California University_

Volume 21, Number 8 MAY 6, 2019

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Terence Carter, executive vice president of drama and comedy development for Twentieth Century Fox Television, will be the keynote speaker at Cal U's 188th Commencement ceremonies on May 10-11.

TV Executive Carter to Address Graduates

Commencement speaker descendant of Cal U's first African-American graduate

The television executive behind such broadcast TV hits as 'Empire," "Gotham," "The X-Files," "Bones" and "Glee" will deliver the Commencement address at California University of Pennsylvania.

Speaker Terence Carter, executive vice president of drama and comedy development for Twentieth Century Fox Television, is the great-great-grandson of Elizabeth "Jennie" Adams Carter, Class of 1881, California's first African-American graduate.

Carter will address master's and doctoral degree candidates 7 p.m. Friday, May 10. The first class to graduate from Cal U's Doctor of Criminal Justice program will be among those vested in their academic hoods and awarded their degrees.

Carter also will speak to associate and bachelor's degree candidates at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11. Both ceremonies No. 1 show for four years — and such will be held in the Convocation Center.

University President Geraldine Jones will confer nearly 1,200 degrees at the ceremonies, although not all graduates will choose to attend. Families and friends are welcome to watch as students cross the stage to greet the president and accept their diplomas.

About the speaker

Carter has held his current title at Twentieth Century Fox TV since January 2018. In this role he has developed recent hits including Fox's "The Passage" and ABC's "Single Parents," as well as programs such as "Mixtape" at Netflix and "Bless This Mess" at ABC, which are set to premiere next season.

He previously served as executive vice president of drama development, programming and event series for Fox, where he was responsible for developing and overseeing "Empire" — the network's

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Chancellor Praises Students' Efforts

s part of his second visit to Cal U's campus this academic year, Dr. Dan Greenstein, chancellor of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, delivered the keynote address at the fifth annual Strike a Spark Conference.

Before his talk he and President Geraldine Jones met students and observed their work at the conference, which highlights the research, scholarship and creativity of undergraduate students.

He appreciated connecting with the students.

"With your work today, all of you took risks, and any innovative journey is a journey into the unknown," he said. "You were basically reproducing a process that we need to reproduce at an institutional level and taught me how to position ourselves to not only survive but thrive in this information-age world under the weight of tremendous challenges."

The chancellor encouraged students to continue to be curious and willing to learn in the face of failure.

"Thank you for charging me up with your inspiring and phenomenally good work," Greenstein said.

Bigger and Better

Dr. Gregg Gould, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and conference coordinator, said more than 300 Cal U students generated more than 200 presentations for this year's event. Each of them worked on their projects with at least one faculty member.

Sophomore communication studies major Jenna Stanley presented on the effects of Google and Apple notifications.

"I learned push notifications can be used to make customers buy your product and be more involved with your company. It's not just for news," she said.

Asked to research something humor-related in her English Composition II course, Honors



Curiosity sparked

Graduating senior Maria Yates presents her research on exploring the community's role in caring for those with mental disorders at the fifth annual Strike a Spark Conference. See story on page 3.

Program freshman Britney Galik presented the ways "Saturday Night Live" impacts politics.

"At first this was a bit nerve-racking, but now that I've done it, I am looking to do it again and expand to something more analytical," said the computer information systems major.

Honors Program theses were presented at the conference for the first time in the conference's five-year history.

Senior business administration major Austin Owens presented a comparative analysis of social vs. online gambling.

"The Strike a Spark Conference means a lot to me, as I have been able to use and expand a great deal of what I've learned during my career here," Owens said.

"This day is solely focused on the academic achievement of our students and faculty," Gould said. "We're growing and encouraging more and different presentations, creative works and performances.

"The entire campus community should be proud of our student presenters."

Chancellor Reviews Sharing System



hancellor Dan Greenstein updated Cal U on the progress of the redesign of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education during an open forum on April 24.

