

CALU

REVIEW

SUMMER 2018

FREDERICK
DOUGLASS
INSTITUTE
launches careers





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome Weekend is often my first opportunity to meet incoming students and their families. As I talk with them on Move-In Day and at orientation sessions, I'm always struck by the variety of individuals who make up our Cal U community.

Our students come from rural areas, small towns and big cities across the United States, and from dozens of other countries. Many are recent high school graduates, but a growing number are adult learners who have decided to finish a degree or add to their resume.

I meet students who are the first in their families to attend college and those whose parents or grandparents are Cal U alumni. Some are student-athletes. Some have served in the military. Some are eager to embrace the traditions of campus life, while others are balancing their education with parenthood and/or a career.

Whether they have chosen a field of study or are still exploring their options, Cal U students are on a journey that has the power to change their lives.

No matter what they look like, where they come from, who they love or what they believe, all are part of Vulcan Nation. Together with our faculty and staff, they comprise a "diverse, caring and scholarly learning community, dedicated to excellence."

If empowered to reach their full potential, these future alumni will become the next generation of informed, confident problem-solvers. In ways large and small, they will change the world.

As the academic year begins, I am eager to meet more of the unique individuals who make up our Cal U community. I can't wait to hear their stories – and yours, as well. Whether you're a newcomer to Cal U or a longtime alumnus, there are many reasons to visit campus this fall. I look forward to welcoming you.

With warmest wishes,



Geraldine M. Jones

Geraldine M. Jones
President, California University of Pennsylvania

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A traveling exhibition at Manderino Library delves into the World War II experience.

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FEATURES



NEW HEAD COACH FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL

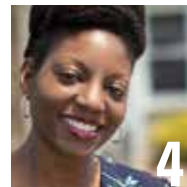
After leading one of the region's top programs for more than a decade, Danny Sancomb has joined the Cal U community as head coach for the men's basketball program.

Sancomb spent the past 11 seasons as head coach at Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia, where he posted a 216-115 record and led the Cardinals to three consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances.

He succeeds Vulcans head coach Kent McBride, who stepped down to spend more time with his family.

"Danny (Sancomb) has a tremendous history of coaching success," says Cal U athletic director Dr. Karen Hjerpe.

"He brings incredible knowledge of fundamentals, strategy and recruiting. We are looking forward to the start of the 2018-2019 season."



Launching pad for professors

At Cal U, Frederick Douglass Institute scholars hone vital teaching skills.



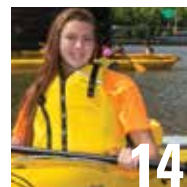
One team

Service members and military veterans find 'brothers and sisters' on campus.



Camera work

Alumnus keeps the cameras rolling at the Olympic Games.



Prepared for success

Internships are steppingstones on the pathway from college to career.



The journey begins

As graduates look ahead, a speaker shares tales from his travels.

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.



LAUNCHING PAD FOR PROFESSORS

Dr. Ayanna Lyles (left) director of the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U, talks with University President Geraldine M. Jones, who was the institute's first campus director.

Visiting scholars build teaching skills during a fellowship year

Janie McClurkin had research experience and scholarly publications to her credit. She was finishing her doctorate and headed toward a career as a university faculty member. But she needed to check one more box.

"I was looking for a position that would give me teaching experience, because my Ph.D. program was a research assistantship. I knew that if I wanted to be in academia and work at a larger school, I'd need that experience," McClurkin says.

She sharpened her skills at Cal U, where she spent the 2015-2016 academic year teaching science courses as a Frederick Douglass Institute scholar.

The FDI fellowship is a component of the Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative, a network of scholars at each of the 14 schools in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Named for the renowned African-American orator and statesman, the Frederick Douglass Collaborative focuses on making each campus inclusive and establishing connections among historically underrepresented students and faculty.

Since 2003, California University's fellowship program has brought 16 FDI scholars to campus, where they share their talents and receive professional support from experienced faculty as they prepare for academic careers.

Cal U's FDI director, Dr. Ayanna Lyles, also works with faculty to bring in speakers and organize activities such as the Douglass Debate Society tournament and roundtable discussions of diversity, inclusivity and social justice issues.

McClurkin's year in Cal U's biology department gave her the classroom experience she needed. She now holds a tenure-track position at Texas A&M University.

"We recruit top-notch scholars," Lyles says. "They are well published before they get here, so the opportunity at Cal U is to hone their teaching skills and bring new perspectives and insights to the University."

Some of Cal U's visiting scholars are invited to fill openings at the University. Here are the experiences of three faculty members who first came to California as FDI scholars.

Kelton Edmonds

This spring, the interaction between a social media star and a social activist galvanized students at Cal U's 13th annual Hip-hop Conference. It was precisely the mix that historian Dr. Kelton Edmonds strives for — a fresh, engaging way to foster dialogue about much deeper subjects.

Edmonds, a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, created the event when he came to California as an FDI scholar, in 2005-2006.

Students love the conference because "it meets them where they are," Edmonds says.

"Hip-hop is probably the most pervasive genre of music, so the idea was to intellectualize that, pull back the layers, look at the impact on society. The idea is always to bring artists or a DJ — like Common, or KRS-One or Mobb Deep — and pair them up with scholars to tackle a subject from a variety of angles."

He also helps to coordinate Black History Month programming each February.

"It all falls under diversity programming," says Edmonds, whose research pertains

to black student activism in the 1960s. "Students need it. They need to be exposed to (different) subcultures and regions and mindsets and gender diversity."

To that end, Edmonds has coordinated a new minor in African American studies, working with faculty in other departments to teach courses in literature, media, psychology, music and history.

"Students wanted it," he says. "It's good to see them embracing the value and benefits."

Michelle Torregano

For 26 years, Dr. Michelle Torregano was a teacher, principal and district administrator in the New Orleans (La.) Public Schools. In 2010-2011 she was an FDI scholar. Now she's an associate professor in Cal U's Department of Childhood Education.

Torregano lived in New Orleans in 2005 during Hurricane Katrina — an experience that influenced her personally, of course, but also professionally, as the school system was rebuilt after the disaster.

Her dissertation, "Clean Slate: Making Sense of Public Education in the 'NEW' New Orleans," addresses multicultural education, educational policy and equity for underrepresented groups, and

preparing pre-service teachers to engage with diverse populations.

"I explain to my students what my research deals with, and that what I'm passionate about is going to come through in my teaching," she says.

She wants to prepare future teachers for challenges they're likely to face in a 21st-century classroom.

"I bring up issues of inequality to my students, keep my opinions out of it, and let them discuss it. I want them to have a sense of empathy for the students they may teach. And when they encounter disparity in their classroom, what are they going to do about it?"

Her desire to impact the future of teaching led Torregano to shift her career focus to higher education.

"This is my bliss," she says. "I like the idea of putting my imprint on what future teaching is going to look like."

Randy Tillmutt

Dr. Randy Tillmutt aced his shot.

"As an FDI scholar, you are a faculty member — but you're not," says Tillmutt, a music educator, pianist and conductor who grew up in Kingston, Jamaica.

"I saw it as a one-year audition. It's not a guarantee that you're going to keep

that position. But you could. So, is there anything I can do to make that happen?"

How about writing, directing and producing a musical?

Working with Cal U's Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, an extracurricular group that did not have a faculty director, Tillmutt brought *Transformed — The Musical: The Story of African-American Gospel Music* to the stage.

Music Department chair Dr. Yugo Ikach was in the audience.

"What do you think about turning this into a class?" Tillmutt recalls Ikach asking. "Of course I told him yes."

University Gospel Choir is now a for-credit course, and Tillmutt continues to direct the Young and Gifted choir. This fall, in addition to teaching courses in the commercial music technology major and music minor, he also will direct the University Choir.

"The opportunity to conduct a university ensemble was always attractive to me, because I had been in an ensemble myself in college," says Tillmutt, a former elementary school music teacher.

"With a college choir, you can perform more complex music, so that was exciting and attractive for me." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

Dr. Kelton Edmonds



Dr. Michelle Torregano



Dr. Randy Tillmutt



FREDERICK DOUGLASS INSTITUTE SCHOLARS

For a complete list of Cal U's FDI scholars, visit calu.edu/review.

Veteran Don Fike, a geology major, and Tahaney al-Balawi, who's studying Arabic.



ONE TEAM

Office supports military students and veterans

Tahaney al-Balawi is fluent in two languages. A U.S. Navy veteran, she's been an interpreter and translator for both the military and the Department of Defense, putting her Arabic and English skills to use in locations including the Navy's support base in Bahrain.

But when she came to Cal U as a graduate student, the words she appreciated most came from the staff in the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs.

"They were really welcoming, from the very first email," al-Balawi says. "It was completely different from any other schools I contacted. I knew they were going to be there for me."

That's the mission of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, says director Robert Prah, a captain in the Army Reserve. The office makes services available to about 175 on-campus students who are current or former service members, as well as nearly 500 military students, veterans and their dependents enrolled in Cal U's online degree programs.

"We want to build that sense of camaraderie, of being part of something bigger," Prah says.

"We are all like-minded," adds Marine Corps veteran Don Fike, a geology major and a former student worker in the office. "It's like a code: 'one team, one fight.' We all help each other out."

Active since the mid-1970s, the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs moved last year to a wing of Residence Hall E. A large American flag welcomes students to a suite of rooms where they can meet with Prah or assistant director Keith Medley, a Navy veteran.

The pair helps student veterans apply for benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill. They assist reserve and National Guard members who are preparing to deploy or return to campus. And they actively recruit new students, promoting Cal U's military-friendly atmosphere and student support services.

"It's the little things that count," says Prah, recalling a reception for graduating veterans and military students.

"It meant a lot to our students that President Jones was there. The support of this administration makes Cal U special."



“These students... still have that desire to serve, to give back to other people.”

ROBERT PRAH
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

Tangible benefits

The University works with veterans to make best use of the education benefits they've earned. And Cal U discounts tuition for current and former service members from all military branches, as well as their spouses and eligible dependents, when they enroll through the University's Global Online division.

The financial support is critical, but finding a strong, supportive peer group can be equally important.

“Some of us have been through experiences, like combat, that civilians don't understand. We find it easier talking to another vet rather than a civilian,” Fike says.

“The military is like a sisterhood or brotherhood,” al-Balawi explains. “When you meet other veterans, automatically you click, because you have that military background in common. You know they're always going to help you out. You can rely on them.”

The transition to campus life can be challenging for current and former service members, whose experiences - and even age - may set them apart from traditional college students. When veterans first arrive in Prah's office, they often ask where they can meet other vets.

Prah points to the lounge in Building E, where students gather to discuss projects, relax between classes or use computers that can read the “smart” military ID cards required to access benefits.

Another answer is the Veterans Club. Active for more than 40 years, the student organization is open to all former and current service members. In addition to socializing, club members raise scholarship funds, collect toys for needy children and raise awareness about important issues, such as suicide among veterans.

“When you're in the military you're always busy, seven days a week,” Prah says. “When these students come back to school, they want to find a group and get involved. They still have that desire to serve, to give back to other people.”

Academic success

Military training is goal-oriented - and for students, that goal is a college degree. To recognize their academic achievements, Prah brought the SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society to campus.

August 2018 graduates al-Balawi and Fike are among Cal U's first inductees.

