

CALU REVIEW FALL 2018

FIELD OF DREAMS

..... Friendship, family and vintage base ball





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Don't Settle. Build You.

That's a message you'll hear often if you're traveling in southwestern Pennsylvania, listening to radio, watching TV or browsing online.

It's the theme of our University's latest marketing campaign, and it goes right to the heart of our mission.

Here at Cal U, we don't just believe that our students can rise up and achieve — we give them the tools and teaching to actually do it. Our students don't have to settle for someone else's vision of the future. They can gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to realize their own potential.

The Build You campaign arose from our work with CarnegieDartlet, branding specialists who conducted focus groups and online surveys involving nearly 300 members of our campus community.

Their data helped to identify our University's authentic character. As an institution, Cal U is a proud contender who perseveres and adapts in the pursuit of excellence. Cal U is a dedicated provider who encourages and empowers students. And there is a bit of the entertainer in us — a positive outlook that inspires passion and enthusiasm.

That character — our University's true "personality" — is reflected in the images of strong, resilient Cal U students featured in our ads. We know these men and women, and they really do have the grit and determination it takes to succeed.

In the coming months, you will continue to see our Build You message on billboards and bus shelters, in television commercials, print and digital advertising. If it resonates with you, please let us know. Did your college experience shape your future? Did you find the confidence to take on a challenge? How did California help to build you?

Drop us a note at revieweditor@calu.edu. We're eager to hear from you.

With best wishes for 2019 and beyond,



Geraldine M. Jones

Geraldine M. Jones
President, California University of Pennsylvania

The California University of Pennsylvania Magazine

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ON THE COVER

Vintage base ball players (from left) Chris 'Spoonface' Nicholls and John 'Apple Picker' Moore '05, both from University Technology Services; Phil 'No Hat' Maise '06; Jeff 'The Wall' Bender, director of digital communications; Jenette 'Clink Clunk' Johnson '06; and Adam 'Dirtbag' Johnson '03 play for the Addison Mountain Stars. Read more about the vintage base ball team's visit to the 'Field of Dreams' movie site.



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MEET OUR VULCANS

The University's annual viewbook introduces high school seniors to Cal U - and to the amazing students who are building their futures here in California.

To complement the 2018-2019 viewbook, Cal U's creative services team produced a series of short videos that let our students tell their own stories, in their own words.

You'll hear from an accomplished equestrian, an award-winning playwright, an innovative meteorologist and more. You'll even get a recipe for chocolate-chip cookies.

To meet our Vulcans online, use the link on the homepage or visit calu.edu/ourvulcans.

FEATURES



All in for liberal arts

The College of Liberal Arts' new dean wants to empower all students, no matter their major.



More than a game

A former Vulcans baseball player takes sports equipment to needy children around the world.



Fifty years of service

At age 91, a dedicated campus figure receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.



It's Vulcan Fest!

Alumni return to Washington County for a weekend of Homecoming festivities and more.



For the love of rugby


A Cal U couple devotes time to coaching the rough-and-tumble sport that brought them together.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The Cal U Review is published three times a year to keep you updated with alumni news and information from all four Colleges at California University. Both the current edition and back issues, along with Cal U Review "extras," are available online at calu.edu/review.

To stay updated, alumni may send their email address to alumni@calu.edu.

Email Milestones items to revieweditor@calu.edu.

A man in a blue shirt and cap is captured in the middle of swinging a vintage baseball bat on a field at night. The scene is illuminated by stadium lights, and a pitcher is visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is nostalgic and focused on the sport.

Jeff Bender wields a vintage bat in a game played by 1860s rules.

FIELD OF DREAMS

In Iowa, teammates celebrate friendship, family

“There,” my father said, pointing out the window of our rental car.

I had to squint to make out what he was talking about. I’d seen so many cornfields on the three-hour drive from Chicago to Dyersville, Iowa, that the landscapes all blended together.

But there it was, in a sea of golden cornstalks: Six tall, wood light-posts marking the shape

of a baseball field. The site of the award-winning 1989 film *Field of Dreams*.

People make the pilgrimage to the *Field of Dreams* movie site for many reasons. Some come for the love of the game and others for love of the movie.

For me, baseball was just the backdrop to this adventure.



Re-enacting an iconic movie moment, the Addison Mountain Stars step out of the corn and onto the base ball field.

“If you build it, he will come.”

- *The Voice, Field of Dreams*

My teammates were already at the field when we pulled into the parking lot. Most of them were in the outfield, disappearing into the corn like the movie’s mystical ghosts of baseball past.

The Addison Mountain Stars are a vintage base ball team that plays by 1860s rules. Back then, the game was written as two words. Pitching was underhand, fielders didn’t wear gloves, and the game wasn’t the batter-vs.-pitcher duel we see at ballparks today.

In vintage base ball, there are no homerun fences and no stealing bases. Fielders get one bounce to make an out.

I joined the Addison Mountain Stars about two years ago, when my Cal U colleagues Chris Nicholls and John Moore '05, of University Technology Services, invited me to play. The team is run by Cal U alumni Adam Johnson '03 and his wife, Jenette (Augustine) Johnson '06, whose dad started the vintage team 35 years ago.

Phil Maise '06 also plays for the Stars, and Caroline Moore '05 is our unofficial team photographer.

Every year, we travel around western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan to take part in tournaments. Next summer, we’ll play our “home” games at Roadman Park, on Cal U’s upper campus.

Although Iowa is a bit outside our territory, we’d jumped at the invitation to play in a friendly, four-team weekend event against vintage teams from Michigan and Indiana. I’d asked my dad to come along.

“Back then I thought, ‘Well, there’ll be other days.’ I didn’t realize that that was the only day.”

- *Dr. Archibald ‘Moonlight’ Graham (Burt Lancaster), Field of Dreams*

As the last out was called and the players began trotting off the field, I paused and looked at the baseline in front of me. I wasn’t sure if I was ready to cross, signifying the end of our time in Iowa.

I didn’t get the opportunity to wink at the pitcher like young Moonlight Graham did in the movie, or call for a low ball like Shoeless Joe Jackson.

It took me a few moments to understand why I was there – and who I had with me.

“Hey, Dad,” I said. “Do you want to have a catch?” It was a line straight out of the movie, but there was none more appropriate.

You see, *Field of Dreams* isn’t really about baseball. It’s a story about a father and son who are torn apart and then given the chance to play catch one last time.

I looked around and saw that my Cal U teammates were all having similar moments. I watched a father running around the bases with his toddler son. I saw families laughing, and a man getting the chance to play one last game with his children before “retiring” from the sport.

My father and I didn’t say a word as we tossed the ball back and forth. The silence was an unspoken thank-you for the years of coaching Little League, attending games and buying equipment. For providing me with a wonderful friendship as we both grow older, and for adopting me into his family when I was born.

None of the moments I experienced in Iowa would have been possible without the Cal U alumni and staff who offered their friendship and welcomed me to their team.

It is truly the people who make our University special. ■

By Jeff Bender, digital communications director at Cal U

ABOUT VINTAGE BASE BALL



Base ball fields are actual fields. Trees and buildings are often in play.



Old-time rules differed by region. The home team decides which rules are played.




An ‘out’ is known as a ‘hand.’ The best players are ‘artists’ and fans are ‘cranks.’



Any player caught swearing during the game is subject to a fine.

Learn more about vintage base ball and the Addison Mountain Stars at vbba.org.



Dr. Kristen Majocha, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, teaches students to use American Sign Language during Cal U's second annual Liberal Arts Festival, a celebration of arts, languages and cultures.

ALL IN FOR

liberal arts

College empowers every student, dean says

Dr. Kristen Majocha calls liberal arts “the beating heart” of any university. “Our society is focused on technology, and we’re stronger because of it,” she says.

“But if you can’t sell those high-tech products because you don’t write well or speak clearly, if you can’t package those products with graphics and design, if you can’t convince people to buy them, then those products are worthless.

“Speaking. Writing. Promoting and persuading. Understanding the human psyche and expressing yourself — *that’s* what you gain from the liberal arts.”

Majocha was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts this summer. She came to California from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she was the assistant to the vice president of academic affairs and an associate professor in the Communications Department.

She holds a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Duquesne University. But the Slippery Rock alumna was eager to rejoin the State System where, as a first-generation college student, she gained the confidence to pursue an academic career.

“I fit here,” she says of Cal U, just as she and her family – and a pair of goats named Randi and Rusty – fit into their new home in

a small, Mon River community.

“The people who live in this area, the first-generation college students and their blue-collar families, their stories make sense to me. This university’s mission makes sense to me. It’s in my bones. I can’t hide who I am.”

Taking stock

Majocha’s first task as dean has been taking stock of the College of Liberal Arts. Nearly 1,500 students are enrolled as majors in its seven academic departments, and every Cal U student takes liberal arts courses to meet general education requirements.

The dean wants to define the College’s mission and vision – a first step toward making it more visible on campus. And she aims to strengthen the College’s role in empowering all students, no matter their major.

“How can the College of Liberal Arts support our students in *all* academic programs?” she asks. “What minors and certificates do we have in place that can make our students stronger upon graduation?”

Majocha is a fierce advocate for disciplines such as English, history, languages, psychology, music, theater and art.

She concedes that liberal arts graduates are likely to begin their careers with smaller paychecks than their classmates in science and

tech. But research shows they catch up quickly, often advancing into management positions.

Several studies have found that five to 10 years after graduation, liberal arts majors typically earn as much or more than their peers with professional degrees.

"There may not be a direct line from a liberal arts student's major to his or her job title, but the options are wider," Majocho says.

Guided by values

Emma Harris, a career coach in Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center, agrees that liberal arts grads are "the most well-rounded as professionals."

"They communicate well, and that's the No. 1 skill that employers seek. And they have a strong work ethic, the No. 2 skill that employers are looking for."

Many liberal arts majors are motivated by their values, Harris adds. "That's why they choose fields like psychology, sociology or criminal justice - careers where they can give back and make an impact."

A 2016 article in the *Wall Street Journal* points to a survey of 180 companies conducted by NACE, the National Association of Colleges and Employers. It found that "four of the top five traits (sought by employers) were hallmarks of a traditional liberal arts education: teamwork, clear writing, problem-solving aptitude and strong oral communication."

Even when they don't set out to recruit liberal arts majors specifically, NACE reports, employers often hire humanities or social-science graduates because of these strengths.

Dr. Aref Alkhattar, a professor in the Criminal Justice Department, also credits the liberal arts with enhancing cultural awareness.

"American society is diverse, so criminal justice professionals must have an understanding of different cultures and languages," he says.

"We can't focus only on technical skills and training. If we want our graduates to be successful, here in the United States or in a global market, they must be well-versed in the liberal arts."

As chair of the Art and Languages Department, Dr. Arcides Gonzalez finds that students from all majors are interested in languages and cultures.

"We live in a highly connected, social world, and that world is multicultural and multilingual," he says. "Students understand that. The world is so big, and we can't live in a bubble."

College is just the first step in a lifetime of learning, adds art professor Maggy Aston.

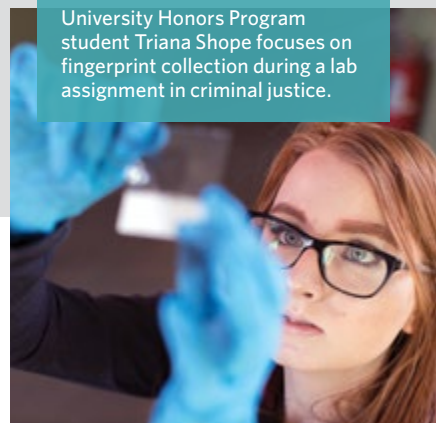
"What will induce students to become lifelong learners if we don't give them a love of literature and art, of reading and thinking and learning? Where will they find inspiration for their own creativity if they haven't been exposed to the classics?"



MBA student Mohamed Bountoulougou enjoys the music at Manderino Library.



Junior Bry Stahlman, a graphic design major, hangs a freshly screenprinted shirt to dry.



University Honors Program student Triana Shope focuses on fingerprint collection during a lab assignment in criminal justice.

Dr. Holiday Adair, chair of the Psychology Department, says a liberal arts education "prepares us to become the kind of people others want to have around: good listeners, skilled in interpersonal relationships, grounded in historical and personal precedent."

Aptitudes and attitudes

Employers frequently talk about "soft skills" - a term Majocho dislikes because it downplays the value of transferrable skills such as communication, critical thinking, teamwork and creative problem-solving.

"College is a big financial investment, and it's right for parents to ask whether their children will find a job and earn a good salary if they choose liberal arts," the dean says.

"I tell them that languages and cultural awareness are critical in a global society. So is clear writing and speaking, leadership, and understanding human nature.

"A graduate's resume rises to the top when an employer sees that he or she can speak and write and lead. That person can learn the job; that person can represent the company.

"Liberal arts provide all that, and more." ■

By Christine Kindl, VP for Communications and Marketing


What's included?