After a top-to-bottom review of entire State System, three strategic priorities were approved by the Board of Governors: ensuring student success, leveraging university strengths, and transforming the governance/leadership structure. Second phase pf the State System redesign

The Second phase of the State System redesign is underway, the chancellor reported. It will align System goals with individual university resources.

"Over the past seven months and after thousands of conversations, I have learned that we provide in our universities an amazing collection of talented, passionate people who are fiercely aligned with our mission," Greenstein said.

"This redesign places our students at the center of what we are doing, invests and pools together our faculty and staff. Transforming fundamentally is how we'll sustain ourselves."

The chancellor discussed ways that sharing educational resources among System schools could provide more opportunities for students. Although the redesign is still in the planning stage, he mentioned study abroad, career services and even academic courses as resources that might be shared.

"Each university has unique strengths," Greenstein said. "By greater collaboration among our 14 universities, we can prepare our students for their best possible future, address our many challenges, and position our universities not only to survive but to thrive in the 21st century. "

Student success was the focus as Greenstein delivered the

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Hundreds Pitch in for Big Event

ike many basements, the one at the California Area Public Library was in some desperate need of spring cleaning.

"I took a look down there," said Dr. Claudia Bennett, librarian and library director. "It's full tables and VHS tapes and moldy books and chairs and who knows what else."

The borough of California paid for a bin to collect the contents, but the manpower to haul the stuff out of the basement was another matter.

"We really don't have that many volunteers," Bennett said. "A bunch of angels are coming here to help us out."

The "angels" — 25 Acacia fraternity brothers — arrived around 9:15 a.m. They were among the 489 student volunteers who fanned out throughout California and neighboring communities to pitch in as part of the Big Event on

Cal U's annual program matches student workers with owners of businesses, organizations and private residences who could use a little help with chores such as painting, cleaning, organizing and generally sprucing up.

This year, 36 sites were on the to-do list

"It's nice to see familiar names on the list, but we also had a nice blend of new locations," said Diane Hasbrouck, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning at Cal U.

"The community is very accepting and excited, and so are the students. It's a great town-gown experience for everyone."

Library board member Larry Papini was on hand to help with any "trash vs. treasure" decisions as student hauled items such as card catalogs, plywood, screens and a projector out of the basement.

"A day like this is very important," Papini said. "I came here a lot as a child. I live on Fourth Street, and I'm surrounded by college students. They're terrific!"

"I like how we're here on the weekend using our free time to help the



Matt McMillan unloads boxes with his girlfriend, Marissa McSheffery, at the Greater Washington Area Food Bank.

community out," said Paul Wible, a firstyear sport management major.

On Green Street, 13 members of the women's soccer team scraped and painted a house. Seventy members of the football team spent the morning cleaning up Phillipsburg Cemetery.

On Pennsylvania Avenue, 15 Sigma Kappa sorority sisters painted dugouts, the concession stand and benches for California Youth Athletics.

"I love the Big Event," said Anna Myers, a senior childhood education major, paint roller in hand. "We get a chance to bond and connect doing something we wouldn't normally do. I like volunteering in general, and I feel like I'm a part of something."

"We never have time to do this part because we're always so focused on getting the fields and equipment

ready," said Jennifer Todd, treasurer for California Youth Athletics, a baseball and softball organization that includes 148 boys and girls ages 4-14.

Across the street, homeowner Betty Copenhaver was grateful for five Sigma Kappa members who were washing windows and raking leaves.

"I've been in this program for many years," she said. "I have health problems and can't care for the property like I want to. These ladies are busy, busy, busy! It's been very helpful."

"One of our values is service," said Skylar Steinhart, a junior social work major, "and it's one of the reasons why I joined Greek life."

Forty students, from Delta Zeta and Sigma Tau Gamma, helped at the Greater Washington County Food Bank. They sorted clothing donations, packed

nearly 200 boxes for area families, helped to organize the facility's training kitchen and prepared 15 raised beds for planting.

"It's great to have generational volunteers, to see young people caring about our future," said Jodi Gatts, administrative assistant and program director of the Healthy Habits Training

Members of the Criminal Justice and Medical Interest clubs helped homeowner Linda Cairns with yardwork.

