

California University
JOURNAL

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 9 JUNE 17, 2019

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Speaker to Grads: Author Your Own Story

Appropriately, the Commencement speaker's address focused on a story. "Every graduate in the audience today can be the hero of their own story," said Terence Carter, executive vice president of drama and comedy development for Twentieth Century Fox.

More than 1,200 students graduated from Cal U at the 188th Commencement. Graduate and undergraduate ceremonies were held May 10-11 in the Convocation Center.

"Take inventory of the knowledge you accumulated at Cal," Carter said. "Decide what of it is most important to you, and commit yourself to weave it into your story moving forward."

"You are all staring at a blank sheet of paper upon which to write the story of the rest of your life, in all of its potential glory and possible splendor."

Carter is also the great-great-grandson of Elizabeth "Jennie" Adams Carter, Class of 1881, California's first African-American graduate. Her photo and related artifacts are displayed in Carter residence hall, which also houses Cal U's Multicultural Center. Each year the University presents its Jennie Carter Award to an individual who exemplifies her indomitable spirit.

"She wasn't handed an easy life, but she overcame adversity to grow into a woman of intellect, strength and determination," Carter said. "Jennie started on a path to help those whom she believed were entitled to more than society would readily give them."

President Geraldine M. Jones greeted each of the new graduates personally



Excited undergraduates gather on the Quad.

and offered them heartfelt advice.

"Please know that I am also very proud of each of you for your hard work and the sacrifices you have made to reach this point," she said. "Take in the moment, and savor your success. You have worked hard, you have persevered, and you have accomplished something significant."

Crafting Their Script

Mary Fritz, chair of the Senior Gift

Drive Committee, presented President Jones with a check for more than \$11,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

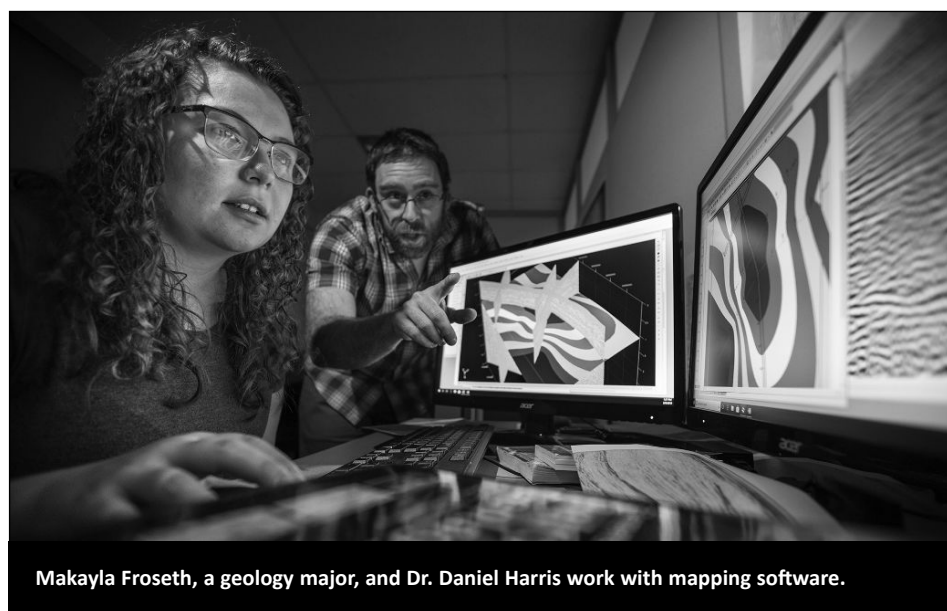
Fritz earned her undergraduate degrees in criminal justice and sociology with a minor in deviance. While pursuing a master's degree in sociology she is working with T.W. Ponessa Counseling Services, where she interned at last summer through a Cal U scholarship.

"Cal U has taught me the leadership skills I needed to excel in my internship, which resulted in a job," she said. "I was overwhelmed walking across the stage because all of the hard work that we, as seniors, have put into our classes, clubs, and community has paid off."

Austin Owens earned a dual degree in management and marketing.

Owens accepted an inside sales associate position with Bisnow Media in

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Makayla Froseth, a geology major, and Dr. Daniel Harris work with mapping software.

Cal U Receives Grants for Geology Software

The geology program at California University of Pennsylvania has received three grants totaling \$23.5 million.