Cal U's College of Liberal Arts comprises these academic departments:

- ✓ Art and Languages
- ✓ Communication, Design and Culture
- ✓ Criminal Justice
- ✓ English
- ✓ History, Politics, Society and Law
- ✓ Music and Theatre
- ✓ Psychology

The college also houses the University Honors Program.

Other Cal U colleges are the College of Education and Human Services, the Eberly College of Science and Technology, and the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a black long-sleeved top and black pants, sitting on a tan leather sofa. She is leaning forward, reading a book to a young boy sitting next to her. The boy is wearing a blue shirt and blue shorts, and is also reading a book. Behind them is a blue wall with colorful cutouts of a whale, a crab, and a dog. The text "Danielle DeCarlucci '13, '18 helps a child build reading skills." is in the top right corner.

Danielle DeCarlucci '13, '18 helps a child build reading skills.

R is for Reading

One-on-one practicum builds literacy skills

Casey Giles arrives at Cal U clasp a stack of stars with words such as “want,” “pretty,” “please” and “ate” written on them.

One by one, he distributes them throughout the third floor of Keystone Hall.

“We’re going to do a little scavenger hunt with Keagan using vocabulary words,” Giles explains.

“She has a lot of energy and likes to move around. So we’ll use this activity to get her moving while she practices recognizing sight words.”

The best learning, he says, is when kids don’t realize it’s happening. They build self-confidence and have fun, all while developing literacy skills.

That’s the idea behind the reading clinic held each summer at Cal U. The 2018 class had 15 students.

Giles — a 2008 Cal U grad and a kindergarten teacher at Rostraver Elementary School in the Belle Vernon Area School District — earned a master’s degree as a reading specialist last summer. The clinical reading practicum is an important part of both the M.Ed. and the reading specialist certificate programs.

For five-and-a-half weeks, three hours a day, each reading specialist student works one-on-one with a child. They conduct and analyze literacy assessments, and they implement intervention and enrichment lessons to foster strategic thinking and an interest in reading and writing.

Categories for assessment and improvement include reading comprehension, fluency and vocabulary.

At the end of the summer program, Cal U students provide recommendations for each child’s parents and classroom teacher.

Danielle DeCarlucci ‘13, ‘18 teaches kindergarten at Pleasant Valley Elementary in the Peters Township School District.

“We’re working on comprehension and short vowel sounds and decoding — how sounds turn into words,” she says with a nod to her student, 7-year-old James. “It’s rewarding to see where a child may be struggling a bit and design ways to build improvement strategies on that.”

“Most of our students are already classroom teachers,” says program coordinator Dr. Diane Fine. “We emphasize the one-on-one work with the children, and it gives our students a chance to learn from each other.

“The summer reading clinic is the experience our reading specialists love the most, because it brings together the assessment piece and the instruction piece.”

“The online format makes it possible to complete the program, because you can teach during the day,” says Samantha Brickley ‘14, a long-term substitute teacher set to graduate in December 2018. “But the on-campus reading clinic practicum turns out to be awesome, because it puts assessment and instruction all together.”

“The children love it, too,” Fine adds, “because it’s more like camp instead of school.”

Craig Rechichar has two daughters, Lena and Eva, enrolled in the program. Lena took part in the program last year.

“We’ve noticed an improvement in Lena’s reading skills,” Rechichar says. “When she reads to us, she is a lot more confident in doing so.

“It’s educational, but it’s also fun. We often overhear them playing school at home — they call each other Miss Lena and Miss Eva — and we know they’re repeating the lessons they’ve learned here.” ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U



MORE THAN A GAME

Philanthropy provides sports equipment for kids

The importance of sports to Sam DiMatteo? Think of a two-out, bases-loaded, tie-game, bottom-of-the-ninth hit. In other words, it's very important.



"What baseball did for me as a kid is huge," says DiMatteo, a 2010 graduate with a degree in business administration. The All-American outfielder for the Vulcans holds school records for hits, runs and stolen bases.

"Being able to play sports teaches you life lessons," he says. "If you stick with it, it toughens you up a bit. It's our job to teach kids and keep them in the game."

DiMatteo grew up in Center Township, in Beaver County, Pa., and now lives in Palm Springs, Calif. After graduating from Cal U, he played professional baseball in various independent leagues.

He retired in 2016 to focus on his career as a hitting coach for the Palm Springs Power in the Southern California Collegiate Baseball League.

He also started The SD Project, a nonprofit organization. Donations made through its website, thesdproject.com, allow DiMatteo and a team of volunteers to provide lessons and sports equipment to children who face challenging life circumstances.

What started as a small effort focused on western Pennsylvania has grown into a bigger one: Today, The SD Project helps kids across the country and around the world play whatever sport they love.

"I had one kid I was coaching to play baseball, but his family couldn't afford it," DiMatteo says. "So I created a GoFundMe page. And that took off, so I decided to do something for any family I came across who needed help. I called it The SD Project. The more we did, the more people wanted to get involved."

“Being able to play sports teaches you life lessons. ... It’s our job to teach kids and keep them in the game.”

SAM DIMATTEO '10

In May 2016, DiMatteo and partner Richie Serritella brought 400 pounds of baseball equipment — gloves, spikes, shoes, T-shirts — to the Medellin Cubs in Colombia.

Images of kids from the House of Hope orphanage in Zimbabwe kicking homemade soccer balls and playing with tires sparked a trip to deliver new equipment.



"In my hometown, they have a bocce league that kids with disabilities can play in," DiMatteo says. "Their partners are athletes at school. That kind of stuff is so awesome to me. We gave them all gift cards to buy what they need."

For his philanthropy, California University has nominated DiMatteo for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' 2020 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

"My connection to Cal U is my coach, Mike Conte," DiMatteo says. "Cal U was a very good place for me. I still talk with, and am friends with, so many people. I'm glad I went there."

"I appreciate Sam for what he was at Cal U and who he has become as a person," Conte says. "We're measured by wins and losses, but as a college coach, you're trying to get these guys to live healthy, complete, successful lives."

"We want them to grow up and become good citizens, and he has certainly done that." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

From left: Jeffrey Nobili '15, Ami Gatts, Stephen Terhorst, Dr. Gina Boff

CAREER LINK

Seniors design solution for workforce development board

A computer connection required a human connection.

The Southwest Corner Workforce Development Board provides job placement assistance, education, training and counseling for residents of Washington, Greene and Beaver counties.

It also operates four Pennsylvania CareerLink centers, which match job-seekers and employers.

Visitors at the center check in at CareerLink kiosks, which collect user data that help the board keep pace with workforce dynamics.

"The systems operated individually, and data was stored separately at each center," explains Jeffrey Nobili '15, information technology and program manager for the workforce development board.

"This made mining the data for employment trends difficult. It meant four sets of data needed to be compiled, reviewed and delivered for reporting. And it meant the centers may not have been collecting the same information the same way."

Price tag for an off-the-shelf software solution: \$20,000.

But "we want as much of our funding as

possible to go toward training," says Ami Gatts, director of the Southwest Corner board.

A Cal U connection provided the answer — one that allowed the board to keep more funding for services while giving students a real-world, hands-on learning opportunity.

Nobili has a Cal U degree in computer information systems. And he's a member of the CIS program's community advisory board — professionals who help to ensure that the program teaches skills that employers need.

When Dr. Gina Boff's senior-project class needed a business partner, Nobili saw an opportunity to connect.

"In the first semester, students in the capstone course analyze the business problem and design a solution," Boff explains. "They make decisions about what type of data storage or screens will be used. The next semester they code it, create it, test it and get feedback from the users."

"When you complete this capstone, you should be ready to be hired right out the door, because this is the real world on a smaller scale."

Before they graduated in May, students Geoffrey Fowler, Brittani Kiger and Stephen Terhorst implemented a Web-based system

for Southwest Corner. It uses a single database to provide better reporting and customer service.

Terhorst stayed on with the board part time after graduation to provide software enhancements after the system went live, and to build his resume as he seeks full-time work.

"I knew there would be things I wanted to change once people started using the system," he says. "I enjoy coding and making websites, and I was able to learn a different coding language for this project. The senior class project is a great opportunity for my degree; it's very beneficial."

"I'm thrilled with what he's done," Nobili says. "He's acting just like a developer is supposed to, checking in with me, making sure his work doesn't affect things down the line, working his way through improvements."

The board now has a great network. Thanks to a great network.

"My professional relationship with Dr. Boff led to this," Nobili says. "My connection to a program I loved and incorporated into my professional network has delivered a fantastic project that will be used for years to come." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

BIG FIRST-YEAR CLASS IS STARTING STRONG

This fall, Cal U welcomed its largest class of first-time freshmen since 2014. The first-year students who arrived for Welcome Weekend represent 53 Pennsylvania counties, 13 U.S. states and 18 countries around the world.

Many of these students were born in 2000, making this the first class born and raised in the current millennium.

“Say ‘Y2K’ to these students, and they don’t know what you mean,” says Dr. Daniel Engstrom, associate provost and associate vice president for Academic Success. “They have always lived in a world where the year starts with a 2.”

The incoming class has a strong academic profile, with more students whose test scores and previous academic performance indicate they are likely to do well in college. University officials credit an improved scholarship strategy with attracting greater numbers of top students.

New academic programs, fresh marketing campaigns and enhancements to the campus visit experience are also part of Cal U’s strategic enrollment plan.

Cal U welcomed incoming students with activities such as a guided kayak tour, outlet shopping, outdoor fitness activities and fireworks. To see photos from Welcome Weekend 2018, visit calu.edu/review.



Wildlife Society honors adviser



The Wildlife Society has selected Dr. Carol Bocetti as the 2018 Student Chapter Advisor of the Year — the first adviser ever to receive the honor twice.

Bocetti, a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, first received the award in 2012, when Cal U’s student organization was named the Wildlife Society Chapter of the Year.

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society is a professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners and others who work to study, manage and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide.

In addition to accepting her award, Bocetti gave the opening address at the organization’s annual conference, held in Cleveland, Ohio.

In “Kirtland’s Warblers Sing the Sweet Song of Success! How Collaborative Conservation Can Recover a Conservation-reliant Species,” she described initiatives that led to the growth of the Kirtland’s warbler population from fewer than 200 pairs during the mid-1980s to an estimated 2,400 pairs, surpassing recovery goals, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Bocetti also has taken part in recovery efforts for the formerly endangered Delmarva fox squirrel.

Park ranger serving as student trustee



Junior Alex Arnold is eager to learn more about leadership and stewardships as the 2018-2019 student member of Cal U’s Council of Trustees.

Arnold has a dual major in history and parks and recreation management,

and he puts his learning into practice as a seasonal park ranger with the National Park Service. After spending time at Maryland-based Chesapeake & Ohio National Historic Park, he now works at Friendship Hill National Historic Site, in Point Marion, Pa.

“Whether you’re managing a university or managing a park, the operations are very similar, especially with matters such as budgets, staffing and even dealing with forms of government,” he says.

A native of McClellandtown, Pa., Arnold says his role as a trustee “is all about serving the students, and I feel that at this level I can really help them.”

Each of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education has a Council of Trustees that includes a student member. Student trustees are nominated after a screening and interview process at their home campuses. Approval by the Chancellor’s Office is required before the student trustee is appointed by the governor.

Cal U grads carry less student debt

An online marketplace for financial products, including student loans, reports that California University of Pennsylvania students graduate with less student loan debt than their peers at most other Pennsylvania colleges and universities.

In its third annual *Student Loan Debt State by State* report, LendEDU ranked Cal U among the 10 Pennsylvania schools that leave the average student borrower with the least educational debt.

The LendEDU analysis was based on financial aid data from 1,080 four-year colleges and universities, both public and private.

The survey ranked Cal U No. 8 in Pennsylvania, meaning that only seven other colleges graduate students who, on average, owe less in student loans.

About 91 percent of Cal U students borrow to meet college costs, the report says. The average Cal U student graduates owing about \$2,000 less than the national average for all student borrowers, and about \$10,000 less than the average for student borrowers in Pennsylvania.

Cal U's low tuition rate is one factor in the ranking. Scholarships also can reduce student debt, and Cal U does all it can to assist qualifying students. Last year Cal U awarded more than \$2 million in merit- and need-based scholarships.



ARM membership offers opportunities in robotics

Cal U is empowering students in its robotics and mechatronics engineering technology programs to network, learn and innovate through its membership in Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing, an institute headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Cal U is one of 168 corporations and educational institutions — and the only university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education — to hold ARM membership.



Sunrise ride

After an early-morning bicycle ride, Dr. Daniel Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, takes notes on local bike trails suggested by psychology professor Dr. Rebecca Regeth. Greenstein began his tenure as the State System's fifth chancellor with a tour of the commonwealth's 14 public universities, opening as many visits as possible with an informal bike ride. At Cal U he also held a series of listening sessions and focus groups with students, faculty, staff, administrators and University trustees. An open forum gave members of the Cal U community, as well as local officials, an opportunity to ask questions and hear the chancellor's plans for redesigning the State System.