"It would have taken me five months to do what they did this morning,"

"I'm not usually 'outdoorsy," said first-year student Destiny Hoskins, a biology major. "But this was relaxing, and it was so nice to give back and show love. I was ready to put my hands in soil — and I don't put my hands in soil!"



Three Receive Cal U Military Service Honor

Students Logan Tantlinger (left), Emma Gebrosky and Brandon Perrodin, all criminal justice majors, were presented with the Presidential Medal of Patriotic Service in April. The award, created in 2005, is given to students who are activated for service and return to Cal U at the completion of active duty. Tantlinger and Gebrosky served with the Pennsylvania Army National Guard in support of Operation Inherent Resolve from January 2018 to January 2019; Perrodin served in the U.S. Army Reserve in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from January 2018 to January 2019.

Borough Sets Extra Trash Collection

The borough of California plans additional trash pick-up days and electronic recycling in the borough for the end of the Spring 2019 semester. Daily garbage pickup will be available from Monday, May 6, through Saturday, May 18, and a bin will be placed at the California Area Public Library so students can recycle unwanted electronic items.

The service is intended for Cal U students and borough residents only. For large items, please call the borough at 724-938-8280 to arrange for pick-up.

TV Executive Carter to Address Graduates

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acclaimed shows as Marvel's "The Gifted," "Lethal Weapon," "Gotham, "Lucifer," "Glee," "Bones," "X-Files, "24: Legacy" and "Sleepy Hollow."

Prior to joining Fox in 2009, Carter was vice president of drama programming at NBC Entertainment/ Universal Media Studios, where he developed shows such as "Parenthood" and "Southland." Before joining the drama team at NBC, he was the network's director of comedy development.

Carter has received numerous honors. In 2009, he was named one of The Hollywood Reporter's "Next Generation: Top 35 Executives Under 35." In 2011, he was profiled in Variety's "New Leaders" edition.

He serves on the board of directors for the "I Have A Dream" Foundation — Los Angeles, which honored him as a Champion of Education at its 2016 Dreamer Dinner. The following year, he received an Emerging Leader Award from the Ron Brown Scholar Program at the 2017 American Journey Awards.

Carter grew up in Washington, D.C. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in African-American Studies and a focus in film and media.

His ancestor Jennie Adams Carter is an inspirational figure in California University's history. She graduated with a normal school diploma in 1881 and went on to become a respected teacher, school administrator and orator. 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.

Attend Commencement

There is no charge to attend Cal U's spring 2019 graduation ceremonies, and free parking is available. University staff will guide guests to designated parking and seating areas in the order of their arrival.

Seats are not reserved. Guests are urged to arrive at least one hour before Commencement begins.

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Seniors gather after the Lavender Graduation Luncheon. Seated from left are Amanda Rhoades, Morgan Patterson, Rylee Walters and A'Quaisa Wallace. Standing from left are Jennifer Langilotti, Kirsten Willey, Jennifer Talley, Sheleta Camarda-Webb, President Geraldine Jones, Omobukola Inegbenijie, Vianey Almaraz and Sadie Attwood.

Cal U Marks Lavender Graduation

embers of the Cal U community gathered in Kara Alumni House on April 16 to celebrate the personal and academic achievements of LGBTQA seniors and their allies.

Lavender Graduation has been held at Cal U since 2014 and is organized by the Lambda Bridges LGBTQA+ Program Office and Sheleta Camarda-Webb, director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education.

This year, the event recognized 12 students who will graduate in spring, summer or fall 2019: Vianey Almaraz, bachelor's in psychology; Sadie Attwood, bachelor's in psychology, minor in African American studies; Jayda Harden, bachelor's in psychology, minor in sociology; Omobukola Inegbenijie, bachelor's in communication studies; Jennifer Langilotti, bachelor's in English; Morgan Patterson, bachelor's in commercial music technology; Amanda Rhoades, bachelor's in theater, and design and entertainment

technology; Jennifer Talley, bachelor's in communication studies, minor in African American studies; Zamira Thornton, bachelor's in gerontology, minor in psychology; A'Quaisa Wallace, bachelor's in psychology and criminal justice, minor in sociology; Rylee Walters, bachelor's in graphics and multimedia; Kirsten Willey, bachelor's in criminal justice.