The funds will be used for software that integrates geoscience, geophysics and engineering assessments.

Students who earn a Bachelor of

Science in Geology at Cal U will use the software for mapping, data management, reservoir modeling, well-planning, borehole positioning, and geophysical seismic analysis.

Energy and environmental companies are among those that employ geologists.

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Sales 'Brisk' for Bow Ties & Pearls Ball

Only a handful of tickets remain for the Bow Ties & Pearls Ball, Cal U's signature fundraiser.

New this year, the formal affair on June 29 supports legacy projects on campus and scholarships for Cal U students.

"Ticket sales have been brisk," said Tony Mauro, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations. "Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and guests, we expect this to be a very successful event."

The ball will be held in the Convocation Center arena, which will be transformed into an elegant "red carpet" venue. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m., with dinner from 7-11 p.m.

The menu includes a choice of Berkshire Long-bone Pork Chop, Oven-Roasted Striped Sea Bass or Vegetarian Napoleon.

Andrew Stockey, of WTAE-TV, and Melanie Taylor, of 100.7 STAR FM radio, will introduce University President Geraldine Jones and

serve as emcees for the evening.

The program includes recognition of the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame's 2019 inductees and presentation of the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award, one of the University's most prestigious honors.

After dinner, guests can enjoy a sumptuous Viennese Table dessert bar, photo booth, dancing and other entertainment. Music will be provided by the Bachelor Boys Band.

A silent auction will be held, also to support scholarships for Cal U students. Guests can bid on items including gift baskets and sports memorabilia.

"I'm looking forward to a wonderful evening with our Cal U family, alumni and University friends," said President Jones. "The knowledge that we are raising scholarship funds makes this a truly special event."

Ticket price for the Bow Ties & Pearls Ball is \$150 per person. Deadline for purchase is June 21. Tickets are available online at calu.edu/bowtiesball or by calling 724-938-4418.



Members of the first class to graduate with a Doctor of Criminal Justice and program instructors gather at Watkins Hall before Commencement.

First D.C.J. Class Graduates

Cal U celebrated along with 19 students who earned their Doctor of Criminal Justice during the 188th Commencement ceremony on May 10.

The accelerated, 42-credit hour program focused on criminal justice reform with an emphasis on effective policing, criminal investigation and rehabilitation; avoiding wrongful convictions; and observing civil rights.

Students passed comprehensive examinations and complete doctoral research portfolios. They also underwent an instructor development course, which is recognized in Pennsylvania by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission.

Cal U's D.C.J. is the first regionally accredited professional doctorate in criminal justice in the country and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

"It's an intense program, but very practical," said LaLinda McMillan Street, an English professor at Prince

George's County (Md.) Community College. "My goal is to get back to my passion, which is to teach criminal justice courses," she said.

Rodger Perkins earned his master's degree in legal studies from Cal U in 2008 and is a security consultant after a career in the U.S. Air Force, most recently at the Pentagon.

"I've always been interested in jurisprudence," Perkins said. "I want to get into teaching so that I can mentor the next generation of law enforcement officers."

Keeping career options open was the goal for Kirstie Bruno Stark, who works for Fayette County (Pa.) Adult Probation. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal U, in criminal justice and criminal justice studies.

"I'm 'Cal Who, Cal U' all the way," she said. "The sky's the limit. This opens up so many options; maybe one day I'll want to work for the FBI. I forged so many friendships for a lifetime in this program."

"This program attracts leaders in policing, federal agents, corrections, probation and parole, research, investigations and academics," said Dr. John Cencich, professor and director of criminal justice graduate programs at Cal U.

"I told this first cohort two years ago that they would pave the way. The third cohort starts in a few weeks and is even bigger and broader."

Tim Malfitano is retired as deputy director of public safety in Jacksonville, N.C. He's an assistant professor of criminology and sociology at the University of Mount Olive. He starts law school in January.

"If you want to market yourself, get this degree," he said. "We should learn all the time as adults. I wanted something that would let me teach young adults how to research and fact-find."

"The program has the right amount of theory and research. It's the right mix of 'research' and 'real.'"

Graduates: Author Your Own Story

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New York and started June 3.

"Graduating is awesome, and four years ago I never expected to do all the things that I've done here," he said. "Many people have helped me here, which is cool. I'm incredibly excited to do something new and experience what's next."