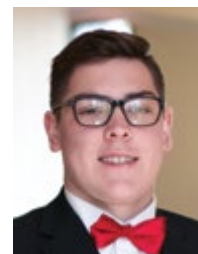
Part of Manufacturing USA, a consortium of 14 manufacturing innovation institutes, ARM is funded with \$80 million from the Department of Defense and an additional \$170 million from various public and private organizations. Its goal is to "accelerate the advancement of transformative robotic technologies and education" and make American manufacturing more competitive on a global scale.

Through ARM, Cal U students will have opportunities to work with leading companies on projects that advance cutting-edge robotic technologies, with special emphasis on key industrial sectors such as aerospace, automotive, textiles, electronics and more.

"Cal U's membership in ARM signifies its commitment to preparing students with the skills and knowledge essential for revitalizing U.S. manufacturing through industrial robotics innovation," says Jean Hale, Cal U's executive director of community and corporate relations.

"Membership in ARM provides access to funding and supportive infrastructure to enhance the University's existing connections with small and mid-size manufacturers in the region. It also allows Cal U to partner with manufacturers as they work toward implementing new robotic technologies — a key element in strengthening our region's economic vitality."

Student leader is looking ahead



Junior Seth Shiley fell in love with Cal U online and applied before he ever set foot on campus. Now the University has become his home away from home — and he's giving back by serving as president of its Student Government Association.

Shiley, of Camp Hill, Pa., says he has "a passion for leading."

"I want to help the students and ensure that their voices are heard. My goal is to make sure everyone has a positive college experience," he says.

Shiley is a sport management studies major, with a minor in event planning and management. He's secretary of the Sport Management Club and a member of the Student Activities Board.

As a student leader, he's putting his management skills into practice.

After planning a pre-holiday warm-clothing drive for needy children and organizing other activities and service projects, he's looking ahead to the spring semester.

"I'm most excited about The Big Event," Shiley says, referring to the annual day of service when hundreds of student volunteers do yardwork and cleanup projects at homes, churches and other sites near Cal U.

"It's a rewarding experience helping out members of the California community. This event allows us to create positive relationships between the students and our neighbors."

Stocking the shelves at the Cal U Cupboard

The Cal U Cupboard, a resource for students who are experiencing food insecurity, had more items on its shelves this fall.

At their fall quarterly meeting, members of Cal U's Council of Trustees donated nonperishable food items to help stock the Cupboard.

As part of an ongoing project, the Alumni Association's board of directors donated school supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils, binders and highlighters.



And Student Ambassadors collected food and hygiene items for the Cupboard in lieu of an entry fee at this fall's "Blaze in the Night Neon Fun Run/Walk," a nighttime outdoor run held during Family Weekend.

Fresh fruit also made its way to students from the orchard planted in 2016 at SAI Farm. Apples from the young fruit trees were donated to the Cupboard this fall. Next year, when the trees are fully grown, organizers anticipate an even larger harvest of fresh fruit will be available for students who use the food pantry.

Governor's office is internship site



Senior Gabrielle Salerni, an international studies major with a minor in political science, spent the fall semester working in the office of Gov. Tom Wolf as part of a 15-week internship sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) program gives students the opportunity to work in state government while earning a full semester's worth of credits — and, in Salerni's case, a selfie with the governor.

Continues on page 14



Exploring Madagascar

Students take time from their research studies to experience life in Madagascar, an island nation off the southeastern coast of Africa. Six Cal U students took part in the month-long study abroad program, along with a visiting student from Carnegie Mellon University and two from Madagascar's University of Antananarivo. Led by Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, of Cal U's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, the group practiced field methods for research in a rainforest and a spiny dry forest environment. They also visited a variety of national parks and cultural heritage sites in Madagascar and went on a whale-watching excursion in the Mozambique channel. The Madagascar Field School is offered every other year; for program information, visit calu.edu/madagascar.

Continued from page 13

A resident of Lincoln University, Pa., in Chester County, Salerni gained firsthand experience corresponding with constituents and drafting proclamations and greetings from the governor.

She and her fellow THIS interns also attended academic seminars and completed individualized research projects as part of the program's requirements.

"I would love to one day work for an international organization such as the United Nations or UNESCO," Salerni says. "However, before I do that, I feel it's important for me to fully understand the government of my home country.

"I learned so much about executive government and the kinds of things that go on from day to day."



'Fellows' promote voter engagement

Four student "fellows" with a keen interest in politics led voter registration drives in advance of the midterm elections.

Political science majors India Washington, Chris Gentile and Zach Smith, along with international studies major Rebeccah Ambrosy-Stephens, organized registration tables at student events and at busy locations on campus before and after National Voter Registration Day.

With their help, nearly 200 student voters were registered.

Ambrosy-Stephens and Smith received fellowships from the Campus Vote Project, an initiative of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Fair Elections Center, based in Washington, D.C.

Washington and Gentile received fellowships through a Campus Election Engagement Project grant.

"The fellows were selected based on their knowledge of, interest in, and passion for all things political," says political

science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg, campus director of the American Democracy Project at Cal U.

The four students participated in voter engagement planning and helped to educate classmates about candidates and issues. They conducted registration drives and encouraged students to go to the polls on Election Day. They also took part in a series of events focused on current issues and the theme of "Midterms Matter."

"I have always been a strong advocate for the representation of younger generations on the civic spectrum," Ambrosy-Stephens says. "The experience of doing this has been a great way to channel my passion."

Handshake connects students, employers

Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center is introducing students, alumni and employers to Handshake, an online career and internship tool.

Through Handshake, job seekers have access to more than 1 million jobs posted by 200,000 companies, nonprofit groups and government organizations nationwide.

Students can use Handshake to build a personal profile - including their

major, achievements and interests - that registered employers can access when seeking job candidates. Students also can schedule a resume review, make an appointment with a career coach, or learn about career fairs and other events.

Employers can register to use Handshake to post jobs, internships and co-op positions; review student resumes; set up interviews on campus; or reserve an information table. The tool's filters allow employers to narrow the field of job applicants and contact student candidates easily.

To learn more about Handshake, visit www.calu.edu/inside/career-center.

Harvard program taps GIS expert



Dr. Tom Mueller, a professor in the Department of Earth Science and a geographic information systems (GIS) expert, has been chosen as an educational

associate team member of the Ukraine Research Institute at Harvard University's



Building healthy habits

Senior Natalie Reichard, a criminal justice major, makes smoothies at Cal U's 31st annual Health Fair. Organized by the University's Health Education Awareness Resource Team, the event included information about healthful living presented by local healthcare organizations, campus offices and student clubs. Giveaways, screenings and organized physical activities were designed to inform students about the services available at Cal U and encourage them to make healthy choices.



Award winner

Paul 'Larry' Lancaster '66, '69 is the 10th recipient of the Jennie Carter Award. Named for California's first African-American graduate, Elizabeth 'Jennie' Adams Carter, Class of 1881, the award is given to a person who exemplifies her spirit, resilience and leadership. Lancaster taught in Cal U's Department of Special Education for 35 years and was department chair for 10 years before he retired in 2004. He also spent a decade as the University's NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). A former rape counselor for the Women's Resource Center of Fayette County, he serves on the board of Cross Keys Human Services Inc., in Brownsville, Pa.; his wife, Dr. Adrienne Lancaster '69, is board president. 'When I came to campus, there were so few blacks. ... I can't imagine what (Jennie Carter) went through back then,' Lancaster says. 'She set the standard and led the way.'

MAPA Digital Ukraine Program.

The institute is a resource for students, fellows and associates who are pursuing research in Ukrainian studies. The MAPA program uses GIS to illustrate and explain economic, historical, political and social transformations within the country.

Using the institute's research on Ukraine nationalism, Mueller created a lesson plan for Cal U students — "MAPA in the Classroom: Ukraine and Language Exercise" — that was published on the institute's website and led to his selection as an educational associate.

"For me it was like winning an Oscar," says Mueller. "But more importantly, the lesson plan got the students immediately interested and asking questions about the data."

Award-winning writer stops by for reading



English majors, English professors and fans who simply love a vividly written story met a literary favorite when writer T.C. Boyle came to campus.

Boyle is the author of nearly 30 books and winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. He delighted an audience at the Convocation Center with a reading of his short story "The Lie," which was published in *The New Yorker*.

The author, who is a Distinguished Professor of English at the University of

Southern California, also took audience questions on subjects such as his writing schedule (he writes every day) and advice he'd give to his younger self ("It's going to be OK!").

Students and faculty, several of whom regularly assign Boyle's works to their creative writing students, were thrilled to welcome the author.

"It's important for Cal U to bring in writers with a certain panache," says Dr. Kim Vanderlaan, associate professor of English and the event's organizer. "Our students who are striving to be writers need to hear about the successes and the failures as they work on their craft."

Olympian's advice: 'Just keep going'



Olympian Zola Budd Pieterse's competitive running career often thrust her onto the international stage, but she urged more than 100 young runners to look

inside themselves to find success.

"Being on the starting line of a race is one of the loneliest places you can be. You need to show up and just keep going longer than the other people," Pieterse told students at the annual Cal U cross country summer camp.

"It's not about being bold, boastful or talking loud, but rather the silent ... resolve inside you, where you must find something that will take you from wanting to do it, to doing it."

A native of South Africa, Pieterse competed for Great Britain in the 1984 Summer Olympics, in Los Angeles, and for South Africa in the 1992 Summer Games, in Barcelona. She also won two world championships in cross country.

She is perhaps best known for competing barefoot during her running career, and for an infamous collision with American Mary Decker during the 1984 Olympics.

Pieterse is now the head men's and women's cross country coach and assistant track and field coach at Coastal Carolina University, in South Carolina.

Continues on page 16

Continued from page 15

She still holds two junior world records, in the mile and the 3,000-meter run. Yet she urged young runners to focus less on winning.

"You're going to make mistakes — that's life," she says, "but I've learned more from the races I've lost."

Sport management ranked best in nation

Cal U's undergraduate and graduate sport management degree programs have been ranked No. 1 nationally for 2018-2019 by Schools.com, a leading provider of higher education information.

The online site's rankings are based on information from the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics.

On its website, Schools.com noted the number of sport management majors and concentrations offered at Cal U, as well as the convenience of the master's degree program, which can be completed entirely online.

Among other 2018 rankings noted this fall, Cal U's online master's degree in criminal justice studies was named among the best by Top Criminal Justice Schools; the master's degree in conflict resolution was ranked as one of the most affordable by College Choice; Paralegal411.org recognized the online legal studies concentration in the jurisprudence program; and the Professional Science Master's degree in applied mathematics earned kudos from both Best College Reviews and Master's Program Guides.

Awards and rankings are part of the Cal U Difference. A complete list is available online at calu.edu.



Fulbright teaching assistant

If you're studying Arabic at Cal U, you can turn to a native speaker for help. Oussama Alaoui Ismaili, from Morocco, is Cal U's third Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant. Ismaili tutors students in the online Arabic language programs and assists in organizing cultural presentations on campus. An English-language teacher in his homeland, he has degrees in English, cross-cultural studies and teaching pedagogies. The Fulbright program, sponsored by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, brings early-career educators from around the world to study at U.S. colleges while they teach their native languages and serve as cultural ambassadors.

Bringing science to the stage



Engaging, intriguing and educational — that's science, says Dr. Gregg Gould, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Physics.

To encourage a love of science among students in middle and high school, as well as the general public, Gould and his son, Colin, presented "Science You Can See (and Hear)" at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh.

The Faraday Lecture — named for 19th-century British scientist Michael Faraday, renowned for his study of electromagnetism and electrochemistry — was sponsored by the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh and the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh.

Both nonprofit organizations are dedicated to furthering scientific education in western Pennsylvania.

During their presentation, the Goulds used unusually large equipment designed to make scientific principles of sound, magnetism and electromagnetism visible and audible to the audience.

"I like to get people intrigued and then begin to ask and answer questions about the science involved," says Gould.

In one demonstration, the team used a fishing magnet to lift a volunteer from the audience. In another, a standing wave generator made wave amplitude and frequency easy to see.

"It's like a standing guitar string," Gould says.

"The natural sciences are near and dear to my heart, so I like to share that fascination," he adds. "Science was very high profile during my childhood, with events like the Apollo missions. I'm afraid we've gotten away from that. Computer science is now what physics and chemistry used to be.

"It's nice to have events like this, to get people excited about the natural sciences again."

Colin Gould studied chemistry as an undergraduate; now he's pursuing a Ph.D. in molecular magnetism at the University of California.

His dad is happy to share the podium.