“It's a big accomplishment, to be recognized for academic excellence as a veteran,” says al-Balawi, adding that she's proud to list her SALUTE lifetime membership on her resume.

“I want my employer to see that.”

Both on-campus and online students may qualify for the honor society, and for scholarships earmarked for students with military ties.

“Our online students want that connection, too,” says Prah, who leads campus tours for veterans who come to California - often for the first time - to take part in Commencement.

Another academic initiative aims to bring older veterans to campus, especially those from the Korean and Vietnam war eras. A 12-credit certificate program, scheduled to start this winter, looks at the History of War, Service and the American Experience.

It's open to all Cal U students, Prah says. And it will give veterans an opportunity to earn an academic credential, even if military service derailed their college plans decades ago.

It's one more way to build a cohesive, inclusive community.

With his graduation date in sight, Fike offers this advice to veterans just beginning their Cal U journey:

“You do have support - you have us, the other vets, on your side. Utilize it!” ■

By Christine Kindl, VP for communications and marketing at Cal U

FAMILIES FIRST

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Alumni, University friends, veterans and their families are invited to attend Families First, a fundraiser to benefit the Commander Kerrie Gill Jr. Memorial Family Scholarship for military families.

The event Oct. 5 at the Cal U Convocation Center includes dinner at 6 p.m. and an address by Denise Rohan, Past National Commander of the American Legion.

Separate tickets are available for a pre-dinner Commanders Reception at 4:30 p.m., where guests can meet Rohan and other VIPs.

Ticket price is \$25 per person, plus \$15 for the optional Commanders Reception.

To order tickets or explore sponsorship opportunities, contact Robert Prah, director of the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, at 724-938-4076 or prah@calu.edu.

EXHIBITION LOOKS BACK AT WORLD WAR II

Alumni, Cal U friends supplement Heinz History Center collection

Charlotte Glod Simmons' big brother Walter graduated from California State Teachers College in 1942, planning to begin his career as a teacher.

Instead, he was drafted immediately by the Army and sent to South Carolina for training before being shipped overseas to serve in World War II.

He died in combat on Sept. 14, 1944.

"He was involved in every activity in California," say Simmons, who graduated from "Cal State" in 1949. "It was a great loss to the family."

To honor her brother, Simmons has loaned family treasures to Cal U to display in conjunction with *We Can Do It! WWII*, a traveling exhibition from the Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

The items include a picture of her two sisters visiting her brother's grave in France and a program describing the dedication of a Hammond electric organ to fallen Cal U students and all students who served in the war.

Simmons also shared her memories as part of a digital oral history housed at the library.

In addition, visitors can learn about the development of the jeep, produced by the American Bantam Car Co. in Butler, Pa., and hear stories about Rosie the Riveter and local Tuskegee Airmen.

Under the direction of William Meloy, chair of the Department of Library Services, and Daniel Zyglowicz, archives and special collections

technician, Cal U is displaying artifacts from local history centers and World War II items on loan from alumni, staff, faculty and students.

"This is the first time I've been able to discuss my brother's service, and it was hard to bring up the memories," says Simmons.

"I deliberated when I was asked to do this. And then I thought, 'I must do it.' There's a reason for me being on this Earth for 91 years — to bring back some memories and let the feeling come out that this was a great loss of a loved one."

Jean Hale, executive director of community and corporate relations at Cal U, shared her mother's collection of identification cards, dog tags and troop assignments.

A scrapbook includes a remarkable series of letters pertaining to her father, Thomas L. Cuccaro: the first to inform the family of his death, the second to explain that the information was unconfirmed, and the last to state that he was alive but had been taken prisoner.

"I have always felt that the letters about my father's presumed death, and subsequent notifications sent to my grandmother, represent some of the most excruciating pain a mother could ever feel.

"It just seemed like the right time for me to share not only my dad's story, but my mother's remarkable stewardship of these materials." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U



SEE FOR YOURSELF

We Can Do It! WWII is free to the public through Oct. 2 in Manderino Library. Hours are:

MON - THURS	FRI - SAT	SUN
NOON - 7 P.M.	NOON - 4 P.M.	1 - 5 P.M.

Closed Labor Day weekend.

Pay-by-meter parking is available in campus lots 11 and 17.

Exhibition sponsors are Erie Insurance, The Eberly Foundation, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For details and news about special presentations: library.calu.edu/WWII.

Watch a video about Charlotte Glod Simmons at www.calu.edu/review.

DOCTORATE DESIGNED FOR EDUCATION LEADERS

Educators who aspire to become superintendents or other school district leaders now can earn a Doctor of Education degree at Cal U.

The Ed.D. in Education Administration and Leadership, new this fall, is delivered entirely online, making it a convenient choice for working educators.

The Ed.D. program has a special focus on fiscal resource management, one of the top challenges identified by school administrators. Coursework addresses areas such as business practices, financial management, human resources, and ethics and integrity in leadership.

A field project allows doctoral students to apply what they've learned and make a positive impact on their school districts.

In addition to the Doctor of Education degree, program graduates receive a post-master's Superintendent Letter of Eligibility, the state-approved credential required for school superintendents in Pennsylvania. Students who already hold the letter of eligibility can enter Cal U's doctoral program with advanced standing.

This is the University's third doctoral degree. Others are the Doctor of Health Science in Health Science and Exercise Leadership, and the Doctor of Criminal Justice.



Dean appointed to lead College of Liberal Arts



Dr. Kristen Majocho was appointed this summer to lead the College of Liberal Arts.

She comes to Cal U 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.

Majocho holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric, with emphases on interpersonal, intercultural and organizational communication, and communications ethics, from Duquesne University.

She earned an M.A. in Rhetoric and the Philosophy of Communication, also at Duquesne, and a B.A. in Communication from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania.

"The liberal arts are the beating heart of any institution," Majocho says. "My communication background will be

important to helping the College of Liberal Arts coalesce and form a strong identity on this campus."

The College of Liberal Arts houses the departments of Art and Languages; Communication, Design and Culture; Criminal Justice; English; History, Politics, Society and Law; Music and Theatre; and Psychology.

About 1,600 students were enrolled in liberal arts majors last fall, and every Cal U student takes liberal arts courses to complete general education requirements.

Staff member honored for volunteer efforts



The Zonta Club of Washington County, Pa., has honored a staff member with more than 30 years of service at Cal U.

Julie Kingsley, clerical supervisor in the Department of University Printing Services, received the Rose Day Award for Volunteerism at the club's 33rd

Anniversary and Rose Day Celebration.

Zonta is an international service organization dedicated to advancing the status of women. Its Rose Day awards recognize women for outstanding leadership and service in the spheres of business, community service, nonprofit work, education, volunteerism, health services and government.

Kingsley was honored for activities largely focused on cancer prevention, including the American Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days fundraiser, which she organizes at Cal U.

She creates and sells craft items to support Mon Valley Hospital's fundraising walk for cancer research. Since 2012, her team has taken part in the Peters Township Relay for Life, raising more than \$13,000.

On campus, she also organizes food drives for the Cal U Cupboard and serves on the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

"I can make a difference by doing one small gesture at a time," says Kingsley, who lost her mother to colon cancer in 2000. "I am finding my voice ... and leading by example."



Childhood educators earn STEM endorsement

Future early childhood and elementary teachers at Cal U will earn the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Integrative STEM Education Endorsement, an in-demand credential that documents their ability to incorporate science, technology, engineering and math concepts into classroom learning activities.

Beginning this fall, students who complete the bachelor's degree program in education for grades pre-K to 4 will graduate with a Cal U bachelor's degree and Pennsylvania's Level I teaching certification, plus the STEM Education Endorsement.

Students in the undergraduate special education certification program for grades pre-K to 4 also earn the STEM endorsement.

Cal U is one of the only Pennsylvania universities to include all requirements for the credential in its standard teacher preparation curriculum.

"Future pre-kindergarten or elementary school teachers who study at Cal U don't need to fit additional courses into their schedule or go on to graduate school to obtain this endorsement," says assistant professor Dr. Diane Fine, of the Childhood Education Department.

"In keeping with Cal U's special mission in science and technology, all students who are preparing to teach young children will complete the coursework and field experiences required for the STEM credential as part of their regular studies.

"This does more than save our students time and money - it gives them a competitive edge in the job market. Many school districts place a premium on teachers who are proficient in STEM subjects and can integrate important STEM concepts into their lessons."

New programs added to academic lineup

Cal U students can select from an array of new programs this fall. Among them are:

Educational Leadership: Weather and Climatology, a STEM-focused master's degree program for K-12 teachers that incorporates tuition-free courses from the American Meteorological Society. Teachers take up to three AMS courses, and then personalize the program with additional courses in Earth sciences, meteorology/climatology or a related focus area, plus specialized education courses from Cal U's Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership. The program is offered entirely online.

Political Science: Public Affairs, a bachelor's degree program that provides background in public policy and public administration, combined with applied learning in policy analysis and quantitative methods. The on-campus concentration allows political science majors to gain in-depth knowledge of public affairs and stand out when they apply for employment or graduate school.

African American Studies, an undergraduate minor that encourages students to think critically as they explore the profound historical and contemporary impact of African Americans on our nation and the world. Students can add the 21-credit minor to any program of study.

Student Affairs, an online certificate that prepares college graduates for entry-level careers working with students at colleges and universities. The 9-credit program explores the learning and developmental needs of college students, as well as the legal and ethical foundations of the field of student affairs.

In addition, seven business programs have been converted from concentrations within the business administration major to full degree programs. Students now can earn a B.S.B.A. degree in accounting, economics, finance, human resource management, management, marketing, and interdisciplinary studies in business and commerce.

To learn more about Cal U's academic programs, visit calu.edu/academics.



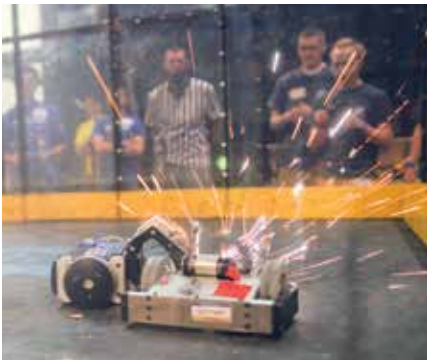
Tough topics

Kayla Grimm hits a high note during the spring production of 'Heathers: The Musical' in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Derived from the cult-classic film 'Heathers,' the musical addresses issues such as shaming, bullying, homophobia and teen suicide within a high school setting. Cal U theater students created a video to help audiences address these sensitive topics, and they hosted a session for visiting high school students that included a talk by an anti-bullying activist, a luncheon attended by cast members and Cal U counselor education students, and a special performance of the show. See the video at calu.edu/review.



Persons of the Year

University President Geraldine M. Jones (center) recognizes the Spring 2018 recipients of the Person of the Year Awards, including (from left) traditional undergraduate student Yareli Lara, faculty member Dr. Sheri Boyle, nontraditional undergraduate Joelle Swyka and graduate student Allison Franco. The awards are presented each semester by the President's Commission for the Status of Women to honor those who foster a supportive environment for women at Cal U. Staff member Patricia McClain also received an award.



Robots test their mettle at Convocation Center

Cal U continues to gain traction as a premier venue for high school robotics competitions.