Steve Ruffing, who earned his degree in communication studies with a concentration in radio and television, said he thought about his four years during his brief walk across the stage in a familiar venue.

The president of CUTV, he covered many Vulcans games while serving as a camera operator, producer, host, reporter and anchor.

"I can't express my gratitude toward Cal U enough for giving me the tools to succeed," said Ruffing. "I've gained so much knowledge and experience from this school, it's hard to put into words. I am so thankful for my time here."

Commencement ceremonies began May 10, when doctoral and master's degree candidates received their diplomas and were vested in their academic hoods. Nineteen students became the first cohort to graduate from Cal U's Doctor of Criminal Justice program. Undergraduates received their bachelor's and associate degrees May 11.

Amy Martinek, of Johnstown, earned her Master of Social Work on May 10 after achieving her Bachelor of Social Work in 2016. She works as a therapeutic staff support for Children's Behavioral Health, and her master's degree will help her advance at work and prepare for the state counseling license exam.

"It was a two-hour drive every Tuesday or Wednesday



Terence Carter addresses Cal U's Class of 2019.

night for two years, but I'm so relieved it's done, and I loved my program and professors," she said.

Brett Mohny, a unit director at UPMC Mercy, earned his Master of Science in Nursing.

"I was very impressed and pleasantly surprised" he said of the online degree experience. "This is a big accomplishment, which took a of sacrifice, and it's very nice to come here and make the physical connection with the place I earned this degree."

Daniel Arnold, a chief warrant officer and mechanic in the U.S. Army stationed in North Carolina, earned his master's degree in exercise science and health promotion.

"I learned quite a bit about rehabilitation, performance enhancement and injury prevention," he said during his first visit to Cal U. "I am looking to change my career and moving into occupational therapy."

Society Recognizes Human Resource Program

California University of Pennsylvania is now among a select group of colleges and universities whose programming in human resource management is aligned with education standards defined by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the world's largest professional society for human resources.

SHRM recognition affirms that Cal U's undergraduate curriculum meets the society's standards for quality and professionalism. Throughout the world, SHRM has acknowledged that 440 programs in 331 educational institutions align with its suggested templates and guides.

Typically, years of professional experience are required for an individual to earn SHRM certification, a respected credential within the human resources industry. But through the university's affiliation with SHRM, students in good academic standing at Cal U may apply to sit for the SHRM-CP certification exam in their final year of study for the B.A. in Human Resource Management, providing they have completed 500 hours of eligible work experience through a human resources-related internship or employment.

To help students prepare for the rigorous exam, Cal U will offer a 3-credit certification preparation course for seniors, beginning this fall.

"SHRM certification is the industry standard," says Dr. Stephanie Adam, an associate professor in Cal U's Department of Business and Economics, and a SHRM certified instructor. "It attests to expertise in the complex practice of human resource management."

"Adding this certification would certainly make a graduate's resume stand out."

Human resources professionals, including current SHRM members, also may prepare for the SHRM certification exam at Cal U. They may enroll now as non-degree students and register for HRM 410, "SHRM-CP/SHRM-SCP Certification Preparation." Classes will be offered in a hybrid (online and on-campus) format from 4-5:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays during the Fall 2019 semester.

"We want to make this class as convenient as possible for HR professionals already working in the field," Adam says. "This is one more example of how Cal U empowers students to build the successful future they envision."

For more information about Cal U's B.A. in Human Resource Management or the SHRM certification preparation course, contact Dr. Stephanie Adam at adam@calu.edu.



Dr. Stephanie Adam

Trustees Updated on Strategic Planning

Noting that a strategic plan is “essential to the long-term growth and evolution of any University,” President Geraldine M. Jones provided an update on the strategic planning process at the June 5 meeting of the Council of Trustees.

Cal U’s current five-year strategic plan has been in place since 2015.

To build on its success for 2020-2025, the President has formed a steering committee to integrate the recommendations and conclusions that emerged from workshops organized by Carnegie Dartlet and two campus climate surveys.

“I’m charging the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with developing a vision and setting actionable institutional goals and objectives for the University over the next five years,” said President Jones.

Those goals, she said, will address assessment and evaluation of Cal U’s academic offerings; developing approaches to meet enrollment goals; fostering a culture of open communication, engagement and inclusivity; and maximizing facility use through effective space utilization and program demand analyses.