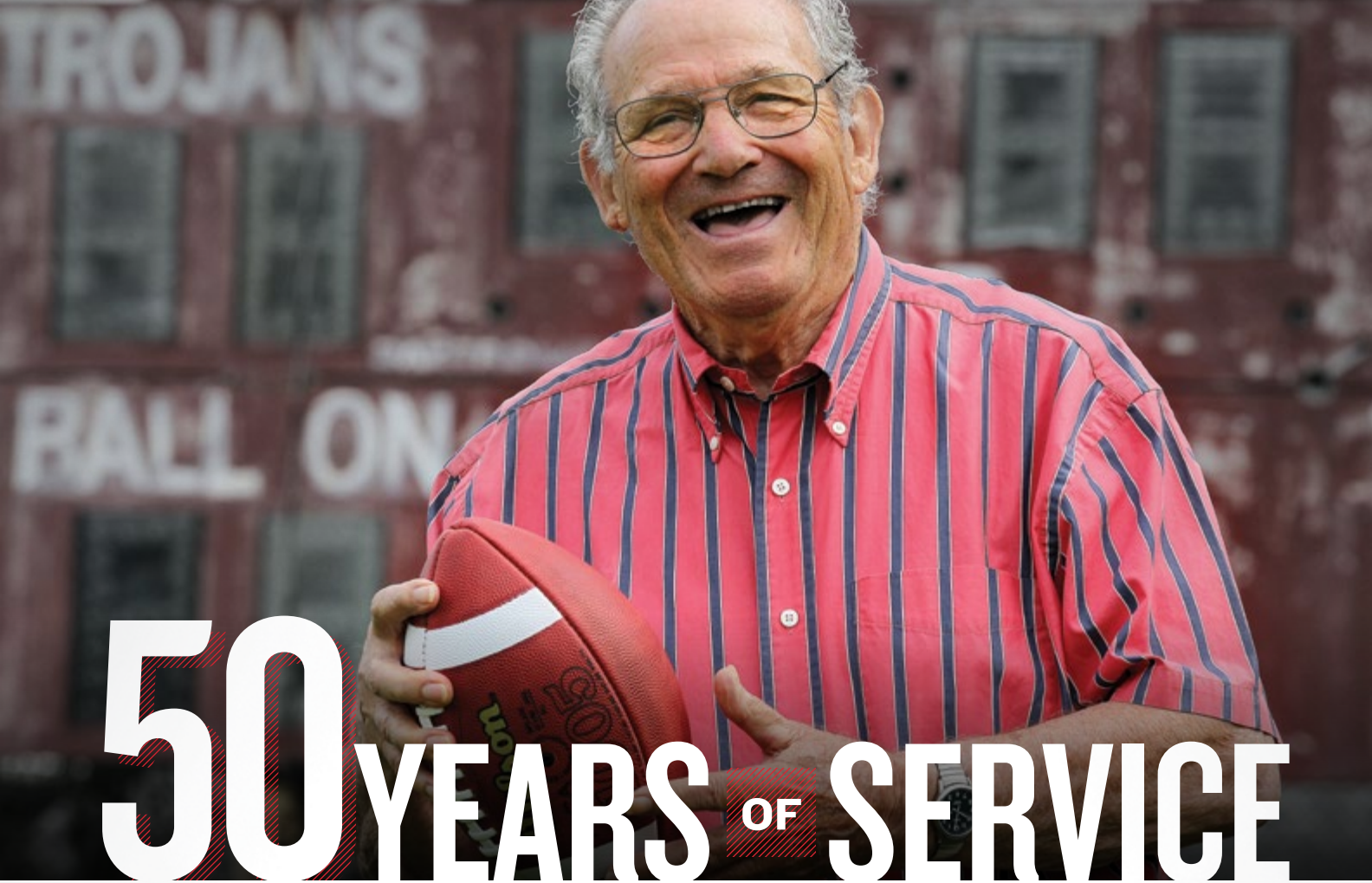
"Nobody is going to mistake me for a college student," Gregg Gould says with a smile. "It's good to have someone younger to make a connection to the students."

...THINKING OF...

GRAD SCHOOL?

Schedule a visit at

calu.edu/visit



50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Influential administrator awarded honorary doctorate

As vice president for student development, Elmo Natali '53 was called the "tone and pulse" of California State College.

Now his alma mater has awarded him an honorary doctorate in recognition of his dedication to students, his decades of service, and his lasting legacy at the University.

The University's Council of Trustees approved the honorary doctorate, noting that Natali served California over a 50-year span as a student-athlete, teacher, coach, dean and vice president.

The Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, was delivered directly to Natali, 91, who resides with family members in Virginia.

About Elmo Natali

Natali was born in 1927 in Gallatin, Pa. He graduated from Monessen High School and attended California State Teachers College from 1950 to 1953, making a name for himself as a student-athlete. He earned a master's degree from West Virginia University in 1958.

As a standout running back on the Vulcans football team, Natali helped "Cal State" finish the 1951 season by competing

in the prestigious Pythian Bowl. He capped his football career by being drafted into the National Football League by legendary head coach Paul Brown of the Cleveland Browns.

From 1953 to 1961, Natali was a classroom teacher and assistant football coach at Monongahela (Pa.) Junior High School. He continued coaching during his tenure as elementary supervisor of the Monongahela School District from 1961 to 1962.

Natali returned to California State College in 1962 and remained until 1966 as a professor of education and assistant football coach.

After a brief stint at Community College of Broward County, Fla., he returned to California in 1967 to rejoin the football staff and work with students as assistant dean of men and then dean of men, a role he held for seven years. He also volunteered as the Vulcans' head football coach from 1973 through 1976.

Natali became California's vice president for student development in 1977. He is remembered for a firm-but-fair approach that enabled California to become a premier academic and athletic institution.

"He was called 'the tone and pulse of the campus' for his ability to talk with students and really understand what their problems

and issues were," University President Geraldine Jones says.

"It was said that his complete dedication to the University made it a better place then, and the place it is now."

Lasting legacy

Natali retired in 1992.

He received many accolades during his career at California, including the Alumni Association's 1983 John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service. The University retired his football jersey number, 34, and inducted him into the inaugural class of the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

His name and photo are visible in the Elmo Natali Student Center.

"Elmo Natali's commitment to California University and our students certainly exemplifies the University's core values of integrity, civility and responsibility," says President Jones.

"While we can never repay Mr. Natali for all he has done for the University, we hope that this honorary doctorate will let him know that we truly appreciate all he has done for our University and, particularly, for our students." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U



VULCAN FEST

Grads and guests enjoy expanded Homecoming weekend

Skies were cloudy but smiles were bright as Cal U celebrated Homecoming 2018 and Vulcan Fest Weekend.

Organized in collaboration with the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency, the expanded festivities brought alumni to The Meadows, one of the county's tourism hot-spots, and introduced the University to newcomers who arrived for a weekend of Vulcans football, food and music.

On Friday night, a reception and house-rockin' concert by Joe Grushecky '71 marked the 135th anniversary of the Alumni Association.

On Saturday, alumni mingled over brunch at the Kara Alumni House. Along Third Street, kids tumbled in a bounce-house and skated on a portable roller rink. Then students and families gathered for

the Homecoming parade, with "Decades"-themed floats, 13 high school bands, and longtime mathematics and computer science professor George Novak '55 as grand marshal.

Next, the action moved to Roadman Park, where food trucks, tailgates and music created a festival atmosphere outside Adamson Stadium. After an afternoon of Vulcans football, country music fans enjoyed performances by local favorite Chris Higbee and Grammy Award winners Lonestar.

Amid the festivities, a group of softball alumni and their families, about 55 in all, gathered around a fire pit at Roadman Park.

"Most of us hadn't been together for years," says Keri Weaver '97, who helped to organize the reunion. "But it's like we never left. We pick up right where we left off." ■

FLOAT AWARDS



Welcome to Woodstock
by Alpha Kappa Lambda,
Delta Zeta



Throwback to the '80s
by Theta Xi, Sigma Kappa,
Alpha Phi Alpha



Back to the Future
by Acacia, Alpha Sigma Alpha



Throwback to the '70s
by FIJI, Alpha Sigma Tau

HIGH SCHOOL BAND AWARDS



Ringgold High School



Carmichaels High School



Peters Township High School



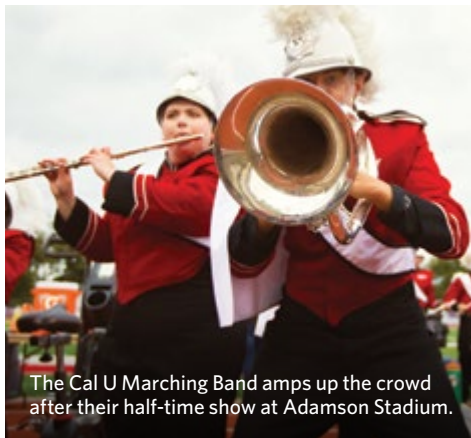
Food trucks feed a hungry Vulcan Fest crowd at Roadman Park.



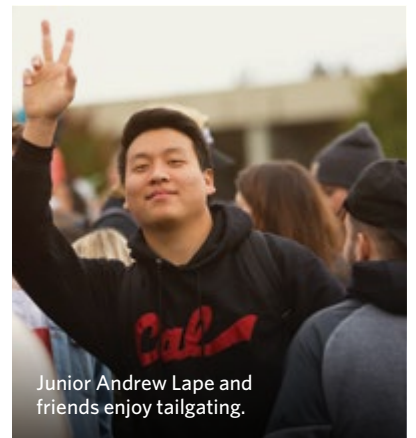
Homecoming royals Whitney Ptak and Jerron Corley greet friends at the stadium.



Professor George Novak '55, the parade's grand marshal.



The Cal U Marching Band amps up the crowd after their half-time show at Adamson Stadium.



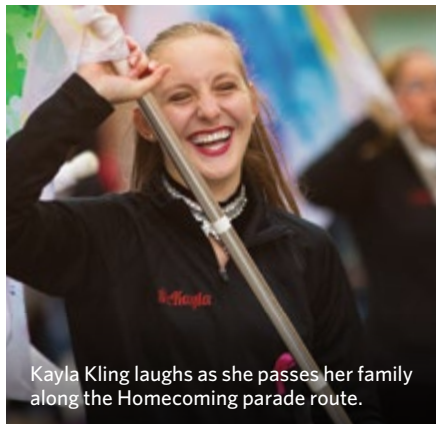
Junior Andrew Lape and friends enjoy tailgating.



Richie McDonald, lead singer of Lonestar, belts out one of the group's well-known songs during the Vulcan Fest concert.



Cal U softball alumni and their families reconnect at Roadman Park.



Kayla Kling laughs as she passes her family along the Homecoming parade route.



Junior Sara Maute helps to carry the flag leading the parade.



It wouldn't be Homecoming without Vulcans football.

Greetings!

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF ALUMNI
RELATIONS

Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend was a great time for everyone who attended! Don't miss out on the fun and festivities next year. Save the date: Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend will be Oct. 11-13, 2019. Watch the *Vulcan Gazette* for details.

Let us plan your Cal U reunion

Groups of Cal U graduates and friends often meet outside of official University and Alumni Relations functions, and we love that our alumni stick together! Let us help you make that alumni gathering even better. We can assist with logistics, pavilion rentals at Roadman Park and more. Contact Staci Tedrow or Ryan Barnhart in the Alumni Office to plan your next gathering. Reach us at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418.

Check out our new website

The new alumni website has officially launched! Visit the site to register for events and check attendee lists, create and update your alumni profile, send us news and Milestones items, get involved as a volunteer, and support scholarships through online giving. To check out the new site, visit www.calu.edu/alumni and click on "Visit the Alumni Website."

Happy holidays!

As 2018 comes to a close, your friends in the Office of Alumni Relations wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. Help us keep our New Year's resolution — to connect with you on campus or at an event near you in 2019!



Ryan Barnhart '08, '09
Director of Alumni Relations

ALUMNI CALENDAR

**MAR
17**

CAL U + PIRATES SPRING TRAINING EVENT

Join University President Geraldine Jones '72, '80, Vice President Tony Mauro '92, '93 and other Cal U alumni at LECOM Park in Bradenton, Fla., for our annual spring training event with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tickets for the game and pregame reception are on sale now. Email alumni@calu.edu or phone Staci Tedrow at 724-938-4418 for details or to purchase tickets.

**APR
12**

ALUMNI AWARDS

Celebrate the achievements of our exceptional graduates as we present the 2018-2019 Alumni Awards. The annual ceremony recognizes outstanding alumni with an Oscars-worthy event. For tickets, email us at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418.

**APR
13**

THE BIG EVENT

Cal U students and alumni work side by side to give back to the community at The Big Event, a day of service organized at universities across the country. Can't make it to campus? Create or help with a community service project in your own neighborhood! To volunteer, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@calu.edu or call 724-938-4418.