"Robot season" kicked off this spring at the Hamer Hall pool, where almost 200 middle and high school students competed to build underwater robotic rovers and test their performance. The SeaPerch Underwater Robotics project was organized in collaboration with the Navy Recruiting District, Pittsburgh.

Fans of classic 8-bit arcade games were in their element when competitors from nine states, plus Taiwan and China, arrived for the Greater Pittsburgh Regional *FIRST*® Robotics Competition in the Convocation Center.

In the *FIRST*® POWER UP challenge, teams maneuvered their 120-pound robots through an environment reminiscent of early videogames. Drivers from more than 50 teams earned points for loading "power cubes" onto giant balancing scales, then ascending a central tower before the buzzer sounded.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania BotsIQ Finals returned to the Convocation Center for a fifth year, bringing teams from more than 60 schools. The action was fast and furious inside two shatterproof arenas as the 15-pound robots tried to smash their opponents.

The season closed with the National Robotics League's national competition, a two-day 'bots battle that attracted more than 70 teams from across Pennsylvania and as far away as Utah, Arizona and Puerto Rico.

Each of the competitions requires students to demonstrate skills in science,

technology, engineering and math. Cal U alumni mentor a number of robotics teams, and past competitors are enrolled in Cal U's engineering technology programs.

Students who attend the STEM-focused competitions also meet Cal U admissions staff and faculty members who serve as judges and volunteers.

Cal U Women United marks fifth anniversary

For five years, Cal U Women United has helped women of color achieve success by developing academic skills, social awareness, civic engagement, personal responsibility, leadership and healthy relationships.

The group marked its anniversary by welcoming co-founder Dr. Lisa McBride, the University's former special assistant to the president for equal employment and educational opportunity.

"It was my goal to champion inclusive excellence at Cal U, to recruit and retain women of color," she told the students. "We need to see 'us' on university campuses, to see our worth, our boundless potential."

Members also honored co-founder Darla Holley-Holmes, secretary in the Department of Art and Languages, who has been the organization's adviser since it was formed. In her honor, they established the Darla Holley-Holmes Book Scholarship, to be given to a member of the organization with at least a 2.5 grade-point average to purchase books and other supplies.

"Women of color need a place to support one another," Holley-Holmes says. "We meet every week, and it's a blessing to me."

"It has made me a better woman," she told the members, "and I stand in awe of all of you."



Adviser Darla Holley-Holmes and co-founder Dr. Lisa McBride (center) pose with members of Cal U Women United.



Open hearts

Recognizing that ‘open minds and open hearts make Cal U a better place to learn and grow,’ Sheleta Camarda-Webb ‘89, ‘94 (center), director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, presents certificates at Cal U’s fifth annual Lavender Graduation. Hosted by the Lambda Bridges LGBTQA+ Program Office, the event celebrated the achievements of 10 LGBTQA students and allies who graduated in 2018. Pictured are (from left) Cassidy Zemrose, Ashley Ivkovich, Lakijai Bynum, Stephanie Mandella, Camarda-Webb, Daniela Dell’Aquila, Amanda Teti and Caitlin Michaels.



Students Samantha Glocckl (left) and Allison Greenlief discuss their art history research with Dr. Gregg Gould, director of the Center for Undergraduate research.

Student researchers ‘Strike a Spark’

A record number of students and faculty presented their research, scholarship and creative activity at Cal U’s fourth annual Strike a Spark Conference, presented by the Center for Undergraduate Research and the Faculty Professional Development Center.

More than 200 presenters displayed their work – a first-time experience for many students whose posters were on view in the Convocation Center.

“Strike a Spark is a nice way to get feedback,” says recent graduate Senneca Davis ‘18, who presented her senior research project, “A Critical Analysis of Police Brutality Against African Americans Through a Social Work Perspective.”

After two additional conference presentations, her analysis is set to be published in the *Keystone Journal of Undergraduate Research*, a faculty-reviewed journal that highlights the work of State System students.

Center director Dr. Gregg Gould describes undergraduate research as a “high-impact practice” that offers multiple benefits for students. In addition to taking a deep dive into a specific topic, student researchers build skills in research design, data collection and analysis, information literacy, and communication.

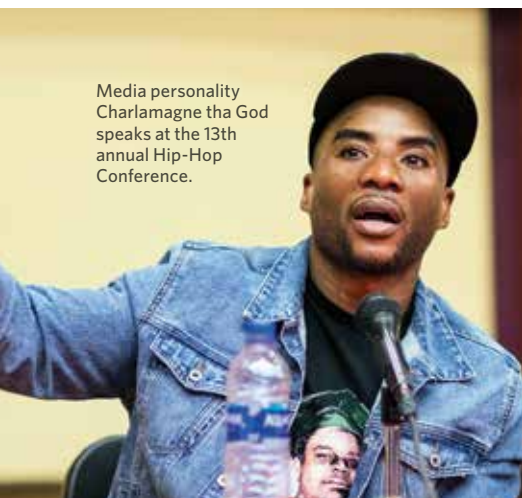
Dr. Stephanie Wallach, assistant vice provost for undergraduate education at Carnegie Mellon University, addressed the presenters.

“Through research, you have ... developed intellectual depth and can now talk authoritatively about the experience of using advanced learning beyond the classroom,” she said.

“That experience sets you apart from most other students. You are fashioning your own unique story line.”

Activism is theme for Hip-hop Conference

Radio, TV and social media personality Charlamagne tha God and Pittsburgh social activist Leon Ford held a wide-ranging discussion that touched on social activism, black pride and even their favorite books at Cal U’s 13th annual Hip-hop Conference.



Media personality Charlamagne tha God speaks at the 13th annual Hip-Hop Conference.

Charlamagne is a co-host of the nationally syndicated iHeartRadio program *The Breakfast Club* and author of the New York Times bestseller *Black Privilege, Opportunity Comes to Those Who Create It* (Touchstone, 2017).

Ford, of Pittsburgh’s East Side, became a social activist after he was shot and paralyzed by city police during a traffic stop in 2012. He was acquitted of all criminal charges and now travels the country to share his story and speak out about issues such as police-community relations, affordable housing and accessibility.

Anika Tillery ‘06, a social worker in New York City, moderated the discussion.

Students in the audience pulled out their phones and made note of the titles as the speakers discussed books that inspire and motivate them.

“Take your time, trust God and be committed,” Ford advised. “And follow your heart. Even when things don’t go your way, doors are opening.”

“Believe in yourself,” Charlamagne added. “You’re you for a reason. If you tap into your own unique, individual greatness, good things will happen.”



CAMERA WORK

Alumnus keeps NBC's equipment functioning at 2018 Olympics

As athletes whooshed down hills, sped around tracks, flitted over ice and soared above ski jumps during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, the eyes of the world were watching.

NBCUniversal captured more than 2.17 billion total streamed minutes of coverage and 1.85 billion minutes of live-stream coverage online.

Keeping those cameras rolling was a job for Andrei Enache '12, a senior field service engineer for Sony Corp., who put his Cal U bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology to work on a very big stage.

He was the only camera specialist for NBC, in charge of preparing and maintaining more than 200 cameras at the International Broadcast Center and at various competition venues.

"The cameras were still in the boxes" when he arrived in South Korea in advance of the games, Enache says.

"We went to all the venues to set up the equipment. In many ways, the easiest part for us was once the games began."

Except for the day when high winds delayed the start of the skiing competitions — and toppled cameras. They were sent to Enache, in the repair center.

"Every day is something different," he says of being a technical problem-solver. "It's the part of the job I really like."

It was Enache's second Olympic experience. He was in Brazil for the 2016 Summer Olympics, where he received an award for the first broadcast in 4K HDR, a technology that boosts a picture's brightness, contrast and color.

Enache, who earned a mechanical engineering degree in his native Romania, attended Cal U in 2010 as part of a retraining program after Sony eliminated his job repairing consumer electronics such as VCRs and camcorders.

Today, he uses his electrical engineering

technology degree to set up, maintain and repair Sony cameras, monitors and projectors.

"I chose Cal U because the EET program was ABET-accredited," he says, referring to the organization that assures that college engineering programs meet quality standards.

"And the labs were like being in a candy store!"

Students in Cal U's electrical engineering technology program conduct experiments in four on-campus labs — complete with oscilloscopes, function generators and more — and apply classroom theories to the real world.

"It's easier to remember when (learning) is hands-on," Enache says. "I can read about a new product in a manual, but if I get to touch it and see how it works, I learn much better." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

PREPARED FOR SUCCESS

Interns gain real-life skills as they explore potential careers

Internships are steppingstones on the pathway from college to career. These faculty-led experiences let students put classroom learning into action while introducing employers to the next generation of leaders in business, healthcare, education, science, the arts and more.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, more than 600 Cal U students strengthened their resumes by gaining real-life experience in workplaces across Pennsylvania and beyond. Here's a glimpse of how some Cal U students and recent graduates spent their time as interns.



Joshua Luko '18 headed outdoors for his internship. The environmental sciences major worked on stream restoration, wetland mitigation and forestry projects while interning at Habitat Forever LLC, a subsidiary of Pheasants Forever.

Ooey, gooey, slime! Hannah Minkus spent her internship educating future scientists at Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh - a perfect fit with her major, professional studies in education.



Keara Ashworth '18, a parks and recreation management major, honed her customer service skills as she guided zipline tours and led off-road driving experiences during her internship at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort.

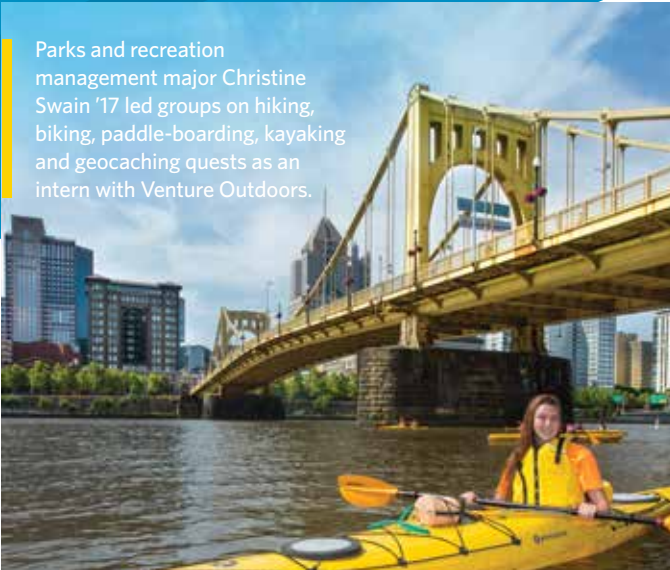


Business administration graduate Crystal Gall '17 interned as a sourcing specialist for Range Resources, where purchase orders, vendor coordination and accounts payable were all in a day's work.

For more, search
for #Prepared4PA on
Cal U's social media sites.



Parks and recreation management major Christine Swain '17 led groups on hiking, biking, paddle-boarding, kayaking and geocaching quests as an intern with Venture Outdoors.



Brian Fritsch '17 turned his passion for politics into a career. After an internship with a state representative, the sociology major is now a regional legislative aide for Republican district operations for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.



Art major Allison Greenleaf interned in the education department at the Carnegie Museum of Art, where her assignments included research, data collection and assisting teachers during summer art camps.



