bob Kane, chairman of the Department of Health Science and Sport Studies. "We are very pleased and excited to

have two students win this award from the Internship Center."

Smith, a senior communication studies major from Catasauqua, Pa., completed an internship with the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference office at Lock Haven University. She also does on-campus work with CUTV and the Office of Sports Information. After graduation Smith plans to attend graduate school and eventually find a job in sports information.

"It's gratifying to see our student out there having fun and making connections," said Dr. Rick Cumings, a professor in the Department of Communication Studies.

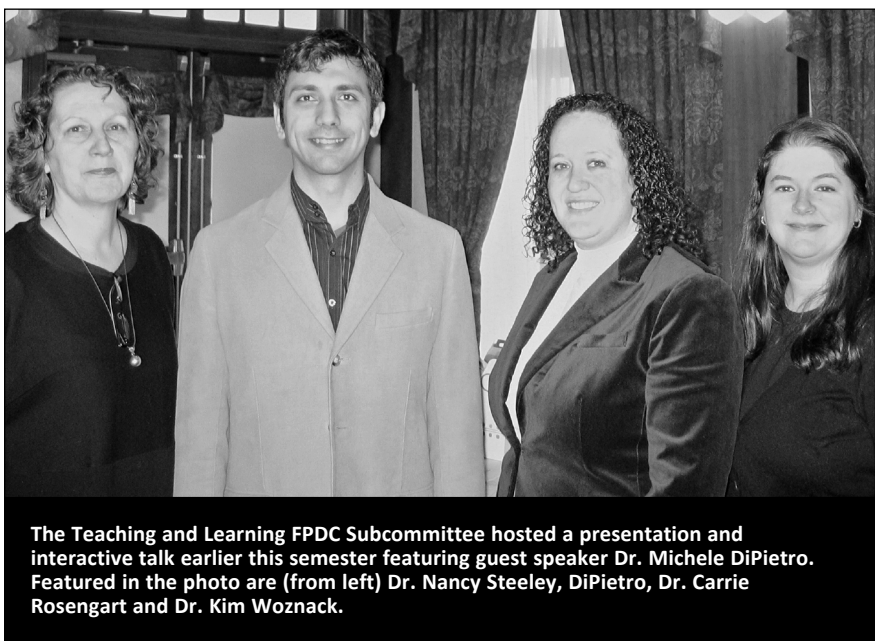
Karen Primm, director of the Internship Center, said the awards process was highly competitive.

"Our students landed extremely impressive internships," she said. "They represented both themselves and California University of Pennsylvania very well."



Internship award recipient Steffany Smith receives her plaque from Drs. Emily Sweitzer, Laura Tuennerman and Rick Cumings.

FPDC Group Hears Talk on Millennials vs. Gen X Students



The Teaching and Learning FPDC Subcommittee hosted a presentation and interactive talk earlier this semester featuring guest speaker Dr. Michele DiPietro. Featured in the photo are (from left) Dr. Nancy Steeley, DiPietro, Dr. Carrie Rosengart and Dr. Kim Woznack.

Do students on campus seem different from those here 10 years ago or did you just grow old?

This question was the focus of a presentation and interactive talk hosted by the Teaching and Learning FPDC Subcommittee earlier this semester at the Kara Alumni House.

Dr. Michele DiPietro, associate director at the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and an instructor in the Department of Statistics, both at Carnegie Mellon University, was the guest presenter.

His scholarly interests include diversity in the classroom, student ratings of instruction, teaching in the wake of tragic events, academic integrity, and statistics education. He has served on the board of directors of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in

Higher Education, the premier faculty development organization in North America.

The title of the presentation and talk was "Millennial Students: Insights from Generational Theory and Learning Sciences."

DiPietro presented and then discussed recent theory and research that suggests that the current cohort of students, dubbed Millennials, is unique in formative experiences, beliefs, attitudes and goals.

"Through discussion and participants' experiences, this interactive session will examine some of the societal trends that have shaped students, uncovering how their experiences affect their readiness for college and their attitudes about learning," he said. "Equipped with this knowledge, and connecting it to established findings

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Student dancer Sarah Orletsky is shown in a sea of legs while practicing the kick line that will be performed at the spring dance concert.

Dance Concert Explores Styles, Rhythms

The Department of Theatre and Dance at California University continues its 2009 season with a spring dance concert featuring dance styles that cross genres and travel around the world.