Four working groups representing a variety of disciplines will develop strategies and tactics for achieving the goals. Once the committees’ work is integrated to create a draft strategic plan, the Deans/Provost Council, APSCUF Meet and Discuss, Staff and Leadership Council, Student Government, College Councils, and Faculty Senate will be asked to provide additional feedback, comments and revisions.

“The entire campus community will be actively involved as we work to guide Cal U to new levels of excellence,” President Jones said.

She expects to present a final strategic plan to the Council of Trustees in December.

Following her report, the President proposed a resolution of appreciation for former trustee Annette Ganassi, who concluded her term in April. Ganassi, a Somerset county businesswoman, held a seat on the panel from 1994-2000 and returned to the council in 2009. She had served as council chair for the past two years.

The proposal passed unanimously. “Annette did a wonderful job,” said Jim Davis ’73, acting chair. “All of us admired her energy, commitment and efforts on behalf of the Trustees and California University.”

In other business:
• Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, introduced T. David Garcia, who joined the University in March as vice president for Enrollment Management.

Garcia reported that Cal U expects to exceed its fall 2019 enrollment goal for first-year students. However, summer enrollment has

slipped by 1.3%, compared to last year, and an overall 7% decrease in full-time equivalency (FTE) enrollment is anticipated this fall.

Barnhart described academic programs in molecular biology and veterinary technology that are beginning this fall. He also reported that the University received \$12.5 million in grants, contracts and in-kind-gifts in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

• Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, received approval for a revised five-year capital spending plan. It continues to prioritize construction of a new science building to replace Frich and New Science halls, but adds demolition of Azorsky Hall as the No. 2 priority. State funding would pay for both projects.

Thorn also reported that renovations at Coover Hall and Lilley Field are nearly complete; both will be used this fall.

• Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs, introduced Donna George, a Cal U employee and coordinator for the State System’s Alcohol and Other Drug Coalition.

In existence since 2003, the coalition implements strategies to reduce dangerous drinking and drug abuse on all 14 System campuses.

George explained that Cal U is the pilot location for using SBIRT — the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment program — with students who visit university health centers. The voluntary program, most commonly used in clinical settings, includes screenings and consultation regarding drug and alcohol use.

The project is funded through a \$175,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

“Cal U has been a pioneer in this program,” George said. “You should be very proud.”

• Christine Kindl, vice president for Communications and Marketing, highlighted her area’s production and reach during the past academic year.

Among noteworthy statistics: 3,294 radio and 108 television spots aired, and digital ads garnered 42.2 million views. Some 240 news stories were posted on the Cal U website, and more than 3,000 unique stories about the University appeared in print. The calu.edu website had 6.17 million pageviews, including 112,853 for the application page alone. The team completed more than 900 creative projects, including 20 feature videos.

• Tony Mauro, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations, reported that his office has raised nearly \$3.7 million in donations, which includes more than \$2.1 million in cash donations, so far in fiscal year 2018-2019. Both of these totals are the second highest in the past seven years.

The Trustees are scheduled to meet again Sept. 18.



CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



President Geraldine Jones enjoys a moment with faculty merit award recipients Dr. Kyle Fredrick (left), Dr. Rosalie Smiley and Dr. Craig Smith.

Presidential Merit Awards Bestowed

Three outstanding California University faculty members who contribute to student success have received Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards.

Award recipients Dr. Kyle Fredrick, Dr. Rosalie Smiley, and Dr. Craig Smith were recognized during the May 10 Graduate Commencement ceremony and received a medallion they wore over their academic regalia, plus a scholarship to be awarded to a student in each recipient’s discipline.

Fredrick, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, was honored for excellence in teaching.

He is an expert in hydrology and groundwater modeling.

His courses teach students to address water quality concerns and improve environmental conditions in our communities.

Fredrick is involved with research projects involving students, including monitoring local streams to improve water quality and mitigate flooding hazards.

Fredrick also leads annual field trips to the great geologic sites of the United States to encourage outdoor experiences and improve students’ understanding of the natural world.

A professor in the Department

of Social Work, Smiley was honored for excellence in service.

She teaches in the MSW program and supervises students in their field placements.