Criminal justice major Summer Greenawald interned with CASA for Kids, a nonprofit organization that trains volunteers to become Court Appointed Special Advocates who speak in the best interests of children.



Jeffrey Rask, a sociology major on track to graduate in August 2018, scored an internship with the Pittsburgh Riverhounds soccer team, where he promoted games and helped to build a loyal fan base.



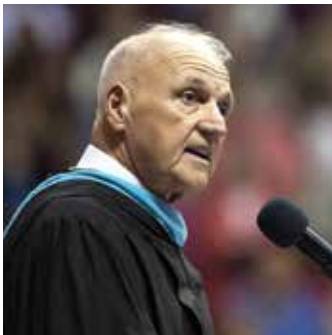
Brooke Lowe '17 observed court cases during her internship at the Allegheny County Courthouse. With a B.A. in Sociology: Deviance, she's now pursuing a Cal U master's degree in clinical and mental health counseling.

Psychology majors Taylor Dunn (left) and Lindsay Kastroll snap a photo with Blaze during the President's Lunch on the Quad, a new event for graduates.

A photograph of two young women, Taylor Dunn and Lindsay Kastroll, smiling and holding a large cutout of the Blaze mascot. The mascot is a white character with a black graduation cap and a black beard. The background is a blurred outdoor setting, likely a quad.

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Advice to graduates: 'Choose your own path'



Larry Maggi '79 shares stories from his cross-country motorcycle ride at Cal U's 186th Commencement.

Fittingly, the Commencement speaker's address focused on a journey.

As more than 1,200 students celebrated their graduation and prepared to set out on a new path, alumnus Larry Maggi '79, chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners, described his 5,578-mile motorcycle ride across the United States.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former Washington County sheriff, Maggi shared anecdotes from his 2016 journey, which included meeting a homeless veteran in Missouri and being invited to lead a Buffalo Soldiers parade in Tombstone, Ariz.

Maggi enjoyed a 24-year career as a state police trooper and criminal investigator before entering the political arena in 1997. He urged the graduates to occasionally "push the envelope."

"Once in a while, disconnect the filter, remove the glass and look upon life without a transparent barrier," he said.

"It does not have to be from the back of a motorcycle, but it does have to be with your own eyes and your own senses. You will find the world as it was meant to be seen, and you will discover your place in it."

Maggi told the graduates they are positioned to prosper.

"You will choose your own path to success, your own love for family, and you will create a life after Cal U," he said.

"I am certain that the education you received here has prepared you for life, and now you are ready to achieve success as you define it."

Next destinations

Joshua Luko is already on his way.

His 2017 internship with Partners for Fish and Wildlife, based at Cal U, turned into a job as a habitat specialist. Two days after receiving his diploma in environmental sciences, Luko headed to Garrett County, Md., under the guidance of program coordinator Jose Taracido.

He credits Cal U biology professor Dr. Robert Whyte for arranging the internship.

"Dr. Whyte's classes also gave me an understanding of why we were completing the work in a certain manner and how it benefited wildlife," Luko said. "Overall, I loved my experience in the major and the internship. The work was great hands-on experience."

“ No matter what happens, you must follow your own moral compass. Be courageous and know that you can — and will — make a difference for those you meet along the way.”

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
GERALDINE M. JONES

Mariah Howze, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented University President Geraldine M. Jones with a check for more than \$10,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

Howze earned her degree in psychology with a minor in business. Her next stop: a position in human resources.

“I definitely have a desire to make a difference in people’s lives, and I’m ready to improve a work environment so businesses can be more effective,” she says.

With a term as the student member of Cal U’s Council of Trustees behind her, political science graduate Ellen “Mari” Boyle is heading to Penn State Dickinson Law, where she received a full scholarship.

“This opportunity definitely would not have been possible without all the support and help I was given at Cal U,” she said. “I am certainly Cal U proud.”

Commencement ceremonies began May 11, when master’s degree candidates received their diplomas and were vested in their academic hoods. Undergraduates received their bachelor’s and associate degrees May 12.

Rose Nelson, a graduate of Cal U’s undergraduate nursing program, added a master’s degree in nursing administration and leadership.

“I learned so much in this program,” said Nelson, who is employed by an insurance company that handles workers compensation.

“I can tell an employer, ‘I may not have done this yet, but I know it, and if you give me a chance, I can do it!’”

Carlos Medina works for the Capital Area Intermediate Unit, based in Enola, Pa. His new master’s degree in exercise science, with a sport psychology concentration, complements his passion for helping athletes to succeed.

“I want to use my personal experiences and my education to help them with their mindset and training,” Medina said. “I’d like to get my certification as a performance coach and then be a consultant.”



Melissa Behanna, an education major from Monongahela, can’t wait to turn her tassel during Commencement.



Theatre graduates (from left) Sidney Popielarcheck, Mark Barrett and Kayla Grimm are all smiles as they gather outside Steele Hall.



It’s a great day for liberal arts major Virgil McClendon, of Pittsburgh.



Online student Hadeel Yaqoub waves to her family in the Convocation Center. She traveled from Iraq to receive her master’s degree in Social Science: Arabic Language and Linguistics.



Senior Class Envoy Mariah Nicole Howze (right) presents a senior gift of more than \$10,000 to University President Geraldine M. Jones.

Lunch on the Quad

Before the Commencement ceremonies, graduates gathered for a new event, the President’s Lunch on the Quad.

The informal gathering made Global Online student Amanda Hershey’s first visit to Cal U all the more memorable. The Coudersport, Pa., resident and aspiring personal trainer met Dr. Bruce Barnhart, who began his Cal U career as an athletic trainer and is now the University’s provost.

“The campus is amazing, and to have this (lunch) out in the open where people can ... mingle with others is really nice,” said Hershey, who earned a degree in sport management studies.

“The five-hour drive here was so worth it.

I can’t wait to go up on stage and get my degree!”

President Jones greeted each of the graduates personally and offered them heartfelt advice.

“Although you’ll receive your degree today, please recognize that your education is not done,” she told them. “Every day brings new opportunities for learning.

“Trust in your own abilities and talents. And no matter what happens, you must follow your own moral compass. Be courageous and know that you can — and will — make a difference for those you meet along the way.

“May you find happiness and satisfaction in the days and years ahead.” ■

Greetings!

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF ALUMNI
RELATIONS

Hello, Vulcan Nation!

After enjoying some great alumni events during the summer months, the Office of Alumni Relations is getting ready for an exciting fall season. I hope you will meet us at a location near you or visit us on campus. Don't forget, we'll celebrate Vulcan Fest and Homecoming Weekend Oct. 12-14. You won't want to miss out on this year's festivities!

Here is what's hot in the Office of Alumni Relations:

Cal U + Nationwide: On your side

The Office of Alumni Relations and Nationwide Insurance have teamed up to offer Cal U alumni discounts and special offers on a wide array of insurance products. More information on the special alumni rates will be arriving in your mailbox and your email inbox soon.

Become an Alumni Volunteer

Cal U graduates have useful advice to share and wonderful stories to tell our current and future Vulcans. When you volunteer your time and talent, you can make an impact on the lives of current and prospective students. We are seeking alumni volunteers to serve as mentors to current students and as Alumni Ambassadors to prospective students at Open House events each fall and spring. To get involved as a mentor or ambassador, please email me at barnhart_r@calu.edu.

Stay Connected

We want to stay connected with you, both electronically and in person! We invite you to attend any or all of our upcoming alumni events, connect with us on social media @calualumni, and join our new online community, where you can create an alumni profile, find information on upcoming events, support students in need and more. Visit calu.edu/alumni for details!

Also, check your inbox for the monthly edition of *The Vulcan Gazette*, our electronic newsletter for Cal U alumni. Each month it features an "Alumni Spotlight" profile of a noteworthy graduate. Submit your Alumni Spotlight information by email to alumni@calu.edu. Not receiving the *Gazette*? Email us at alumni@calu.edu.



Ryan Barnhart '08, '09
Director of Alumni Relations

ALUMNI NEWS



Greetings from sunny Bradenton

Our annual get-together in Florida is growing! More than 80 alumni and friends gathered in Bradenton this year to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates in action at spring training. Stay tuned for details about the 2019 Bradenton event!



A golden opportunity

Erica Smeltzer '08 poses with the 1983 World Series trophy at the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum before the Cal U Alumni Night at Camden Yards, in Baltimore, Md. Nearly two dozen Vulcans enjoyed a private reception, a tour of the museum and photo opportunities with the Orioles' trophy.



Paying it forward

Alumni Ambassador Jimmy Pierce, a member of the Vulcans football team, concentrates on scoring points for his team at the inaugural Can Jam tournament sponsored by the Student Alumni Ambassadors. The ambassadors collected more than 200 items to support the Cal U Cupboard, which assists students who are experiencing food insecurity.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

**SEPT
7**

CAL U NIGHT AT PNC PARK

Join us for the 3rd annual Cal U Night at PNC Park as the Pittsburgh Pirates take on the Miami Marlins. Purchase your tickets through the University to receive a voucher for a cap with the Cal U and Pirates logos, plus info about a special pregame reception. Check your inbox for details or email alumni@calu.edu.

**OCT
12-14**

VULCAN FEST AND HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Come home to Cal U for Vulcan Fest and our annual Homecoming Weekend! In addition to the traditional parade and football game, Vulcan Fest includes family-friendly activities for the entire family. Check page 35 for a list of Vulcan Fest and Homecoming activities.

**SEPT
9**

STEELERS WATCH PARTY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kick off the NFL season in our nation's capital, where we'll gather at Maddy's Sports Bar, 1726 Connecticut Ave. NW, to cheer on the Steelers in their season opener. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be on tap starting at 12:30 p.m.

**OCT
27**

ALUMNI TAILGATE AT ADAMSON STADIUM

Join us on Appreciation Day as we recognize all the alumni and University friends who support the Alumni Association, the Office of Development, and Cal U. We'll get together for a tailgate party at 11 a.m., before the Vulcans take on Slippery Rock at 1 p.m.

**SEPT
22**

ALUMNI TAILGATE AT ADAMSON STADIUM

Come root for the Vulcans as they face conference opponent Edinboro University during the Family Day weekend. Our tailgate starts at 11 a.m. at the alumni pavilions outside Adamson Stadium.

**NOV
4**

STEELERS WATCH PARTY IN PHILADELPHIA

The Eagles might have a bye, but we'll be in Philadelphia, Pa., for a Steelers watch party at the Fox & Hound, 1501 Spruce St. Meet us at this Steelers-themed bar and grille for hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and an evening watching the black and gold!

**SEPT
25**

ATHLETICS DAY OF GIVING

Be a winner! Show your support for student-athletes or direct your donation to your favorite Vulcans team. Former student-athletes and friends of Cal U's athletics program are encouraged to participate in this inaugural fundraising effort. Turn to page 28 for details.

**NOV
11**

ALUMNI TAILGATE AT ADAMSON STADIUM

Salute the troops at our final home game of 2018! We'll celebrate Military and Veterans Appreciation Day as the Vulcans take on cross-state rival West Chester University. Tailgate begins at 11 a.m.; game time is 1 p.m.

**SEPT
28**

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR IN IRWIN, PA.