**MAY
1**

MENTOR NETWORKING EVENT

Mentors make a difference! The Alumni Student Mentor Network brings Cal U graduates and students together. Don't miss this chance to network with other alumni, current students and soon-to-be graduates in a space where we can share ideas, professional insights and our affinity for Cal U. To get involved as a mentor for students, or to RSVP for this event, contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

**MAY
2**

JAM A CAN FOR THE CUPBOARD

Our spring charity event benefits the Cal U Cupboard, which fights food insecurity for students. Support our student Alumni Ambassadors as they host a 'can jam' tournament and collect school supplies, nonperishable foods and other items for students in need. For details, email Randi Minerva at minerva@calu.edu.

**JUNE
15**

CAL U DAY AT KENNYWOOD

Celebrate summer with Cal U Day at Kennywood Park! Tickets include all-day ride access, plus an ice cream social at the Cal U Pavilion inside the park in West Mifflin, Pa. This event is open to all Cal U alumni, faculty, staff, families and friends. Purchase tickets through the Office of Alumni Relations; reach us at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418.

ALUMNI ALBUM



Rocking the house

As part of Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend, alumni and friends celebrated the 135th anniversary of the Alumni Association at The Meadows Racetrack and Casino. Local rock 'n' roll legend Joe Grushecky '71 headlined a special concert that brought nearly 200 alumni from all decades out for a great time.



At the ballpark

Gregg Friend '83 and his wife, Kristin, take in a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game during the third annual Cal U Night at PNC Park. More than 500 alumni, students and Cal U faculty, administrators and staff mingled at the game, and each fan received a customized cap with both the Pirates and Cal U logos.



Moonlight run

Runners Chris Montgomery and Felix Rivera show off their T-shirts before heading into the dark at the inaugural Blaze in the Night Glow/Neon Run. More than 130 Cal U graduates, students and their families took part in the 5K race and fun run/walk. The entry fee consisted of items for the Cal U Cupboard; the campus food pantry received more than 500 items in all. Planning is already under way for a second installment of the run next fall.



Back in town

Elaine Zavage '66, of South Park, Pa., catches up with Elaine Madatic '68, of Baton Rouge, La., during the Alumni Association's 135th anniversary party at The Meadows. The event brought alumni from across the country back to Washington County for a full weekend of Homecoming and Vulcan Fest activities.



Five decades of memories

The Class of 1968 celebrated its 50th Class Reunion with a luncheon at the Kara Alumni House. More than 50 classmates and guests gathered to reconnect and reminisce before heading out to enjoy a full weekend of Vulcan Fest Homecoming activities.



Perfect pitch

The Pirate Parrot keeps an eye on the ball as Tony 'Strong Arm' Mauro '92, '93, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, throws out the ceremonial first pitch during Cal U Night at PNC Park. Watch *The Vulcan Gazette* for the date of next year's Cal U night at the ballpark.



RHYME TIME

The “In My Feelings” viral video challenge has a new educational verse. *Students you know we love ya, no one above ya, and we know you will achieve ...* Cue “The Rapping Principal,” Dr. Margaret Starkes '93, who channels her musical talents to connect with students at Miller African-Centered Academy in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

Each fall a customized rap song welcomes the children to a new school year. This fall Starkes reworked the Drake tune that inspired hundreds of people nationwide to post music videos online with the hashtag #InMyFeelingsDanceChallenge.

“When there is a trending topic happening within our school, our district or our city, I find the words and put them to music. Many times, I will use a cover song and change the words to fit a relevant issue,” Starkes says.

It all began during a lunch period when she noticed students rapping and making up beats. The principal surprised them by coming up with her own rhymes.

“I rapped for the students, and their jaws dropped. I realized that rap could be a vehicle to relate to students and talk about important topics.”

Starkes, who attended Pittsburgh Public Schools, says her education has come full circle. After earning her bachelor's degree in early childhood/elementary education from Cal U and her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh, she was eager to go back as an educator. She has been with the district for 25 years.

“My student teaching placement returned me to Pittsburgh Public Schools. It was an honor to return to my city and my school district to serve,” she says.

“Becoming a teacher and then a principal is my way of giving back to the children, as so many of my teachers and administrators have done for me.”

Next up: A rap song she hopes will reach the ear of talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres. “I believe in the work she does for schools and urban communities,” Starkes says.

Ultimately, she would like to enhance the district's cultural arts program.

“I would love for all students to have access to cultural arts as a means to express themselves and share their talents and gifts with the world.” ■

By Kayla Kuntz, social media manager at Cal U

PREVENTION MATTERS

A stark statistic: One out of four women and one out of nine men have been victims of sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

"There is a lot to learn about intimate partner violence," says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey.

"We do know that strategies that promote healthy behaviors in relationships are important. Programs that teach young people skills for dating can prevent violence."

Alexandra Brooks '13, '15 is part of the effort to end domestic violence by changing attitudes.

As prevention education coordinator for Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania, she works primarily with youths in Washington, Greene and Fayette counties.

"We try to teach young people how to address conflicts in healthy ways," says Brooks, who has a bachelor's degree in justice studies and a master's in applied criminology.

"Abusive relationships are about power and control, and abusers often lack the necessary conflict resolution skills.

"Services for victims are necessary, and we provide those. But we'll keep doing the same things if we don't address prevention."

The job prioritizes skills such as communication, conflict resolution and time management — abilities that Brooks honed at Cal U, where she held leadership positions on Student Government and the Student Association Inc. Board of Directors. She also was an orientation leader for new students.

"We were held to the standards of adults in these roles; we were not treated as children," Brooks says.

"When you start your first 'big-girl job,' and your supervisor says you're very low maintenance, you realize that skills not only from your degrees but also your out-of-class experiences have transferred."

She puts them to use with Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

"We are trying to change the culture of the nation, to instill the idea that domestic violence is unacceptable. When I hear a story about students utilizing the skills they've learned — for example, standing



up to someone who is catcalling a friend or intervening when they see an abusive behavior — it's very fulfilling.

"What we're doing is working." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

HOMETOWN CHIEF

You can hear the pride in Jonathan Wharton's voice when he talks about Upper St. Clair, Pa., his home for more than 40 years.

He got a job on the township's police force when he was just 21 years old — not quite finished with his bachelor's degree, but "qualified" for the job. In 1991, that meant he was over 18, had a driver's license, and hadn't broken any laws.

"That's all that was required then," Wharton says. "Now, if you want to progress in a law enforcement career, education is everything."

Today, Wharton is the chief of police in Upper St. Clair, a role he assumed in August 2018, just three months after he earned a master's degree in legal studies with a concentration in criminal justice from Cal U.

As he climbed the ranks — sergeant in 2012, lieutenant in 2017 — Wharton realized his level of education needed to keep pace.

"In today's world, you have to have those credentials," he says. "But just as important, the master's program taught me a lot about different viewpoints, being a better manager.

I've learned so much that is going to help me."

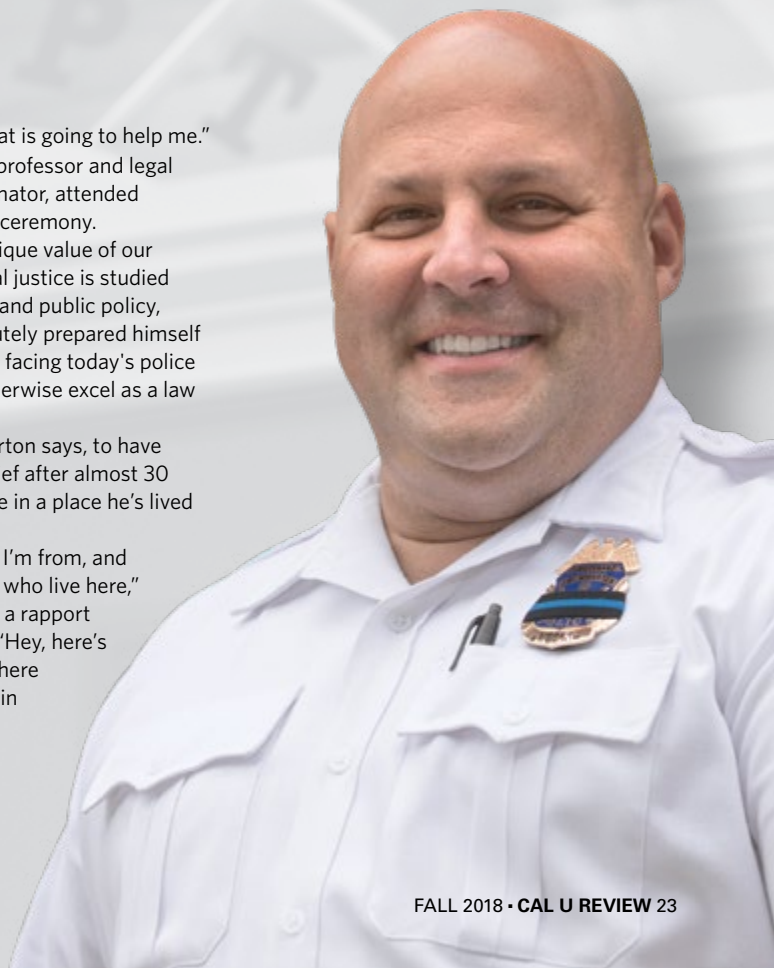
Dr. Christina Toras, professor and legal studies program coordinator, attended Wharton's swearing-in ceremony.

"Recognizing the unique value of our program, where criminal justice is studied through the lens of law and public policy, Chief Wharton has astutely prepared himself to tackle the challenges facing today's police departments and to otherwise excel as a law enforcement leader."

It's a privilege, Wharton says, to have achieved the rank of chief after almost 30 years on the police force in a place he's lived most of his life.

"I'm proud of where I'm from, and I'm proud of the people who live here," Wharton says. "There's a rapport with the community — 'Hey, here's someone who grew up here and wanted to stay put in their town.'" ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U



FRESH *from the* FARM

Diners 'eat local' at Sycamore Bistro

Food made from scratch. Locally sourced ingredients. A menu that fits the lifestyle of diners who want clean-eating, vegetarian or vegan options. It's all on the menu at the Sycamore Bistro, just off Third Street in Herron Hall.

Jeremy Bosley, executive chef and director of culinary operations for AVI Foodsystems at Cal U, says the clean-eating movement — avoiding packaged and processed foods, and eating food as close to its natural state as possible — sparked the bistro's farm-to-table menu.

Vegetarian, vegan and clean-eating options continue to be available at the Gold Rush, Cal U's main dining facility, too.

"People want to know the background of what they're eating," the chef says. "We're making the product from scratch, so we know what goes into it."

Apples arrive from a local orchard. Footprints Farm, a family farm in Fayette County, Pa., supplies meats for several dining locations across campus.

In turn, AVI sends 100-150 pounds of clean vegetable waste weekly to Footprints Farm, where it is used as feed for the animals.

"It's all done correctly there. The farmers bring the meat to us in whole form, and we break it down ourselves," Bosley says.

"There are no GMOs (genetically modified organisms), no antibiotics — these are all naturally raised animals. Everything they do (at Footprints Farm) uses sustainable practices, and we are on board with that."

With the chef's guidance, marinades, dressings and sauces are made fresh on campus. Smoking and roasting are done in-house. Menu items include falafel; a "Mediterranean sampler" with hummus, baba ganoush, tabouleh and grilled naan bread; house-smoked pulled pork; prime rib hoagies; pan-seared salmon sandwiches; and pecan-apple-chicken and spinach-quinoa salads.

The menu continues to evolve.

"We will continue to get feedback from the students, faculty and all of our customers," Bosley says. "We are gathering a sense of what kind of food is trending in their world, the culinary world, and what we can bring to the table."

In addition to the new menu items, Sycamore Bistro patrons can enjoy Starbucks coffee and a variety of hot and cold specialty drinks. The public is welcome to stop by.

"We want to highlight the food and to make sure students and all customers understand that they are getting nutritious food prepared the correct way," Bosley says.

"We want to be the culinary ambassadors of food." ■

TASTE IT

The Sycamore Bistro is open to the public. Located on the lower level of the Herron Recreation and Fitness Center, the bistro is open from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. For details and current menus, visit www.aviserves.com/cal.



Executive chef Jeremy Bosley bastes meat in the smoker at the Gold Rush.



For the love of
RUGBY

Couple devoted to coaching the 'rough-and-tough' sport

Rugby brought Brittany and Bill Marnell together, and their love of the sport keeps them coming back to coach at Cal U.

As undergraduates, Brittany '11, '12 and Bill '09, '18 were both standout players on their club teams. They spoke to each other for the first time while their clubs were watching a Pittsburgh Steelers game together at the women's rugby house in California Borough.

Neither had played before coming to California, but they were drawn to the free-flowing, full-contact sport that's contested with little or no protective gear.

"It's 80 minutes of high-intensity action and constant moving," Brittany says. "You're going at it rough-and-tough, banging into other people, getting angry sometimes, and your adrenaline is really going.

"But at the end of the game, regardless of the score, you go out afterward and hang out with the opposing team. There's such a tight bond."

Bill relishes the physicality of the game,

as well as the ties among players.