Throughout her career as a licensed social worker, Smiley has served countless families and children, often in underserved, low-income communities.

At the University, Smiley has assisted with two departmental reaccreditations; she also serves on the MSW Program Committee, advises the Graduate Social Work Students Association and is active in the Frederick Douglass Institute at Cal U.

Smith, a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, was honored for excellence in research. His research focuses on the work of the Supreme Court and its justices, and how legal decisions impact people’s lives.

Smith is the author of *Failing Justice: Charles Evans Whittaker on the Supreme Court* (McFarland, 2005.) He has contributed chapters to several books, and his research led to several articles for the *Journal of Supreme Court History*.

Smith continues to work on a new biography of Justice Tom C. Clark.

Cal U Receives Three Grants for Geology Software

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These experts are critical to the identification, mapping and extraction of both energy and mineral resources. They also play key roles in developing land for new construction or remediation strategies.

Collecting data is step one. Step two — converting it into charts, graphs, 3D models and other analytical information — requires powerful software.

“It’s a huge boon for our students to be able to say they have some experience with Petrel, Kingdom or GeoGraphix (software solutions),” says Dr. Daniel Harris, assistant

professor of geology at Cal U.

“They are all used across a variety of industries.

“Training on these competitive software packages will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills desired by the oil and gas, geotechnical, and engineering sectors.”

Cal U’s B.S. in Geology is distinguished by its focus on professional development. A broad foundation of coursework, plus field courses and other hands-on learning, prepares students for potential licensure in Pennsylvania and most other U.S. states. Learn more about geology and other Cal U programs at calu.edu/academics.

Staff Honored at Luncheon

Service milestones from five to 35 years were recognized at the Staff Recognition Luncheon held May 30 in the Natali Performance Center.

"I want you to know that the vice presidents and I appreciate your dedication and commitment to serving this wonderful institution and most importantly our students," said University President Geraldine M. Jones.

"We have a wonderful staff here at Cal U, and I understand all that you do on a daily basis in order to make this University run efficiently and effectively."

Alumna Mary Paula Birkinsha, an assistant in Manderino Library, was the 35-year honoree.

She has served several positions in the circulation/reserve area, and part of her current role includes hiring and coordinating 55 student workers and two graduate assistants each academic year.

"I really enjoy the students day-to-day and have an open-door policy with them so they can come in and get me anytime they need anything," she said. "When they stay with us four years you see such a big difference in them from when they were freshman."

"They're great kids, I work with great people and I like my job a lot."

Thirty-year award recipient Bob Wadsworth, an electrician and president of the American Federation



Fawn Petrosky, associate vice president for Administration and Finance, was honored for her 30 years of service along with 53 other staff members who celebrated service milestones.

of State, County, and Municipal Employees local union, could not attend the luncheon but spoke earlier about what longevity says about a workplace.

"A long time ago an older gentleman told me you can always tell how good a place is when you have people stay there 30-plus years," he said. "I love my job, am grateful for it, and am definitely a Cal U guy. Like many, I want to see us progress, move forward and do well."

Julie Kingsley, clerical supervisor for University Printing Services, was another 30-year honoree.

Shortly after starting at Cal U she

raised two boys as a single parent.

"I have always felt that getting my job at Cal U came at the right time in my life," said Kingsley, who last summer received a Rose Day Award for Volunteerism from the Zonta Club of Washington County. "Working at Cal U has helped to educate me about diversity and be very accepting of people."

The other 30-year recipients included Bridgette Law, a clerk in Academic Records; Fawn Petrosky associate vice president for Administration and Finance; and Nancy Pinardi (vice president for Student Affairs).

State System Honors Pinardi

Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs at California University of Pennsylvania, was recently presented the Suzanne S. Brown Distinguished Service and Outstanding Professional Award.

Established in 1997, the award was created to recognize an outstanding Student Affairs professional from the 14 schools in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

It is presented annually by the Council of Chief Student Affairs Officers to an individual who has demonstrated innovative or creative actions that have benefited his or her institution and the State System or has provided noteworthy, distinguished service to his or her institution or to the System.



Dr. Nancy Pinardi

The award is named for Suzanne S. Brown, former State System associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs.

Pinardi is in her 31st year at Cal U. She earned three degrees from the University and a doctoral degree while working in Student Affairs. She has led that division since 2012.