Enjoy delicious wood-fired eats at the Fire Pit, 8933 Lincoln Highway. Our alumni happy hour starts at 6:30 p.m., so stop by for hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and great conversation with fellow Cal U grads.

**NOV
21**

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR IN PITTSBURGH

Kick off the Thanksgiving weekend with Cal U at Carson City Saloon, on Pittsburgh's historic South Side. Share great food and good times with fellow alumni. You won't want to miss this soon-to-be Cal U tradition!



Check the digital *Vulcan Gazette* for details about these and other alumni events. To RSVP or learn more, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418.

FACULTY AWARD WINNERS SHAPE STUDENT SUCCESS



Each year California University recognizes faculty members who contribute to student success. These outstanding professionals exemplify excellence in teaching, serve as role models for research and scholarship, and devote their time to service.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Recipients of the 2018 Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards were introduced at Honors Convocation in April, where they received medallions to be worn at spring Commencement. In addition, a scholarship will be awarded to a student in each recipient's discipline.



DR. CAROL BOCETTI

Dr. Carol Bocetti, a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, was honored for excellence in teaching. She has taught courses such as Wildlife Management Techniques, Ornithology and Conservation Biology since joining the faculty in 2004. She also is the adviser for Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society. Bocetti has received national recognition for her work as leader of the recovery team for the Kirtland's warbler, an endangered songbird species, and an associate of the recovery team for the formerly endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. Over the years, she has placed numerous students in positions working with these and other species.



PROFESSOR BARBARA HESS

Professor Barbara Hess, honored for excellence in service, has taught for 30 years in the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, where she was department chair from 2005-2008. She was active with the Faculty Professional Development Committee, serving as chair from 2001-2003 and as coordinator of the Faculty Professional Development Center from 2000-2001. Hess also was a member and officer in California's local chapter of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF). She was the local chapter's vice president from 2010-2014 and its president from 2014-2018.



DR. MARK TEBBITT

Dr. Mark Tebbitt, a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, was recognized for excellence in research. He collaborates with an international team of researchers focused on plant species in South America. He also has carried out botanical fieldwork in China, Madagascar, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Vietnam, and in sites across North America. Tebbitt, who joined the faculty in 2007, has published extensively and has supervised numerous student research projects and honors addenda involving Cal U undergraduates. In 2017 he received the Faculty Professional Development Center Merit Award for research.

FPDC MERIT AWARDS

Recipients of the annual Faculty Professional Development Committee Merit Awards are chosen by faculty committees, recognized at Commencement and honored at a luncheon each spring. Each 2018 honoree received a monetary award that can be used for professional development, enhancing the recipients' expertise in order to provide a high-quality education for Cal U students.



DR. JUSTIN HACKETT

Dr. Justin Hackett, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology, was honored for research. Since arriving at Cal U in 2013, he has published 13 peer-reviewed journal articles and made many presentations at international and national conferences. They include a talk on *Antecedents and Consequences of Global Identification* given at the annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology in Edinburgh, Scotland. This spring, Hackett and three advanced psychology students from Cal U gave presentations at the annual meeting of the Society of Personality and Social Psychology in Atlanta, Ga.



DR. SHERI BOYLE

Dr. Sheri Boyle, an associate professor, chair and MSW program director in the Department of Social Work, was honored for service and service learning. Through her involvement with the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education, Cal U's MSW students gain experience at three agencies that provide services to older adults. Boyle also works with graduate and undergraduate social work students on domestic violence issues in Fayette County, Pa. She and Dr. Elizabeth Gruber recently were awarded a \$1.9 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. This interdisciplinary project prepares Cal U students to serve rural communities in southwestern Pennsylvania as school counselors, mental health counselors and social work practitioners. Boyle also is a clinical social worker at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.



DR. MICHAEL PERROTTI

Dr. Michael Perrotti, an assistant professor in the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership, was honored for teaching and learning. He has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in secondary education and serves as the department's graduate coordinator, managing three Advanced Studies in Secondary Education, Master of Arts Teaching, and Master of Educational Studies programs. Perrotti serves on numerous committees, including the University Curriculum Committee; State System grant reviewer, subcommittee chair; Council for CAEP Accreditation of Teacher Education Portfolio; and Professional Development School Collaborative Advisory Board.



DR. ELIZABETH GRUBER

Dr. Elizabeth Gruber, a professor and chair of the Department of Counselor Education, was recognized for grants and contracts. The four-year HRSA grant she and Boyle were awarded includes \$1.2 million to provide stipends for 30 Cal U graduate students as they complete the lengthy field placements required to earn a master's degree. Since 1999 Gruber has brought in nearly \$2.5 million in grants. Highlights include the FIPSE drug and alcohol prevention and VAWA Violence Against Women grants, which have made a significant impact in developing consortia of professionals and community members to address alcohol and drug abuse, as well as dating and domestic violence.

OIL, GAS *and* MUSIC

Drew Donegan's career has taken him from center stage to the corner office - all with a rock 'n' roll soundtrack.

A member of the Class of 2008, Donegan arrived at Cal U with plans to study elementary education. He also had a passion for music and played guitar with a punk rock band.

He found he enjoyed promoting the group - so he switched his major to marketing.

"I applied what I learned in my business marketing courses to shape our branding and influence audience perceptions," Donegan explains.

The college band broke up, but Donegan connected with Pittsburgh rockers Gene the Werewolf — a party rock band that models its music after

'70s and '80s rock legends such as AC/DC and Aerosmith. He remembers performing in the Natali Student Center.

"The Cal U gig was one of our earliest shows. The band was practically brand new at that point. There was a camaraderie with my college friends getting to see our show, and spending the evening performing on campus was special."

After graduation, Donegan looked for a career outside the music industry. One of his bandmates pointed him to a job researching titles, leases and land rights for the oil and gas industry. It was 2009, and the energy industry was booming.

"I went from having minimal knowledge of oil and gas to honing my skills and becoming a quasi-expert," he says.

"I still learn something new every day. It has been an interesting career path."

Today, Donegan is president of BOP Abstract LLC, which handles project management, title work and other services for the oil and gas industry.

He manages a team of 75 employees, but even with an executive-level career, he hasn't abandoned his first love - music.

Gene the Werewolf plays several regional shows and music festivals each year. Last year, the band performed in a classic Pittsburgh venue.

"We played in the parking lot of Heinz Field, with The Clarks, for 10,000 people," Donegan says.

"I'm a huge football buff, so it was really fun to have an all-access pass to Heinz Field." ■

By Kayla Kuntz, social media manager at Cal U



MANAGEMENT BY THE MILE

The summer construction season is rolling along in Ohio, where the Ohio Department of Transportation is investing \$2.35 billion into nearly 1,000 roadway and bridge projects.

ODOT and its contractors will repair or replace 5,645 miles of pavement — the equivalent of a four-lane highway from Columbus to Albuquerque, N.M.

Helping to manage those projects is Dr. Sonja Greathouse Simpson '98, '99, who was promoted to assistant director of field operations for ODOT in March. She directs and guides all 12 of the state's transportation districts and two divisions at ODOT's central office.

"We are constantly trying to move the dial to meet the goals we have established for ourselves as an agency," she says of her role. "We work hard to manage money efficiently, deal with rules and regulations, and still meet our metrics."

Simpson earned degrees from Cal U in environmental science, and geography and regional planning. She has her Doctor of Business Administration, with a specialization in public administration, from Northcentral University.

Simpson has been recognized for her leadership skills — she was named to *Columbus Business First's* "Forty Under 40" list in 2012 and was named the American Public Works Association Manager of the Year for Administrative Management in 2013. In 2017, she received the Women's Transportation Seminar Columbus Chapter's 2017 Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award.

"I saw geography and regional planning as ways to give back to communities," Simpson says. "I was a planner for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission for three years and learned a lot about transportation planning. With ODOT,



the decisions we make also have a great impact on residents' lives.

"This is a \$3 billion-a-year agency," she says of ODOT. "We must pay special attention to ways we can manage tax dollars responsibly." ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U

ADVOCATE FOR CONSERVATION

Her job is more "halls of Congress" than "great outdoors," but the federal government is often where environmental conservation truly begins. So, naturally, it's where you'll find Devin DeMario '07.

DeMario graduated from Cal U with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies that focused on fisheries and wildlife biology. Now she is a government affairs associate for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Washington, D.C.

Since 2016, DeMario has worked on behalf of association members to advance favorable fish and wildlife conservation policies at the federal level. The agency also helps its members to coordinate programs regarding climate change, wildlife action plans, energy development and more.

"The association advocates for the states and for science-based management," she says. "It's fun to inform national programs and interface with science on management and conservation issues."

DeMario earned her master's degree in wildlife and fisheries science from Penn State University. She gained

experience with organizations such as the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, which awarded her the John F. Laudadio Conservation Leadership Award in 2008. She also has won awards from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, American Fisheries Society and Penn State.

In 2012, she was hired by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) as its legislative liaison.

"I often think, 'How did I get here?'" she says of her advocacy career.

"I got a lot of my legislative and policy experience working with sportsmen's organizations. I was called to Harrisburg and Washington to discuss policies that affect hunting, trapping, fishing and clean water.

"At Cal U, I started to take an interest in fish health and toxicology, and I did my honors thesis on endocrine disruption in wild fish. That pushed me into the realm of fish health and toxicology."

Before graduate school, she worked as a biologist aide at the PFBC, pulling trap nets, electrofishing

and assessing population dynamics. Her work, based at the Linesville State Fish Hatchery, provided insight into fish health.

"I've been able to combine all of that to integrate science into national policy," she says. ■

By Wendy Mackall, communications director at Cal U



In their own words

Each year since 1967, the California University Alumni Association has recognized outstanding individuals with its Awards of Distinction, among the highest honors bestowed on Cal U graduates. The 2018 award recipients were recognized this spring at a dinner in the Convocation Center – and they made it plain that their alma mater had made an impact on their lives and their careers.



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



“My years at Cal U were enlightening, empowering and enjoyable.”

MARY CULLEN '85

Vice president of the nuclear propulsion program at Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries in Newport News, Va

THE W.S. JACKMAN AWARD OF DISTINCTION



“As a direct result of my education here, I enjoyed the best job in the world.”

TIMOTHY CAMUS '84

Deputy Inspector General for Investigations with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Washington, D.C. *(Hear more about Camus' job online at calu.edu/review.)*

JOHN R. GREGG AWARD FOR LOYALTY AND SERVICE



“This University has given me ... educational preparedness for my life after college, (plus) old friends and new friends.”

BARBARA FETSKO '75, '83

Retired elementary school teacher, past president of the Cal U Alumni Association and a current Cal Gals member.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



“Cal U was so important... to me figuring out where I was going to go and what I was going to do with my career.”

STEPHEN PEARSON '10

Graphic designer; head of visual storytelling, branded content at Gannett|USA Today Network.

PAVLAK/SHUTSY SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD



“The greatest joy... is knowing that in some quiet way, I've helped to heal their hearts.”

NANCY SKOBEL '87

Director of the Cal U Women's Center; co-chair of the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

MICHAEL DUDA AWARD FOR ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT



“Without question, my time at California helped me become the person I am today.”

RICK KRIVDA

All-American player with the Vulcans baseball team; former MLB pitcher; gold medalist with Team USA, 2000 Summer Olympics.