"You put your body on the line simply because you love the sport," he says. "Luckily, my only injury was a broken collarbone against Penn State, so I was fortunate. That was nothing too bad at all."

A first-grade teacher at Clairton Elementary School, Brittany is in her fourth season coaching the women's club.

The team has qualified for the National Small College Rugby Organization's (NSCRO) Women's 7s National Championships for the past three years. This fall the women reached the NSCRO 15s Allegheny Rugby Union playoffs for the first time in seven years.

Bill, an operations risk officer with Dollar Bank, started out helping Brittany coach the women's team. Now he's in his third season as coach of the men's club, which has reached the NSCRO Three Rivers Conference playoffs for two years in a row.

On a typical practice day, the pair are busy from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. But the

Marnells, who are raising their children in Pittsburgh, wouldn't have it any other way.

"We've been asked why we don't coach closer to home, but there's so much joy in developing new players in the sport you love at your alma mater in the programs you came through," Bill says. "It's just an awesome opportunity."

Brittany agrees, adding that she wants to bring stability to a program that has seen several coaching changes since her playing days.

"I still wanted to be part of the rugby community, and the only team I really wanted to coach was Cal U's, because I knew the program had potential," she says.

Both coaches say they've made lifelong friends through the sport. In fact, a teammate was the best man at their wedding six years ago.

"It's a growing sport, but not many people play, so there's that special bond," Brittany says. "After a game, you shake hands and build relationships." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U

NEW BASKETBALL ERA BEGINS

Vulcans basketball fans can expect an exciting, fast-paced style of play with a strong commitment to defense now that Danny Sancomb is head coach of the men's team.

When PSAC-West competition heats up in January, "you will get a team that leaves everything on the floor each night, plays good defense and gets better every day," Sancomb says.

"We know that Cal U is a place where our program can have success in the conference, regionally and nationally."

Sancomb joined the Vulcans this summer after 11 seasons as head coach at his alma mater, Wheeling Jesuit University. There he posted a 216-115 record, with three consecutive appearances in the NCAA Division II Tournament and the Cardinals' first Mountain East Conference championship.

"I'm thrilled to be the head coach at California University," says Sancomb. "So many people here love this place, have been here awhile

and are genuinely excited about the school, its academics and Vulcans athletics.

"I am so glad to be part of this family."

Sancomb played two seasons for Wheeling Jesuit, earning first-team all-conference honors both years. He led the NCAA Division II in scoring as a senior, averaging 26.9 points per game, and scoring 1,454 career points. In 2008 he was inducted into Wheeling Jesuit's Athletic Hall of Fame.

As a coach, Sancomb says he asks his players to work hard at everything they do.

"It's up to my staff and me to develop these young men and help them reach their dreams and goals. Our student-athletes must positively represent the University in the community and excel in the classroom.

"There's no quick fix or shortcut, but if we do things the right way, we will win basketball games."

VOLLEYBALL COACH HITS 200 WINS



Head coach Peter Letourneau marked his 200th career win when the women's volleyball team defeated Millersville 3-0 on Oct. 19.

Letourneau already had chalked up more wins than any coach in the program's history. Among active coaches in the NCAA's Division II, he ranks among the top 50 in both number of victories and percentage of wins.

Including his previous coaching stints at Maryland-based Frostburg State and Stevenson universities, he has more than 350 career wins.

In his eight years at Cal U, Letourneau has led the volleyball program to a pair of PSAC Championships and two additional appearances in the PSAC championship finals.

EIGHT TEAMS MAKE THE GRADES

Eight Vulcans athletic teams were recognized this fall as national All-Academic teams for 2017-2018.

Leading the list were the women's cross country and softball teams, which achieved 3.76 and 3.68 cumulative grade-point averages, respectively. Both teams ranked fourth best among all NCAA Division II programs in their sports.

The women's track team's 3.45 final GPA was highest among all PSAC women's track teams. They were closely followed by the women's soccer (3.42), women's volleyball (3.38) and men's soccer teams (3.21).

Women's swimming (3.20) was honored for its 16th year in a row, and the men's cross country team (3.10) was recognized for the 11th consecutive year.



VULCANS BRING HOME COAL BOWL TROPHY

On its way to the program's 15th consecutive winning season, the Vulcans football team defeated IUP to bring the Coal Bowl "lunch pail" trophy back to California.

It was a dramatic 36-24 victory for the Vulcans. IUP was unbeaten and ranked No. 2 nationally at the time of the game, making the Crimson Hawks the highest ranked opponent ever defeated by Vulcans football.

The turning point for the Vulcans came when junior defensive back Lamont McPhatter, the game's MVP, returned an interception 100 yards for a touchdown with less than five minutes remaining.

The upset gave Cal U its fifth consecutive Coal Bowl home win and a 7-3 advantage in the decade-long rivalry.

The Coal Bowl began in 2009, when Cal U alumnus Bob Lippencott '66 and his brother Barry, a 1967 graduate of IUP, established football scholarships at their respective alma maters. As part of their initiatives, the families donated a "coal miner's lunch pail" trophy that is presented to the winner each year.

TEAMS FARE WELL IN CONFERENCE PLAY

Sophomore golfer Sara Suazo shot the lowest third and final round among all competitors — a four-over-par 75 — to finish third at the PSAC Women's Golf Championships.

She's a winner academically, too: The Women's Golf Coaches Association named her an All-American Scholar, which requires a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher.

On the men's side, Ian Dunmyer was one of three golfers to claim third-round low scores of six-over 77 as he led his team to a ninth-place finish at the PSAC Championships.

Overall, Cal U golf teams finished both the conference event and their fall season with sixth-place showings.



YOUNG DOUBLES DUO FINISHES STRONG

First-year players Carolin Ganahl and Jo Weisen finished in second place in doubles play at the 2018 Women's Tennis PSAC Individual Championships earlier this fall.

They started the event with identical 8-5 victories against opposing doubles teams from West Chester and Slippery Rock universities.

In the semifinals, the pair advanced to the finals with an impressive 8-4 victory against IUP.

The young Cal U duo was the first Vulcans doubles team to reach the conference finals in four years, and they gave champion Mercyhurst its closest tourney win in the championship match.

Weisen also won two of three singles matches to reach the conference quarterfinals.



GOLFER NAMED PSAC CHAMPION SCHOLAR

Golfer Ryan Smith became the first member of the Vulcans men's golf team to receive the PSAC Champion Scholar Award.

Presented at each of the PSAC's 23 team championship finals, the award honors the student at each contest with the highest cumulative grade-point average.

Smith, who earned all-region and all-conference honors last spring, maintains a 3.69 GPA while studying professional golf management with a minor in business administration.

VULCANS *WIN* ON DAY OF GIVING

Vulcan pride was on display Sept. 25, Cal U's first Athletics Day of Giving.

More than 130 generous donors answered the call, contributing more than \$15,000 to fund scholarships for student-athletes.

It was another Vulcans victory, in the arena that matters most. There's no denying the pride we feel when Cal U posts a winning score. But this was a win for our student-athletes, who excel in the classroom, too.

- Last spring, more than half of our student-athletes earned a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher – and 28 achieved a perfect 4.0.
- In 2017-2018, three Academic All Americans and two PSAC Top 10 academic award winners represented the red-and-black.

- Collectively, our 18 men's and women's athletics programs consistently achieve an academic success rate above the national average for student-athletes in Division II, with eight out of 10 Vulcans earning a degree within six years.

On behalf of our University — and most importantly, our student-athletes — thank you for your generosity. Your contributions support our students, strengthen our intercollegiate athletics programs, and continue California's long tradition of excellence on the playing field, in the classroom, and in the community.

As we build on the momentum of this year's event, stay tuned for information about our 2019 Athletics Day of Giving. Or show your support by making a gift today: Use the envelope in this magazine, visit calu.edu/giving to give online, or call the Office of University Development at 724-938-5775.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Information will be published as space and deadlines allow. Please indicate on another sheet what activities or sports you participated in while you were a student. We welcome high-resolution electronic photographs. Please email images to revieweditor@calu.edu; put the words "Milestones photo" on the subject line of your email, and be sure to tell us your name, year of graduation and the identity of everyone in the picture. Please do not send computer printouts or low-resolution digital photos, as they will not reproduce well in this magazine.

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Send your Milestones news or address changes by email to alumni@calu.edu, by fax to 724-938-5932, or by mail to Office of Alumni Relations, California University of Pennsylvania, 250 University Ave., Box 89, California, PA 15419.

NAME MAIDEN NAME CLASS YEAR

ADDRESS

EMAIL MAY WE LIST YOUR EMAIL ON OUR WEBSITE?

PHONE

OCCUPATION EMPLOYER

SPOUSE'S/PARTNER'S NAME SPOUSE'S/PARTNER'S CLASS (IF CAL U GRAD).



60s

Raeanna Biddle '60 lives in Aurora, Colo. She majored in secondary education and was a Student Government representative for four years.

Roger McGary '60 and Nancy Cohen live in Takoma Park, Md. He studied geography at Cal U, was the sports editor/photographer for the *Tower Times* and was founding president of Alpha Kappa Lambda.



Bruce Dal Canton '63 has been inducted posthumously into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. The right-handed pitcher helped the 1962 Vulcans baseball program win the NAIA District 30

title and compete for the first time in the NAIA National Tournament. His 1.30 ERA that season remains a single-season record both for California and the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. Bruce had a 26-year career with the Atlanta Braves, where he coached after pitching for 11 seasons and winning 51 games. He was inducted into Cal U's initial Athletic Hall of Fame class in 1995. For the past 10 years, Cal U baseball has presented the Bruce Dal Canton Pitching Award each season to a Vulcans pitcher who truly exemplifies greatness of character.

Carolyn Kimberlin '67 was appointed by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to serve on the Frederick Community College Board of Trustees. Carolyn studied elementary education at Cal U. She is a longtime educator who has served the Frederick County (Md.) Public Schools for more than 30 years. In 2002, she received the *Washington Post* Distinguished Leadership Award.

Richard Sammartin '69, of San Antonio, Texas, is retired. He majored in history at Cal U and was in Sigma Tau Gamma.

NURSES PRESENT RESEARCH

Two graduates of Cal U's Master of Science in Nursing: Nursing Administration and Leadership program presented research at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Organization of Nurse Leaders' annual conference at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, in Farmington, Pa. **Raquel Felix '17** (left, with Dr. Mary O'Connor, MSN program coordinator) presented *Skin Prevention Education Program for Manual Prone Therapy in ARDS*. **Nancy Kruper '17** presented *Positive Partnerships: A Collaborative Model of Care*.



70s

Dom Palmieri '70 studied secondary education at Cal U and was a member of the Spanish Club, Kappa Phi Kappa and the Inter-Organization Council. He and **Carol Palmieri '70** live in Irwin, Pa.

Stephen Duncan '72 and **Deborah Jakubik-Duncan '72** live in Newtown, Pa.

Mary Givogre Tafel '73, who majored in speech pathology, lives in Easton, Pa.

Robert Karpoff '73, who studied secondary education, lives in Juno Beach, Fla. He was in the Theta Xi fraternity at Cal U.

Daniel Zurosky '73 and Virginia Zurosky live in Lexington, S.C. Daniel studied biology at Cal U.

Margaret Patricelli Palaisa '73, of Connellsville, Pa., is a retired teacher of students with hearing impairments. She was employed by Intermediate Unit 1.

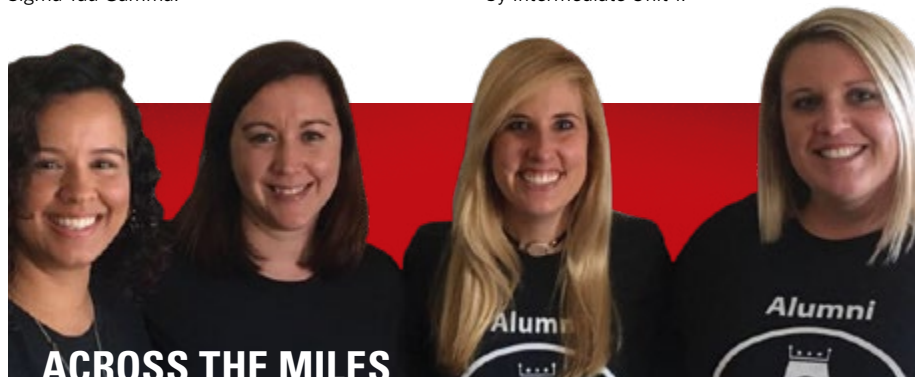
James Secosky '71 won the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who, a publisher of biographical profiles. Jim was a high school science teacher at Bloomfield Central School in New York and coached the school's wrestling team for 10 years. Among other academic pursuits, he was an adjunct instructor at Finger Lakes (N.Y.) Community College and taught classes at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. He studied secondary education and biology at Cal U, where he was a member of Theta Xi and Chi Beta Psi. Jim writes: "My main claim to fame in college was setting the Greek Week sit-up record by doing 4,010 consecutive sit-ups. Probably my main claim to fame in life was to be the first amateur to use the Hubble Space Telescope."