"I work with a wonderful group of professionals, and I was so excited they were there because Student Affairs is about all of us combined getting the work done that needs to be done to help the students," Pinardi said.

"This is a wonderful honor, but it's more a reflection on our whole team because their dedicated efforts make me look good."

Pinardi is the PASSHE Alcohol & Other Drugs Consortium grant administrator, the chair of the PASSHE Chief Student Affairs Officers, and the University liaison to the Cal U Student Association Inc. She also served on the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Advisory Council.

At Cal U, she has promoted women's rights as the creator and director of the first stand-alone Women's Center and has advocated for diversity and inclusion for staff and students.

Under her leadership, the University created the first food pantry for students with food insecurities, the first Alcohol and Other Drugs Recovery Center, and a new position for the first dedicated wellness support liaison for all students.

Cadets Commissioned as Officers

ROTC cadets Whitney Ptak and Nicholas Miller were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at a Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony May 10 in Steele Hall's Mainstage Theatre.

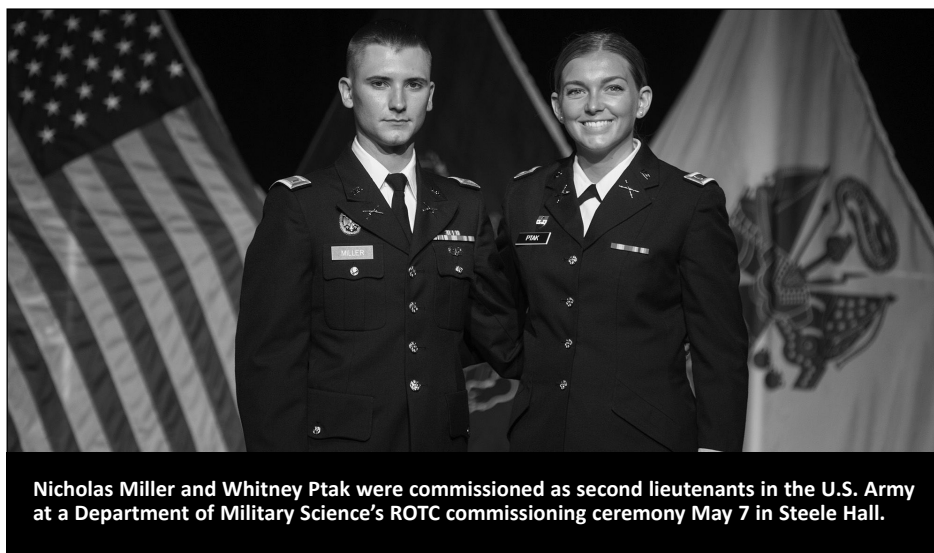
Before taking the oath of office and receiving the gold bars signifying their new rank, the cadets and guests heard remarks from University President Geraldine M. Jones.

"Whitney and Nicholas, please know that we are impressed with all you have accomplished, thrilled to see you earn your commission, and prayerful that when your service is complete, you will find your way safely home," President Jones said.

"You have embraced an important mission: to protect not only the citizens of the United States, but also our friends and allies around the world."

"As you take your oath this afternoon, please remember that we believe in you. We believe in the ideals for which you stand, the foundation on which the country was built. You give us hope, conviction and pride, and we thank you for your brave and selfless service on our behalf."

Guest speaker was Lt. Col. Jason Eddy, Three Rivers Battalion Commander



Nicholas Miller and Whitney Ptak were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at a Department of Military Science's ROTC commissioning ceremony May 7 in Steele Hall.

and chair of the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Military Science. Eddy was deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Forge and Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

"The commissioning ceremony is the culmination of years of study and hard work in both your academic discipline and development as a leader," he said. "The responsibilities you have embraced far exceed the recognition for the work you've done and I thank you for leaving our organization a better place."

Ptak earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a concentration in

criminology. Commissioned as a field artillery officer, her first duty station will be as a platoon leader with the 110th Infantry Unit, in Mount Pleasant, Pa.

Miller earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a concentration in homeland and international security. He is commissioned as an active duty infantry officer.

After getting the gold bars to their uniforms, the new second lieutenants followed the Army tradition of giving a silver dollar to an officer in exchange for his first salute — Sgt. First Class Jesse Maund to Ptak, and Sgt. First Class Richard Vargas to Miller.

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

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