MERITORIOUS AWARD



“In addition to getting an amazing education here ... what this University taught me was ... to do everything you possibly can.”

TERRI MCCLEMENTS '85

Mid-Atlantic managing partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, a multinational professional services network.

C.B. WILSON DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD



“Cal U is a family with countless opportunities to find your niche, build on your strengths and find your passion.”

DR. SHERI BOYLE

Associate professor, chair of the Department of Social Work and coordinator of the Master of Social Work program.

“Being a Vulcan student-athlete helped to open many doors to amazing opportunities... I am beyond grateful for the experiences I had at Cal U.”

 CLARISSA ENSLIN '14



Athletics scholarship sparked swimmer's career

In 2010, swimming talent brought Clarissa Enslin '14 to California from her hometown of Dalview, South Africa. Since then, she's made as big a splash in the environmental field as she did in the pool.

For the past two years Enslin has been a senior consultant for the Irvine, Calif.-based office of Ramboll, an independent engineering, design and consulting firm with more than 300 offices in 35 countries.

In October she will begin working at the company's office in Vancouver, Wash. — but first she plans to complete a five-month, 2,650-mile hike of the Pacific Crest Trail that she and her fiancé began in May.

Enslin's trek will take her through deserts, forests and mountains from the Mexican border to Canada. But her American journey began at Cal U, where the 100- and 200-yard freestyle star was a four-time NCAA Division II All-American, seven-time All-America Honorable Mention, and eight-time PSAC champion.

She first learned about Cal U from fellow South African Amanda Kuiper Hardaker '06, who also swam for the Vulcans.

"I researched the website, definitely

loved everything I heard about the University and reached out to coach (Ed) Denny, because I knew I could get a good degree there," Enslin says.

In fact, the two-time Capital One First-Team Academic All-American earned a bachelor's degree in geology with a minor in mathematics while maintaining a 3.99 cumulative grade-point average.

"Clarissa is the definition of what a student-athlete should be," says Denny, the Vulcans' swim coach for the past 16 years. "Through hard work she seized every athletic and academic opportunity presented to her — and her achievements prove this."

After her senior year, Enslin and teammate Kelsey Nuhfer '14 were among 58 student-athletes from all intercollegiate divisions to receive NCAA postgraduate scholarships.

Enslin used hers to earn a master's degree in geology, with an emphasis on environmental sciences, from Idaho State University. But she is quick to credit her undergraduate studies for powering up her career.

"My education at Cal U was an absolute delight, and my undergraduate research pertains ... to my current environmental consulting work," she says.

While working toward her bachelor's degree, Enslin conducted research on the efficacy of a wetland system in treating acid mine drainage at Moraine State Park. She created a landslide susceptibility model for southwestern Pennsylvania using ArcGIS mapping tools, and she developed a flash-flood potential index that is now being used by national weather services.

"All the classes I took at Cal U were beneficial to my career," says Enslin, former president of the student Geology Club. "I use the knowledge and skills I learned from them on a daily basis.

"Being a Vulcan student-athlete helped to open many doors to amazing opportunities," she adds.

"There is no way I would be where I am today if I hadn't received the scholarship to come (to California) to swim. I am beyond grateful for the experiences I had at Cal U." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U

ALL AMERICAN **x5**

Five must be Julie Friend's lucky number. The standout runner finished at No. 5 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase this spring at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.

Her time of 10 minutes, 4.37 seconds surpassed her previous PSAC record by nearly 15 seconds and earned her first-team All-America recognition.

A 2017 graduate, Friend closed her stellar career as a five-time NCAA All-American, receiving the honor four times for track and field and once for cross country.

Before heading to nationals, Friend aced the PSAC Outdoor Championships, where the Vulcan women took fifth place in a field of 16 teams. She won the 500-meter run for the third time and the 3,000-meter steeplechase for the second time.

Also earning All-PSAC honors, with second-place finishes, were Kailah Holmes in the triple jump, and the 4x800-meter relay team of Tatiana Beaufils, Summer Hill '17, Jaclyn Reinbold and Alyson Pierce.

Hill also earned all-conference honors in the 1,500-meter run, where she finished third.

Friend and Hill both received Academic All-America honors from CoSIDA, the College Sports Information Directors of America. ■



FIRST-YEAR GOLFER MAKES HER MARK

In her first season as a Vulcans golfer, Sarah Suazo was an individual qualifier for the 2018 NCAA Division II East Super Region Championships. She finished in 43rd place.

Suazo is just the second student-athlete in league history to be selected PSAC Golfer of the Year and Freshman of the Year in the same season.

During the regular season, she posted six top-10 finishes and won first-place medals at the Charleston (W.Va.), Ashland (Ohio), Mercyhurst and Gannon invitational.

Teammate Cai Yan Ho concluded her career this fall as the team's fifth PSAC individual champion, taking medalist honors by six strokes. That was Ho's fifth top-10 performance of the season, and she joined Suazo as a first-team all-conference pick.

The men's golf team closed its season by making its 11th consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II Atlantic/East Regional Championships.

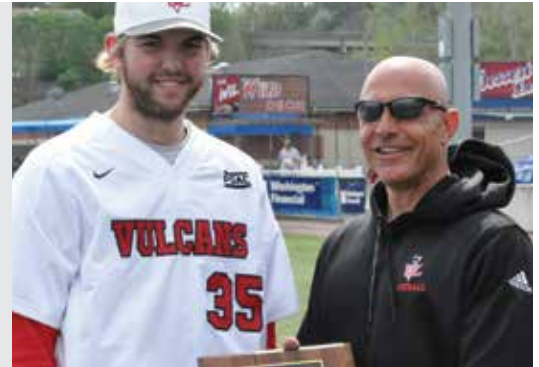
Ryan Smith, a first-team all-conference selection with five top-five finishes, led the team to a 17th-place regional finish by tying for 51st individually. Teammates Austin Smith and Ian Dunmyer both tied for 58th.

FOR BASEBALL COACH, 600 WINS AND COUNTING

When the Cal U baseball team swept Gannon University in a doubleheader on April 21, head coach Mike Conte '95 became one of four active head coaches in PSAC history — and the 35th active head coach in NCAA Division II — to record 600 wins.

During his 22-year coaching career at Cal U, Conte has compiled a 607-440 record. He has been named PSAC-West Coach of the Year seven times.

Four of Conte's baseball players received all-conference honors in 2018. First-team selections were second baseman Garrett Brooks, first baseman Eric Fairman and right fielder Chris Wastchak; relief pitcher Corey Fogle earned second-team honors.



SOFTBALL PLAYER REPEATS AS CHAMPION SCHOLAR



Recent graduate Courtney Sinclair '18 became the first Cal U softball player to receive the PSAC Champion Scholar Award in consecutive years.

Modeled on the NCAA's Elite 90 Award, the PSAC Champion Scholar Award honors the student-athlete with the top GPA competing at the site of each of the conference's 23 team championship finals.

Sinclair achieved a perfect 4.0 cumulative grade-point average while earning a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. She appeared in 20 games during the 2018 season, primarily as a pinch hitter and defensive replacement.

A native of Ontario, Canada, Sinclair is the fourth student-athlete in school history to earn the Champion Scholar award more than once. In all, Cal U student-athletes have received the award 17 times since it began in the 2011-2012 academic year.

The Vulcans softball team made its 30th consecutive PSAC post-season Tournament appearance in 2018.

Three players — third baseman Carlee Wickstrom, first baseman Paige Wilson and catcher Brooke Wilson — received first-team all-conference honors.

DASH MASTER EARNS TRACK TITLE

Men's track and field star Jae'Len Means was named the Most Outstanding Track Athlete at the PSAC Outdoor Championships after winning both the 100- and 200-meter dash.

He also ran the anchor leg with the 4x400-meter relay team, which earned all-conference honors with a third place finish. The team also included Caleb Foster, Kyle Tumpak and Avery Boea-Gisela.

Means competed at the NCAA Nationals, finishing 18th and 19th, respectively, in the preliminaries of the 100- and 200-meter events.



TWO CLUB SPORTS ENJOY POST-SEASON PLAY

Cal U's baseball and women's rugby clubs had banner seasons this spring.

The baseball club won its first 22 games of the season and advanced to the 2018 National Club Baseball Association Division II World Series. The Vulcans finished fourth in the 2018 NCBA II final top 20 poll.

The women's rugby club also rose to the top, competing in the National Small College Rugby Organization's Women's 7s National Championships for the third year in a row.

The club finished at No. 12, a program best, and for the first time won two matches at nationals.

VULCANS POWER THEIR WAY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Cal U's athletics program finished the 2017-2018 season on a high note, collectively earning a cumulative grade-point average of 3.27 for the spring semester, with 28 student-athletes chalking up a perfect 4.0.

The program overall has compiled a GPA of 3.10 or higher for 16 of the past 17 semesters.

The women's cross country team earned the highest team GPA, at 3.75. On the men's side, the soccer team posted the highest GPA at 3.22.

In all, 165 Vulcan student-athletes were named to the Spring 2018 Athletic Director Honor Roll for achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.



CAL WHO?



you!

ATHLETIC DAY OF GIVING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Show your Vulcan pride!

Join the team of alumni and friends who support Cal U athletics.

Your gift provides scholarships for student-athletes.
Or direct your donation to one of Cal U's
18 men's and women's athletic programs.

Give generously on September 25,
our 2018 Athletic Day of Giving.

CALU.EDU/ATHLETICS-GIVE

to make a pledge or give online.

50s

Pauline Holod '51 celebrated her 105th birthday on April 2. She is a retired elementary school teacher who began her career in a one-room schoolhouse in South Huntingdon Township, Pa.



Dr. Jerry Olson '57 received the 2018 Career Achievement Award from the Alumni Society of the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University. The award recognizes

him for nearly 60 years of excellence in education. Over his career, Jerry was assistant superintendent and then superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools. In 1980, then-Gov. Richard Thornburgh appointed him to serve as director of vocational, technical and adult education in Pennsylvania. Jerry was president of North Dakota State College of Science for 13 years; he retired in 2000 and was named president emeritus. He is a volunteer consultant with Epsilon Pi Tau, the international honor society for the professions in technology, at Bowling Green State University. He spends his time in Bowling Green, Ohio, and Brookeville, Pa.

70s

William Ashton '71 is a member of the board of directors of Spectrum Pharmaceuticals Inc. He is retired from a career at Amgen Inc. that included serving as vice president of U.S. sales.

Dr. Donald Griffith '71, of Anderson, S.C., works in the College of Engineering and Computing at the University of South Carolina.

Ken Alrutz '72 teaches Upper School English, coaches girls and boys tennis, coordinates international students, and advises the literary arts magazine *Mimesis* at Saddle River Day School in New Jersey. He and his wife of 38 years, Kellylee, live in Nanuet, N.Y.

Randy Haught '73 has been inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Alabama Chapter. Randy, who was on the Cal U wrestling team, has been involved in wrestling in Alabama for 45 years as a referee and a coach.

Donald Zofchak '74 is retired as police chief of South Strabane Township, Pa.

Kerri Rowan '77 has visited her 100th country. An avid world traveler, she has toured all seven continents and all 50 states. Kerri is a program analyst with the IRS in Washington, D.C.