John Lombardo '74 retired from the Kiski School, in Saltsburg, Pa., after 44 years of service. Beginning as a full-time Spanish teacher in September 1974, John went on to work in admissions and as director of studies at the private school. He was associate head of school for three years before returning to the classroom in 2005. John completed his career by serving as world language chair, dean of faculty and director of studies. John and his wife, Geri, who also is retired from Kiski, live in Saltsburg.

Jerry Spangler '74, who studied political science, works in the treatment systems collaboration program for the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. He and **Susan Mahler '96** live in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Brad Thompson '74 lives in Monessen, Pa. He majored in elementary education at Cal U and was in the men's glee club and band.

Craig Saunders '76, of Sykesville, Md., retired as a fellow systems engineer at Northrop Grumman Mission Systems in Maryland. He is a 1983 graduate of Johns Hopkins University.



ACROSS THE MILES

Although they couldn't make it back to California for Vulcan Fest Homecoming Weekend, University supporters (from left) **Jessie Punia '08**, **Leslie Babcock '10**, **Brittany (Prater) Zaruta '09** and **Kitty Hession** celebrated this fall in Rochester, N.Y. The women were fast friends during their time at the University, and they get together 'semi-regularly' to reminisce about their days at Cal U.



FUNDRAISER FOR FAMILIES

American Legion member **Larry Maggi '79**, a University trustee and chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, joins keynote speaker **Denise Rohan**, the first woman to serve as national commander of the American Legion, and University President **Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80** at the 'Families First' fundraiser on Oct. 5 in the Convocation Center. The event raised money to help endow the Commander **Kerrie Gill Sr. Memorial Scholarship** for military families. **Gill '76, '83** was a former IT Department employee and a three-time commander of California's American Legion Post 337. He served as commander of the organization's Pennsylvania Department before his death in 2015.

Joseph Onorato '76 is the stage manager for his 25th Christmas show in the past 30 years at Radio City Music Hall. He lives in New York City.

Nancyrose Peduzzi '77 and **Charles Kidney** live in Coconut Creek, Fla. She studied speech pathology and audiology at Cal U and was in Delta Zeta sorority.

80s

Deborah Stoner '82 is a medical technologist for UPMC. She studied medical technology at Cal U and was a "little sister" in Sigma Tau Gamma.

Terri Ozegovich '84, of Gaithersburg, Md., is the commercial head of Oncology Companion Diagnostics for AstraZeneca. She studied medical technology at Cal U.

David Robinson Alladin '84 is a teacher for Ministry of Caring in Wilmington, Del. She studied speech communications at Cal U and was in the marching band, Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, Sigma Soul, and Alpha Phi Omega.

Tim Cossick '85, who majored in business administration, lives in Columbia, Md. He played baseball and was a member of Theta Xi.

Patricia Merdian-Hufford '67, '85 is a professional reader/scorer for Pearson Educational Testing Service. She studied English at Cal U and was in the band. She and **Harold Hufford** live in Herminie, Pa.

Jon "Peeps" Peeples '86 is a vice president at Philadelphia Insurance Co. in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. He studied environmental science at Cal U, played rugby and was in Delta Sigma Phi. **Jon** and **Cherie Peeples** live in Spring City, Pa.

Iffat Khan '86 works as a teacher in Karachi, Pakistan. **Iffat** was a Presidential Scholar and a member of Alpha Mu Gamma. He graduated *magna cum laude*.

Brian S. Reedy '88 was selected as site manager for two National Park Service sites: Fort Necessity National Battlefield and Friendship Hill National Historic Site. In addition, he serves as chief of interpretation for both sites and is on the senior management team for Western Pennsylvania National Parks. **Brian's** career with the National Park Service spans 34 years.

Paul LaFrankie '88 is a technical support supervisor for Verizon. He studied business administration at Cal U and was involved with Theta Xi. **Paul** and **Kara Robinson LaFrankie '09** live in Canal Winchester, Ohio.

90s

Jim Lockard '88, '90, of Harrison City, Pa., is a partner with 911 Authority LLC, which specializes in consulting services for 911, Next Generation telecommunications networks, emergency management and public safety. **Jim**, with degrees in political science and geography, has been recognized in the 911 communications industry. He has served on standards committees to develop new technical methods for allowing 911 to accept new technologies, such as "text to 911." He has been married to **Catherine Ward Lockard '91** for 26 years. They have a son, 20, and a daughter, 15.

Patricia Robertson '88, '90 lives in Charleroi, Pa. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's in school psychology.

Greg Marr '90 is a certified athletic trainer for the U.S. Navy in Jacksonville, N.C.

Don Gray '91 is chief technology officer for PacketViper LLC, a provider of cybersecurity solutions. He studied business administration and computer science at Cal U and volunteers as an industry adviser for the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

Anthony Alviar '93 is an information technology manager for Fayette County 911. He studied secondary education.

William Matrogran '92 is vice president for construction management and operations for Erie Insurance. He majored in industrial technology at Cal U and lives in Erie, Pa.

Eric Bridenbaugh '92 is the sports medicine coordinator for Hunterdon Healthcare. He also is working as an athletic trainer at Raritan Valley (N.J.) Community College and developing sports medicine programs with high schools and colleges.

Ereka Woods '93 lives in Powder Springs, Ga. At Cal U, she studied the humanities and played basketball and softball.

Lisa Cooper Dudney '90, '93 is vice president of account services for Distinct Creative Agency. **Lisa** studied business administration and management, marketing and communications at Cal U. She and **David Dudney '93** live in Jeannette, Pa.

Lynne Stout '94 is chair of the board for the Washington County (Pa.) Community Foundation. She works for her family's business, Atlas Services Corp., in Eighty Four, Pa. She previously was a social services coordinator in the healthcare industry and a legislative aide in the Pennsylvania State Senate. **Lynne** studied gerontology at Cal U. She is a past president of the Cal U Alumni Association Board and a past member of the board of the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Beam '94, of Youngstown, N.Y., is the owner of Vagabond Bowties. He is curator of exhibitions and special projects, and art history processor at the Castellani Art Museum at Niagara University.



Isaac Melvin '02 and his wife, **Yvonica**, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at the place their married life began: Old Main Chapel. **Isaac Melvin** majored in business administration and economics at Cal U. They have two children, **Isaac** and **Isaiah**, and live in Uniontown, Pa.



CAREER ADVICE

Alumnus **Marshal Carper '09**, a content marketing strategist and founder of Carper Communications, visited two English classes at Cal U during the fall semester. Marshal spoke about options for students who major in English, drawing on his experience in marketing, journalism, publishing and videogame development.

Dr. Todd Keruskin '96 is the superintendent of the Elizabeth Forward School District in Allegheny County, Pa.

Jessica Jesso Sisler '72, '97 is a retired principal in the Albert Gallatin Area School District in Fayette County, Pa. She and Ronald Sisler live in California, Pa.

Randall Page '97 lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. He majored in communication studies at Cal U and was involved with CUTV and WVCS.

Chris Sefcheck '97 is the superintendent of the Bethlehem-Center School District in Washington County, Pa. Previously, he was principal at Thomas Jefferson High School in the West Jefferson Hills School District in Allegheny County, Pa. He served in the U.S. Air Force and in the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Frank Shoaf '98 was promoted in May 2018 to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. Shoaf is a military strategist and operations officer with the 193rd Air Operations Group, based State College, Pa. He recently returned from a six-month tour at the 613th Air Operations Center, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where he worked in war gaming and strategic planning. Upon completion of this tour, he was selected to serve as the acting squadron commander of the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron in Johnstown, Pa., which controls air traffic for the John Murtha-Cambria County Airport. Shoaf was a member of the Acacia fraternity and the Cal U Marching Band; he earned his bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis on public administration.

Ryan "Chuck" Kuntz '98 is assistant director of facilities presentation for the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Michelle Rollins '98, of Roscoe, Pa., is a Realtor for eXp Realty. She majored in geology at Cal U.

Eric Zwigart '98 was a finalist for the 2018 Spirit of the Entrepreneur award. He owns RPP Products Inc., an automotive products manufacturing and distribution company. Eric majored in business administration at Cal U and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

00s

Patricia Mays '00 lives in Clearfield, Pa. She majored in English at Cal U.

Susan Duderstadt '00 is senior director of information services at the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board in Columbus, Ohio. She studied applied computer science at Cal U. Susan and Will Duderstadt live in Gahanna, Ohio.

Jameson Auten '00 is on the board of directors for the Missouri Public Transit Association. He studied political science at Cal U.

Jennifer Carfano '99, '00 is assistant principal for Bower Hill Elementary School in the Peters Township (Pa.) School District.

Melissa Rosic '02 is the owner of Melissa Rosic Photography in Fairmont, W.Va. She studied fine arts at Cal U. Now she and Aaron Rosic live in Grant Town, W.Va.

Nicole Yacubovich '02 is the principal of Pine Spring Elementary School, in Virginia. She earned her degree in elementary and special education.

Heather Carpenter '01 and **Russ Carpenter '99** live in Charleroi, Pa. At Cal U, Heather majored in athletic training and Russ majored in business administration with a concentration in accounting.

Patricia Bogdewic '02 majored in social work and was involved in band, campus ministry and Kappa Kappa Psi as a Cal U student. Now she and the Rev. **Chad Bogdewic '02** live in Hermitage, Pa.

Stephen "Stevy" Morgan '04 is an independent associate for LegalShield. He majored in political science at Cal U.

In Print

Matthew Kay '14 has written *Not Light, But Fire: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom*. He is a founding teacher of English at the Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia, Pa. Matthew earned his master's degree in educational leadership from Cal U.

Jeffrey Carlucci '93 is the author of *Day of the Democrat: A Day of Reckoning for the Poor to Middle Class*. The novel's protagonist is a Cal U grad who coaches the California Pirates in a story about politics and class. Jeffrey majored in parks and recreation management and works for General Electric Corp.

Dr. Brian Johnson '94, '96 and James Vines have written *Reel Big Bullies: Teaching to the Problem*. Using clips from Hollywood blockbusters, the book is designed to help students, administrators, teachers and counselors create a safer school environment while encouraging students to stand up for their classmates who are being bullied. Brian is a faculty member in the Department of Academic Enrichment at Bloomsburg University and a youth pastor at Revival Tabernacle in Watstown, Pa. He studied English at Cal U.

Barb McKelvey D'Souza '06 has written *If We Were Snowflakes*, a dystopian young adult novel. Barb, who studied accounting at Cal U and works as an accountant, lives in Bridgeville, Pa., with her husband, daughter and two cats.



Robert Geletko '04 is the business director for the Mt. Lebanon (Pa.) School District. He studied business administration at Cal U.

William Walker '05, of Fayetteville, N.C., is an instructor for the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, N.C. He majored in education and was on the track and field team at Cal U.

Nikolas Roberts '04, '05 is an assistant professor of criminal justice and conflict resolution at Cal U. He and **Ashley Larrow-Roberts** '08 live in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lawrence P. "Paul" Vezzetti '06, a political science major, is deputy director of communications for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

John Owens '07 is the boys basketball coach at Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, Pa.

Alan Alcalde '07 is the athletic director at Propel Schools. He is engaged to Angela Allie and lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. He studied Spanish at Cal U.

John Saras '07 is assistant principal/athletic coordinator at Baldwin High School in Pennsylvania.

Bonnie Sypolt '08 is an assistant principal in Harrisburg, Pa. She completed her doctorate in curriculum and instruction through Liberty University.

Matthew Dodge '09, a former sport management major, lives in Charlottesville, Va.

Ashley Parker '09 lives in West Mifflin, Pa. At Cal U, she was a justice studies major and participated in track and field.

10s

Ryder Weischedel '10 is the director of strength, conditioning and campus wellness for the University of Jamestown, in North Dakota. He studied sport psychology at Cal U.

Donna Gilmore '10, of Bonita Springs, Fla., has been promoted to director of research and sponsored programs at Florida Gulf Coast University. She studied business administration at Cal U.

Steve Roach '10 is the executive director of athletics and campus recreation at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Jonathan Ramos '10 is an assistant coach for Manchester University, in Indiana. He earned his Cal U master's degree in exercise science, with a concentration in performance enhancement and injury prevention.

Shawn Kelly '10 is marketing coordinator for Lady Luck Casino at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, in Farmington, Pa. He studied business administration at Cal U, where he was in the Ski Club and Student Marketing Association.

Ken Ralph '11 is the director of athletics at the University of Maine.

Heatherlyn Wessel '11 is the principal at McAnnulty Elementary School in the Baldwin-Whitehall School District, Allegheny County, Pa.

Matt Erkel '12 is a science teacher in the Carlisle (Pa.) Area School District.

Robert Kagel '12 is the administrator for Chester County, Pa. He earned his bachelor's degree in legal studies from Cal U.