Dancers will appear at 8 p.m. April 2-4 in the Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre on the Cal U campus. Eleven student choreographers and two dance faculty members will present pieces that cover a wide range of dance genres, including afro-jazz, French cancan, hip-hop, classic ballet, modern dance, tap and more. The audience will experience narrative dances, abstract dance, and an abundance of high-energy athleticism in this eclectic program.

The show is open to the public. Cost is \$10 for adults, seniors and children; Cal U students with valid CalCards are admitted free. For ticket information, or to order tickets (with a credit card) by phone, call the Steele Box Office at 724-938-5943.



Benefit Show Set for Friday

Tickets are still on sale for a benefit concert at Cal U featuring award-winning hip-hop artists Fabolous and Yung Joc, pictured above. The music begins at 8 p.m. Friday, when TKE Rock for a Cure opens in Hamer Hall Gymnasium on campus. The concert is presented by Cal U's Student Activities Board and Student Association, Inc. Seventy percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer's Foundation. Ticket price is \$10 for students with a valid CalCard, \$15 for others. To order tickets, visit <http://california-university-of-pennsylvania.ticketleap.com>.

Millennials Vs. Gen Xers

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from the learning sciences, we will generate effective pedagogical principles."

One participant who said his understanding of millennial was enhanced by the luncheon workshop was Dr. Pratul Pathak, professor of English, who is also the coordinator of the Faculty Center.

"As a Boomer I had little trouble dealing with the Generation X students, but the Millennials are a different ballgame," Pathak said. "Michele DiPietro's insights into the Millennials generation was revealing in every respect, and it will let me deal more effectively with my students."

Chairing the Teaching and Learning FPDC Subcommittee are Drs. Carrie Rosengart (psychology) and Nancy Steeley (Elementary/Early Childhood).

In an effort to realize the goal of enhancing the mission of student learning, the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee will promote, advocate, develop and support an interest in and concern for scholarship of teaching in individual faculty, departments, colleges and the campus as a whole.

Softball Team in Top 25 Poll

After opening the season with a 9-1 record at the Rebel Spring Games in Ocoee, Fla., Cal U's softball team was ranked eighth in the third National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Top 25 poll. Cal climbed to sixth in the fourth weekly poll and owned a 16-2 overall record as of March 23.

The Vulcans were not featured in the first two polls of the season, nor did they receive any votes before the start of the season.

Cal U is one of three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference schools in the Top 25. Kutztown and Lock Haven universities are ranked 11th and 19th, respectively. Highlighting Cal U's fast start was a noteworthy individual performance by junior Sonia Petrosoniak, who earned PSAC Pitcher of the Week honors after winning three games with a 1.15 ERA in 24 innings pitched.

The season also has given 16th-year head



Junior pitcher Sonia Petrosoniak won three games on the Southern trip which helped Cal achieve a 9-1 start and a national ranking of eighth. She also earned PSAC Pitcher of the Week honors with a 1.15 ERA in 24 innings pitched.

coach Rick Bertagnolli his 800th career collegiate victory. Before coming to Cal in 1994, Bertagnolli enjoyed successful coaching stints at the University of South Carolina at Spartanburg and Wabash Valley (Ill.) Junior College. He coached the Vulcans to consecutive NCAA Division II national championships in 1997 and 1998, and helped Cal set an NCAA record with 88 consecutive conference wins from 1994 to 1999. Under Bertagnolli, Cal won 11 straight PSAC West championships (1994 to 2004) and has qualified for the PSAC post-season tournament for 15 consecutive years, with nine NCAA tourney appearances in 10 years.

In the preseason coaches' poll, Cal was picked to finish first in the PSAC-West Division. Last June, Bertagnolli received the Michael Duda Award for Athletic Excellence from the Cal U Alumni Association



Adjunct Instructor Dawida Speaks at Conference Overseas

Michael Dawida, an adjunct instructor with Cal U's graduate-level Legal Studies: Criminal Justice program, gave the keynote address Feb. 18 at a conference organized by the Canadian government in Ukraine.

A veteran attorney, Dawida is a former state legislator who served in both houses of the General Assembly. He was the last chairman of the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners before a new form of county government was adopted.

At the conference Dawida discussed the economic diversity forced on western Pennsylvania when its steel-based economy declines. The role of educational institutions in reshaping the economy was one of the key points mentioned in the address.

At Cal U, Dawida teaches online courses on Law and Ethics, and Law and the International Community.

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