80s



Jolene Zacovic Hough '79, '81 retired from teaching in the Brownsville (Pa.) Area School District after 36 years in public education. Jolene is completing her sixth year on the board of directors

of both the Pennsylvania State Education Association, which represents 180,000 educators, and the National Education Association, which represents more than 3 million educators. She is one of eight directors from Pennsylvania on the NEA board. She was chair of the Professional Standards and Practices Committee for the NEA and served on the Constitution, By-laws and Rules Committee, the Audit Committee, and the NBI Committee for PSEA. She has attended the NEA's Representative Assembly as a delegate from Pennsylvania for 13 of the past 14 summers. Jolene has been secretary of the Fayette County Education Association for the past six years and is vice chair of the Fayette County Children and Youth Services Advisory Board. She is on the board of directors for Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services (and on its Administrative Committee), and Southwest Behavioral Services. Jolene has been married to George Hough for more than 29 years. She has a dog, Anthony; three cats, Abby, Colin and Othello; one outside cat, Chloe; and a guinea pig, Oliver.

Karen Majernik Clawson '82 teaches biology in Palm Beach, Fla. Her husband, Larry, is the principal of Palm Beach Gardens High School. Their children, Mia and Corey, also are teachers in the Palm Beach County School District — which makes grandpa **Dick Majernik '55** very proud!

Dr. Michele Orner '86 is superintendent of the Octorara Area School District, in Pennsylvania. She studied theater arts at Cal U.

Robert Orkwis '87 is the founder of the Keystone State Wrestling Alliance, a professional wrestling organization that formed in 2000.

Gene Steratore '88 retired after 15 years as an NFL referee. Gene capped his career in professional football on Feb. 4, 2018, when he was the referee heading the officiating crew for Super Bowl LII.

90s

The Rev. Christy Wise '90, who lectures in biblical ministry studies and communication at Waynesburg (Pa.) University, received the school's 2018 Lucas-Hathaway Teaching Excellence Award for a part-time faculty member.

John Blich '91 is director of global marketing and communications for Eriez, a leader in separation technologies for manufacturing. He earned his master's degree in business administration from Cal U.



Michael Beam '92, curator of special projects for the Castellani Art Museum at Niagara University, was named this year's Trailblazer of the Arts during the Arts Services Initiative of Western

New York's fifth annual Spark Awards. Michael, an adjunct instructor for Niagara University's art history with museum studies program, is an artist, author, curator and public speaker who has spent more than 26 years as a museum professional and practicing artist. He has been at the Castellani Art Museum since 2003. He earned a fine arts degree from Cal U.

Heidi Cassell Bushko '94 and husband Justin are owners of Snapology of Clearwater, Fla.

Sue Kunkle '94, softball coach at the University of Southern Indiana since 2002, led her team to the 2018 NCAA Division II Softball Championship. A pitcher on the Cal U softball team, Sue compiled a 54-12 record. She helped the Vulcans win three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference West championships and one NCAA Regional Championship.

Leanna Spada '98 is executive director of the Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce. Leanna has been a business owner in Charleroi, Pa., and worked in insurance and human resources.

ALUMNI GATHER for Golf

Cal U alumni from Virginia Beach, Va., gather for a golf outing at the renowned Tournament of Players Club of Myrtle Beach, S.C. Both groups finished first in their respective flights. Participating were (front row, from left) **David Tisza '73**, **John Carasella '73** and **Geoffrey Timlin '76**; and (back row, from left) **John Kalocay '72**, **Dennis Slavinsky '72**, **Jack Sharp '74**, **Rich Sidone '73** and **Ed Timlin '74**.





Tim Dzurko '96 (pictured with Gov. Tom Wolf) was a finalist for Teacher of the Year in Pennsylvania for 2018. Tim teaches technology education at Altoona (Pa.) Area Junior High. He was

recognized at a ceremony in Hershey, Pa., and also visited the Governor's Mansion.

Christopher Sefcheck '97 is superintendent of the Bethlehem-Center School District in Washington County, Pa.

The Rev. Tina Black '97 is pastor of Hebron (Pa.) Christian Church. She earned her bachelor's degree in education at Cal U.

00s



Jeremy Davis '02 is a partner in the law firm of Davis & Davis in Uniontown, Pa. He earned his degree in political science from Cal U and his juris doctorate from Duquesne University.

Jeremy was an assistant public defender for Fayette County, Pa., from 2006-2011 and conflicts counsel for Fayette County from 2014-2015. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Fayette County Bar Association and Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and Southwestern Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers.



NEW OFFICERS COMMISSIONED

Sean Cushman '18 (left) and **Richard Myers '18** are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at the Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony in the Kara Alumni House.

Dr. Joseph Horzempa '00, '02 was chosen as the 2017 Professor of the Year for West Virginia by the Faculty Merit Foundation, earning a cash award of \$10,000. He is an associate professor of biology and program director of the M.A./M.S. in Biology degree program at West Liberty University. The Faculty Merit Foundation was created to recognize innovation and creativity among faculty at West Virginia's private and public colleges and universities.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Rohanna McClure '03 was a candidate for the 50th District seat in the

Pennsylvania Legislature. She earned her master's degree in education at Cal U.

Duane Dupont '02 was honored by the Tri-County Athletic Directors Association at its Coach of the Year banquet. Duane, who was a wide receiver for the Vulcans football team, has been the athletic director for Albert Gallatin School District, in Fayette County, Pa., for the past 14 years.



Joel Seelye '03 received the Michael K. Smith Excellence in Service Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. He was recognized for his willingness to offer

fellow attorneys his expertise, guidance and assistance, as well as for his professionalism, collegiality and dedication to the Young Lawyers Division. Joel is a partner at Grabill & Seelye PLLC in Altoona, Pa.

John Rozzo '03 is superintendent of the Upper St. Clair (Pa.) School District. He earned his master's degree in education from Cal U.

Johannah Vanatta '07 is superintendent of the Chartiers Valley School District, in Pennsylvania.

Noel Latta Perchinsky '07 of Cokeburg, Pa., who majored in psychology, is a registered nurse at West Virginia University Medicine. She and Ronald Perchinsky were married in 2013 and have a son, Ronald, age 4.

Kim Sell '08, a physical education faculty member at Jefferson Community College,

ALUMNI MEET AT HOCKEY PLAYOFFS

Josh Famularo '14, head equipment manager for the Orlando Solar Bears, and **Calvin Isaac '16**, group sales and corporate partnership manager for the Florida Everblades, take a break from their duties during the 2018 ECHL Kelly Cup Playoffs at Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. Josh was Cal U Hockey's equipment manager as an undergrad; he studied business administration with a marketing concentration. Isaac, a sport management major, was active in the Sport Management Club. The two met through **Jamison Roth '04**, director of Recreational Services and general manager of Cal U's men's and women's hockey clubs.



received a 2018 State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence.

Becky Hall '09 is the director of athletics for Kalamazoo (Mich.) College. She previously was the athletic director for six years at Oglethorpe University in Georgia. Becky earned her Cal U master's degree in sport management.

Allison Knappenberger '08 earned her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction degree from Liberty University, in Lynchburg, Va. She majored in secondary education at Cal U.

Jamie Cluesman '09 is the head women's basketball coach at the University of Virginia at Wise. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

10s

Dr. Wei Wei Xia '10 is a chiropractor in Riverside, Calif. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Matthew Wilson '11 is director of digital marketing and Internet sales for Maronda Homes of Pittsburgh, Pa. He studied political science at Cal U. *Professional Builder* named him to its "40 Winners Under 40" list honoring leaders in the building industry.

Lana Irwin '11, from the Tender Care Learning Centers (Meadowlands) in Washington, Pa., is a recipient of the 2018 Terri Lynne Lokoff Children's Tylenol Children's Cyrtec National Child Care Teacher Award. Each award recipient designed an enhancement project that offers educational, social and emotional benefits for the children in their care. Lana's project was designed to "get children outside interacting with nature using a garden." She will receive a \$1,000 award: \$500 to implement the project and \$500 for her dedication.

Andrew DiDonato '11, head football coach and professor of exercise science and physical education at Grove City (Pa.) College, was guest speaker at the Washington County Prayer Breakfast.

Priscilla Giddings '12 was seeking re-election to represent Idaho's 7th Legislative District. She served nine years with the U.S. Air Force.

Tyson Brown '12 is director of strength and conditioning at Washington State University. He earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Brandon Pasquale '12 is chief of the East Norriton Township (Pa.) Police Department. He earned his master's degree in law and public policy from Cal U.

Shawana Harrison '12 is the head girls basketball coach at West Hall High School in Oakwood, Ga. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Abbey Freund '14 is the assistant girls volleyball coach at Stoughton (Wis.) High School.

Chauncey DeMarie Brown '15 is the lead kindergarten teacher at DC Prep, in Washington, D.C. The founder of 9T Management, a brand management and consulting company, she earned her master's degree in sport management from Cal U.

Aaron Dinzeo '15 is a professional runner with New England Distance in Providence, R.I. He also provides coaching assistance in the community to help others achieve their fitness goals. At Cal U, Aaron was an All-American in track and field and was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Track Athlete of the Year in 2014.

Alex Kanellis '15 is the strength and conditioning coach for the University of Iowa wrestling team. He earned his Cal U master's degree in exercise science and health promotion, with a concentration in performance enhancement and injury prevention.

Theodore "Teddy" Mathis III '15 graduated from the City of Pittsburgh Policy Academy. He earned his master's degree in criminology from Cal U.

Mick Fennell '16 has signed with the Washington (Pa.) Wild Things baseball team of the Frontier League. The outfielder was a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference player of the year at Cal U.

Paul Butler '16, a former tight end for the Vulcans football team, signed a contract with the Oakland Raiders of the National Football League.

Paula Giran '16 is assistant principal of Eden Hall Upper Elementary School in Gibsonia, Pa. She earned her master's degree in STEM education from Cal U.



HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE ADDRESSES SCHOLARS

Blayre Holmes-Davis '12 addressed more than 1,300 Presidential Scholars at the annual Honors Convocation this spring. Holmes-Davis, who earned a degree in communication studies, is director of community partnerships for Adagio Health, where she works to ensure access to reproductive healthcare, wellness education and nutrition. Before joining Adagio Health, she was a program manager at the Women and Girls Foundation of Pittsburgh, where she trained more than 200 high school girls to be the next generation of civic leaders.

In Print

Gregory Christianson '89, of Gettysburg, Pa., is the author of a three-volume, family-oriented essay series, *Gettysburg Books for Kids*. Volume One, *Gettysburg Kids Who Did the Impossible!*, features stories of kids during the Battle of Gettysburg. It is scheduled to be released later this year. The series also includes *Gettysburg: A Book for Kids!* and *Gettysburg: For Those Who Can't Get Enough!*. All volumes feature Gregory's children, Liam and Jaden. Gregory majored in English and played soccer at Cal U.

Gina Napoli '95 is an author of *Clunk on the Head: How the Holy Spirit Got Our Attention*. Her writing has been featured in two book anthologies: *A Community of Writers* and *A Secret Place*. Gina publishes regularly in two regional publications — *TheBurg* and *Business Woman* — and the statewide magazine *Keystone Edge*. Gina is married to George Kopp, has three children and is an information technology specialist for the Department of Defense.