Troy Handza '12 is an officer for the Northern Regional Police Department, which serves Pine, Richland and Marshall townships, and the borough of Bradford Woods, all in Pennsylvania.

John Bielawski '12, of Brownsville, Pa., works in the healthcare industry as a senior analyst-PYXIS implementations for Beckton Dickinson. He studied computer information systems at Cal U.

Mariya Diawara '12, of Mahwah, N.J., is a senior immigration paralegal for Smith, Gambrel and Russell LLP. She majored in legal studies at Cal U.

Theresa Bush Kramer '12 is a global management assistant for Mine Safety Appliance. She and **Clay Kramer** '11 live in Zelenople, Pa.

Brian Lane '07, '12, of Martinsville, Va., was named Teacher of the Year at Martinsville High School, where he is an English teacher. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Patrick Henry Community College in Virginia. His bachelor's degree is in English; his master's is in secondary education. At Cal U, he was in theater, choir and Delta Chi. He also worked in residence life.

Michael Hardy '13, of Cumming, Ga., owns Medical Fitness and Wellness Group in Johns Creek, Ga. He studied exercise science with a concentration in rehabilitation science.

Christopher Campus '13, of Newell, Pa., is an accountant for Eat 'n Park Hospitality Group Inc., based in Homestead, Pa. Christopher majored in math at Cal U and was in the marching band, concert band, jazz ensemble, Kappa Kappa Psi and Alpha Lambda Delta.

Jeff Knox Jr. '14 signed a contract with the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League. He was a running back and linebacker for the Vulcans.

Mark Romeo '08, '14 and Betheny Romeo live in New Salem, Pa. Mark's degrees are in technology education. At Cal U he was active with the Technology Education Association of California.

Josh Ward '14 is the head women's basketball coach at the State University of New York at Canton. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Albert Padilla '14 is assistant athletic trainer/performance science for the Cleveland Cavaliers of the NBA. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U and was an assistant athletic trainer for the Minnesota Vikings of the NFL.

Christopher Schreiber '15 is a geographic information systems engineer for Knowledge Center Enterprises LLC. He majored in geography at Cal U and was active with the marching band, WCAL, GIS Club and Meteorology Club.

Emily Murray '15 lives in Brownsville, Pa. She majored in environmental studies at Cal U and was in Alpha Lambda Delta, the Honors Program, the Horticulture Club and Beta Beta Beta.



Michael Penn, who earned his certification in Comprehensive Special Education from Cal U in 1992, is one of 11 U.S. teachers selected to participate in PolarTREC (Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating), an educational research experience that partners middle and high school science teachers with academic researchers actively involved in polar science research. Penn teaches in the gifted and talented education program at Shaler Area Elementary School, north of Pittsburgh, Pa. He will be working as part of a research team from the University of Wisconsin to install and maintain remote automatic weather stations in Antarctica. Penn and the research team will be based at both McMurdo Station and South Pole Station during their Antarctic experience.

Kai Gagnon '15, who studied exercise science with a concentration in performance enhancement and injury prevention, lives in Odenton, Md.

Douglas Sherman '15 is the assistant principal at Northampton (Pa.) Borough Elementary, in the Northampton Area School District.

Dave Fuhrman '15 is the athletic-activities assistant director for the Seneca Valley School District in Butler County, Pa. He earned his master's degree in sport management studies with a concentration in intercollegiate athletic administration from Cal U.

Courtney Nestor '15 is an athletic trainer for NovaCare Rehabilitation. Courtney, who majored in sport psychology, and Matthew Steinmetz live in Holland, Mich.

Cassie Laegen '15, who earned a degree in exercise science and health promotion, lives in Woodstock, Ga.

Kelsey Davin Krauss '15 is a career counselor and social media associate for La Salle University. She earned her master's degree in education with a certificate in student affairs. She and Stephen Krauss live in Lansdale, Pa.

Jim Cassell '15 is the assistant principal at Brentwood (Pa.) Middle/High School. Prior to his current role, he served as distance learning coordinator for the Westmoreland Intermediate Unit.

Emily Nallin Harsh '15 is in the master's degree program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she completed the didactic program in dietetics in 2018. She married Martin Harsh IV in May 2018 in Cumberland, Md. They live in Cumberland, where Emily is completing her dietetic internship in order to sit for the Commission on Dietetic Registration exam. At Cal U, Emily studied liberal arts and theater.

Joanna Hamilton '08, '15 is a middle school vice principal at the San Roberto International School, in Monterrey, Mexico. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

LIVING HISTORY

Edward Sikora '49, of Brownsville, Pa., holds a WWII portrait of himself during the community night event at the *We Can Do It! WWII* exhibition at Manderino Library. Sikora enrolled with a friend at California State Teachers College after returning home at the end of the war. The traveling exhibition from the Senator John Heinz History Center was on display at Cal U through Oct. 5. Artifacts from local historical societies and Cal U were shown through Nov. 11.



Corey Belonzi '16 is an assistant in the sports information department at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Chad Drown '16 is head athletic trainer for the Bakersfield Condors, an affiliate of the Edmonton Oilers of the National Hockey League. He studied sport psychology at Cal U.

Kevin Bruce '16 has joined Edinboro University as its 2018-2019 Frederick Douglass Scholar. He earned his master's degree in school counseling at Cal U. The Frederick Douglass Institute of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education offers teaching opportunities to graduate students pursuing careers as university faculty.

Michael Joyce '16 is the principal at Bishop Canevin High School, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Erin Scanlon '16, of Levittown, Pa., is a private events director for Hartefeld National Golf Club. She majored in tourism studies at Cal U, where she participated in track and field and Cal Rocks.

Patrick Shroyer '16, of Falls Church, Va., is a health and wellness professional. He earned his degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Kileigh Hess '16 is an athletic trainer at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. She earned her master's degree in athletic training and was in the Athletic Training Club and Alpha Sigma Alpha. Kileigh and **Ryan Hess '17** live in Elizabethtown, Pa.

Mary Kathryn Schickel '16 is an assistant athletic trainer at Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pa. She majored in athletic training at Cal U.

Zachariah Oney '17 lives in Coal Center, Pa. At Cal U he majored in commercial music technology and was a member of the choir.

Carla Maestre '17 is a golf manager for USA Sport and Study. She studied business administration and communication studies at Cal U, where she also played golf. She and **Nicholas Eritz '16** live in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Morgan Hoover '17 is the assistant volleyball coach at Concordia College, in Minnesota. She earned her master's degree in sport management from Cal U.

LaMarr Woodley '17 has started the Woodley Leadership Academy, a charter school in Saginaw, Mich. A former linebacker for the Pittsburgh Steelers, LaMarr earned his master's degree in sport management studies at Cal U.

Nathan Kaylo '17, of Chicago, Ill., is manager of guest services and tour operations for Madison Square Garden Company — Chicago Theatre. He majored in business administration, played hockey and was involved with Habitat for Humanity.

'EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD'

Fran Imbrescia '69 found something familiar among a variety of college and professional sports flags when he visited the Reggae Beach Club on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. 'Cal U is everywhere in the world!' says Fran, a retired teacher who lives in Aiken, S.C.



Cherie Sears '81, '17 is the 2018-2019 governor of Rotary International District 7330. She also is president and a co-founder of The Village Early Childhood Education Center in California, Pa.

Glenora Kivador '18, who earned a degree in exercise science at Cal U, lives in Etna, Pa.

Daniel Bickerton '17, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is a sales manager for DoubleTree By Hilton-Pittsburgh Greentree. He majored in tourism studies at Cal U and was a member of the University band, Kappa Kappa Psi, Student Government, SAI Board of Directors and the Travel Club.

Jason Sippola '18, of Sharpsville, Pa., is operations supervisor for Estes Express Lines. He has an associate degree in technical studies and a bachelor's degree in multidisciplinary studies, both from Cal U.

ENGAGEMENTS

Re'maro Rush '10 and Danielle Danhires, both of Pittsburgh, Pa., are engaged. They are planning a wedding for October 2019.



Photo: Beth Swan '16

Shelby Bischoff '14 and **Brad Harman** '15, both of Carlisle, Pa., are engaged to be married after a proposal on Cal U's campus. The commercial music technology graduates met at marching band camp during their first year at Cal U. Now Shelby is an audio engineer and concert manager at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., and Brad is a production assistant at Motion AudioVision Productions in Harrisburg, Pa.

Erin Holly '17 and Ryan Gerney, both of Hopwood, Pa., are engaged to be married. Erin studied music education at Cal U and is an elementary music teacher in the Laurel Highlands School District, in Fayette County, Pa.

Kyle Wagner '14 and Lacey Aikins are engaged and planning a wedding for May 2019. Kyle works for Opus, in Pittsburgh, Pa.

WEDDINGS

Natasha Fabian '14 and **Joshua Good** '14 were married in October 2018. They live in Gibsonia, Pa.

Kevin Provance '14 and Kaitlyn Miller were married in August 2018. Kevin is a police officer with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. The couple live in Falls Church, Va.



Nicholas Reich '14 and **Miranda Gumbert** '16 were married in September 2018. Miranda is a business analyst at Creehan and Co., and Nick works at Accenture as an automation control engineer. Their daughter, Charlotte Reich, was born in July 2017.

Heather Berkebile '17 and **Logan Lichvar** '17 were married in September 2018. Heather majored in business administration with a concentration in human resources and minors in business management and psychology. She works for Somerset (Pa.) Hospital. Logan majored in environmental science with a concentration in fisheries and wildlife biology. He works for Eastern Elevator. They live in Hollsopple, Pa.

ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Thomas C. Wilkinson '60 and **Jacqueline Price Wilkinson** '58 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Thomas is an emeritus professor and former director of student teaching at Cal U. Jacqueline helped to coordinate the University's student teaching program.

BIRTH



Leah Sasko Reitz '07 and Karl Reitz welcomed their first child, Hadley Reitz, in July 2018. Leah is a special education teacher in the Belle Vernon (Pa.) Area School District.

IN MEMORIAM

- Harry E. Albert III '01
- Letha D. Bell '65
- Jeffery Alan Bierer '79
- Jil-Heather Karichko Bilsky '94, '97
- Gene M. Boltze '78
- Gerard "Jerry" Francis Boyle Jr. '71
- Richard Lee Cannon Sr. '69
- Timothy M. Caudill '98
- Ed Chuprinko '64
- Dr. Jesse A. Cignetti,*
emeritus professor of chemistry
- Melvin Claytor '70
- Vincent P. Coppolino '55
- Susan Dankovich Cochran '74, '87
- Robert E. DiAndreth '60
- Alva William Dorsey Jr. '67
- Frank Duda '72
- Joan B. Elliott '62
- Ruth Frederick '55
- John R. Garell '63
- Pauline J. Glott '48
- Reid M. Grove '58
- Dr. D. Patricia Lubits Gump '57
- Pauline Holod '51
- David R. Ingani*
- Robert Louis Jameson '51
- Denise Appolonia Kalan '74
- Robert A. Korcheck,*
emeritus professor of English
- Eugene J. Lancas '70
- Ronald B. Lenzi '63
- Dr. Andrew J. Machusko '59,
emeritus professor of mathematics
- Richard "Dick" Mark Matovich '62, emeritus
professor in the Library Services Department
- Asa Madison McCain Jr. '66
- Nicole Morris '99
- Ralph A. Nuzzaci '69
- Chris Pachuta*
- Janet A. Pina*
- James "David" Quisenberry '86
- Jesse James Risha '67
- Linda Myers Sallee '92, '95
- Dr. Anthony J. Saludis,* emeritus
professor of elementary education
- Frank R. Segina '54
- Allan E. Semanek I '64
- John S. Skocick Jr. '59,
emeritus professor of mathematics
- Robert "Bob" Frank Steiner Jr. '73
- Donald F. Strejcek '60
- Pamela A. Podboy Trinnes '68
- Martin Wallach Jr. '69
- John H. Walsh, Ph.D.,* emeritus professor
in the Philosophy Department
- Bonnie A. Raleigh Wyar '67

*No class year available or on file



BUILD
YOU

~~SIT TIGHT.~~
~~SETTLE DOWN.~~
~~STAY IN LINE.~~

AT CAL U, IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU. MORE THAN A NEXT STEP, WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT BELIEVES IN YOU. INVESTS IN YOU. EMPOWERS YOU TO BE BETTER, AND STRONGER. WE DON'T JUST BELIEVE IN YOUR ABILITIES TO RISE UP AND ACHIEVE, WE GIVE YOU THE TOOLS AND TEACHING TO ACTUALLY DO IT.

DON'T SETTLE. BUILD YOU. CAL U.

CAL U



Two wheeler

Despite below-freezing temperatures, faculty, staff and students accompany Daniel Greenstein (center), chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, on an early-morning bike ride through California and the Cal U campus. Greenstein, an avid cyclist, visited each of the System's 14 universities this fall, and he began many of those visits with a bicycle ride.