Robert McNally '96 has written *Life Is a Dream*, the first book in a series called *A Journey of Wonderment*.





GET YOUR 2018 HOLIDAY ORNAMENT



Why wait till the last minute? The 2018 Cal U holiday ornament is available now. The second in the series, this year's ornament depicts Watkins Hall, formerly Science Hall, built in 1892.

Cost for the shiny brass ornament is \$15. Pick one up at the Kara Alumni House or add \$3 to cover the cost of mailing. Limited quantities of the first ornament in the series, which depicts Old Main, can be purchased at a discounted price of \$10.

Start or grow your collection! To purchase ornaments, visit the Kara Alumni House, phone Kathy Kuharik at 724-938-5775, or email alumni@calu.edu.

Carole Clancy '16 is the director of pupil services for the Solanco School District in Lancaster County, Pa. She was director of special education in the Oxford (Pa.) Area School District and served 20 years in the special education department at the School District of Lancaster, where she was the supervising coordinator of special education, an intervention specialist and a teacher.

Christa Caceres '17 was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Pennsylvania's 189th Legislative District. Christa, a licensed insurance agent, majored in legal studies at Cal U, where she was a Presidential Scholar and recipient of the Excellence in Jurisprudence Award given by the faculty.

Wade Messner '17 is an activity therapist at Life Skills and Transition Center in Grafton, N.C. He was a candidate for director of the Regional Fitness Cent in Morris, Minn.

ENGAGEMENTS

Emily Warne '18 and Avery King are engaged to be married in June 2019. Emily studied business administration with a concentration in economics. Emily and Avery work in the risk management department for PNC Bank.

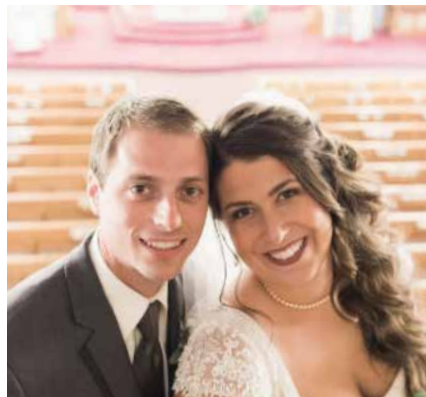


Amanda Platt '17 and Nate Tabelaing were engaged at Elk Neck State Park, in Maryland. Amanda earned her master's degree in advanced studies in secondary education and administrative leadership.

Joseph Gibbons '16 and Colby Cottell are engaged to be married in September 2018. Joseph is a project coordinator at Pride Mobility and head boys basketball coach at Mountain View High School in Kingsley, Pa.

Dawn Parasolick '91 and Dan Adamski are engaged to be married. Dawn is education director at REALTORS Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.

WEDDINGS



Mary Marin Marra '14 and **Scott Marra '10**, of Dawson, Pa., were married in June 2017. Mary, who studied liberal arts, is a member of the therapeutic staff at Family Behavioral Resources. Scott, who studied computer engineering, is a package car driver for UPS.

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas Hopkins '60, a retired teacher in the Scottsdale, Ariz., schools, and his wife, Lynda, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with all three of their children and five grandchildren in the mountains of Prescott, Ariz. Tom continues to travel internationally, touring Morocco for the second time and making annual summer visits to Paris and Avignon, where he studied French during a sabbatical leave 36 years ago. He returns to western Pennsylvania for reunions with classmates from California High School. Tom reports that he "values his excellent preparation for teaching from California State Teachers College."

Richard Moran '66 and **JoAnne Marcischak Moran '68**, of Presto, Pa., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Richard began his teaching career in Upper St. Clair, Pa., became an assistant principal at Fort Cherry High School and retired after 19 years as principal at West Allegheny High School. JoAnne, an elementary teacher, retired in 2017 from Peters Township School District. They have three children and three grandchildren.

BIRTHS



Abigail Wilson '07 and **Tony Mehalic '10** announce the birth of their daughter, Sadie Elizabeth Mehalic, in April 2018. The couple lives in Latrobe, Pa. Both are teachers in the Greater Latrobe School District.



Jessica Ryan Long '08 and **Matthew Long** welcomed their first child, Brantley William Long, in April 2018. Jessica graduated with a degree in chemistry and works for PPG in Delaware, Ohio. She and Matthew were married in June 2017.

Brittany Prater Zaruta '09 and **Doug Zaruta** welcomed a son, Jacob Douglas Zaruta, in May 2018.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles J. "Coach" Abramski Jr. '77
Richard Gerald Ambrose Jr.,* a food services worker at Cal U for 28 years
Thomas John Chetosky,* student
Audrey W. Christman '69
Doris Wright Coldren '46
Victoria Damato '80
John Duch '65

Theresa Loraine Diehl Dunston '63
 Frances L. Gray Durham '63
 Michael Godzak Jr.,* an instructor
 at the Cal U Fire School
 Richard S. "R.G." Groves '79
 Terry Lee Hill '76
 Dorothy Logan Hoak '51
 Robert D. Hughes '74, '83
 Amanda Jo James '18, student
 James William Kelly Jr. '68
 Nicole L. Kinneer '05, '09
 Thomas Eugene Kovalchuk '80, '84
 Dr. Ronald Lee Lombard '69
 Janice L. Boulton Mateka '63
 Raymond W. Mattie Jr. '90, '96
 Nora Marlane Willenberg Matzus '72
 Richard McGuire '59
 Phyllis Mcllwin,* emeritus professor
 of elementary education
 Yvonne Joyce Packroni '62
 Linda Marie Phillips '79, '92
 Diane Teresa Crutchfield Sanford '75
 William Schweiker,* emeritus professor
 of sociology
 Patricia A. Kaider Shavel '63
 Inez Juanita Faux Shriver '79
 Florence Natalini Skrypak '55
 Bernice Anfield Smith '53
 Ralph A. Smith '66
 John W. Sowden Jr. '59
 Terri L. McBurnie Suchy '04
 Margaret P. Majercik Swinker '48
 Regina Encapera Tinkham '74
 John Vojnovich '52

* No class year available or on file



REMEMBRANCES

Charles C. Keller '47, a longtime supporter of California University of Pennsylvania, died May 10, 2018. He was born June 17, 1923, in Goshen, Ind., and was a longtime resident of California, Pa.

Charles received the Alumni Association's John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service in 1975, and its W.S. Jackman Award of Distinction in 1989. In 2001 he received the Job Johnson Award from the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania. In 2004, he delivered the undergraduate Commencement address and received a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

Charles was a member of the Robert M. Steele Society, which recognizes donors who have made planned gifts to the University and the foundation. He was a past member of the foundation board of directors and a past member of the Cal U Alumni Association board of directors. He also chaired the University's capital campaign committee in 1998.

Emeritus professor Frank L. Vulcano died May 22, 2018. He retired in 1991 as an assistant professor in the Athletics Department and was inducted into the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005.

Frank was well known throughout Pennsylvania's wrestling community. He was the head wrestling coach at Cal U, where he coached four PSAC champions, 10 All-Americans and one national champion. He established the California University Christmas Wrestling Tournament, which evolved into what is now the Powerade Wrestling Tournament.



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.

Stay connected to the Cal U Alumni Association's online community! Your personal ID number is on this magazine's mailing label.

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). _____



DECADES LATER,

RINGS RETURNED

In 1984, two men had their initials engraved on commemorative rings marking a PSAC championship for the Vulcans football team. This spring, those initials – and the Cal U alumni network – brought the long-lost rings back to their owners.

J.A.N. James Alan Natali '74, '79 was California's sports information director and radio play-by-play announcer in 1984. Natali, who uses his middle name, lost his ring the following spring while fishing at the Lock Wall in Rices Landing, Pa.

"I think I took off the ring to tie lures and put it in my fishing vest," Natali said. "I thought it was gone forever."

Years later, the late Arlene Hoyle found the ring along the shore. She gave it to her daughter, Cyndi Coder '82.

She and her husband, Greene County Commissioner Dave Coder, couldn't find the owner. Eventually, Dave Coder gave the ring to a friend, Kevin Eggleston, assistant director of the Cal U Welcome Center.

Eggleston couldn't find J.A.N. on the 1984 football roster, but Bruce Wald '85, of Cal U's public relations staff, knew "Alan" Natali's full name.

"My wife and I are thrilled, because her mom always wanted that ring to be returned to his owner," Dave Coder says.

For Natali, a member of the Cal U Athletics Hall of Fame, the ring is a happy reminder of the past.

"It's just a beautiful ring," he says. "Getting it back made me remember so many great kids on that team who were such fun to work with. That was a special time."

H.G.H. Harry Gerard Hirsch '89, now of West Chester, Pa., was a redshirt sophomore linebacker when the Vulcans won the conference title. He realized his ring was missing when he graduated and moved back home from his off-campus apartment.

Hirsch didn't know that one of his college roommates had the ring. And he had no idea that, in 1990, that roommate passed it on to Michelle Matuszky Wilson '97, of Youngstown, Pa.

Wilson and her husband, Larry, tried unsuccessfully to find the ring's owner. Then they met Mark Vallozzi '73, also of Youngstown, a past president of the Cal U Alumni Association.

"We kept (the ring) in our safe, and every time I looked at it, I knew we had to do something with it," she says. "Mark told me about his involvement with Cal U, and I trusted him."

Facebook wasn't yet on the scene, so Vallozzi posted newspaper ads, talked to alumni and paged through yearbooks for clues. No luck.

This spring Vallozzi brought the ring to an alumni gathering where Alumni Relations director Ryan Barnhart '08, '09, Vulcans football coach Gary Dunn '94, '96 and Welcome Center director Jenifer Sigado '85 recognized the inscription.

"All this time I knew that if it were my ring, I'd be heartbroken," Vallozzi says. "I'm so glad the original owner finally has it back."

Hirsch occasionally returns to western Pennsylvania for alumni golf outings and reunions. Among his friends is Derek Dearwater '85, starting guard on the 1984 team.

"Whenever I get together with my football buddies, Derek is always wearing his ring," Hirsch says. "Each time I'd think, 'Man, I wish I still had mine.' And now I do." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information director at Cal U



Don't miss the first ever...

VULCAN FEST

AND HOMECOMING WEEKEND

OCTOBER 12-14, 2018

PRESENTED IN COLLABORATION WITH VISIT WASHINGTON COUNTY, PA

FRIDAY

Class of 1968 Reunion

Reception at Kara Alumni House

Vulcan Legacy Reception

All-class reunion party at The Meadows

Music by Joe Grushecky '71

Live performance at The Meadows

SATURDAY

Party on the Patio

Alumni brunch at Kara Alumni House

Homecoming Parade

and activities on campus

Vulcan Fest

Food trucks, Kids' Zone, live music & more at Roadman Park

Vulcans Football

Cal U vs. Gannon at Adamson Stadium

Vulcan Fest Concert

on the lawn at Roadman Park.

FIREWORKS after the show!

SUNDAY

Explore Washington County

www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com

CALU.EDU/VULCAN-FEST

for complete schedule and details





These boots were made for walking

After Commencement ceremonies, biology professor Dr. Carol Bocetti (center) poses with graduates from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. In a show of pride, they donned their caps and gowns — and pulled on the waterproof boots they often wore for fieldwork — before walking across the stage to collect their diplomas.