"We celebrate the diversity of our students, and their many achievements, said University President Geraldine M. Jones. "We appreciate your contributions as members of our global society."

"These 12 students are on the edge of their journey into greatness," Camarda-Webb said. "As graduation season approaches, we hope your futures are filled with excitement and joy."

Camarda-Webb also thanked alumna Jan Zivic '64, a support of Lambda Bridges and Cal U's LGBTQA community. Zivic supports Lavender Graduation and the Jan Zivic Outstanding LGBTQA Leadership Award, which recognizes exceptional leadership and service.

Panel Takes a Look at Spirituality

n academic year-long series of panel discussion on relevant issues concluded with a look at the meaning of spirituality.

"Spirituality and Beyond," was the final "What's the T" discussion and took place in Duda Hall on April 18.

Cal U's Student Affairs Diversity Committee established the series to foster thoughtful conversations about timely topics.

Panelists were Shaheed Ansari, a sophomore criminal justice major; Etiosa Evbuomwan, a junior majoring in business administration; Dr. Vamso Borra, assistant professor in the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology; Kim Carson, director of New Life Christian Fellowship; and campus ministers Pete Ware and Meghan Larsen-Reidy.

Dr. Emily Sweitzer, program director of Cal U's sociology concentration in social deviance, was the moderator.

Ansari, who is in the Honors Program, said he sometimes feels ostracized as a Muslim in America and that people are often surprised he does not celebrate holidays such as Christmas or Easter.

"I'm from Connecticut, not Saudi Arabia, but being Muslim is a part of me, it's my personality," he said. "The acceptance of the difference is what's good, and I see religion as a way to make people better and treat others more kindly."

Evbuomwan became an agnostic after feeling too confined growing up Catholic.

"I believe in God but not the Bible," he said. "Everyone has their own truths or beliefs, and it's effective for them, which is what's important." Borra, who is originally from India, came to Cal U from the University of Toledo.

"We don't worship idols but forms of God," he said about the misconceptions of being Hindu. "It takes several years to really understand Hinduism, and it's not something that will happen just by reading a book."

Larsen-Reidy discussed the crisis in the Catholic church.

"It's apparent that the Catholic Church hasn't done a great job protecting its most vulnerable members," she said. "I think right now we are in a period of time to really look at mistakes we've made, call out those people who have not done a good job protecting, and simply improve and be better."

Carson, a Baptist originally from Florida, cited the assumptions that are made on people based on their affiliations as a serious misconception.

"I love this panel because we are having a civil discussion and expressing ourselves as who we are," she said. "Being more accepting creates a more peaceful community."

Ware answered a question from the audience about exploring Christianity. "Read the Bible and get some cultural background," said Ware. "A pastor once told me to keep asking God questions."

Event coordinator
Sheleta Camarda-Webb, co-chair
of the Student Affairs Diversity
Committee, said the first year of
"What's the T" events were successful
and thanked the panel and audience.

"Having thoughtful, civil conversations are not designed to change your mind but hopefully change your heart," Camarda-Webb

Sharing System Reviewed

— Continued from page 1

keynote address at the Strike a Spark Conference, where he thanked students for inspiring him with their talent, curiosity and scholarship.

He also held meetings with faculty, staff and students, University leadership, and Cal U trustees during his daylong visit.

"It is going to require enormous transformational innovation to move our System and our universities into the future," Greenstein said.

"This redesign is not a modest adjustment to our enterprise, but a long-term, multi-year journey."

Despite the challenges inherent in implementing change, the chancellor said he is optimistic that Pennsylvania can become a model for other large-scale educational systems.

"The limits of our capability are the limits of our imagination."

Curiosity Leads to Scholarly Pursuit

t was the stained glass that caught Maria Yates' attention.

The window, located at The Father's Heart Ministries, in Penn, Pa., where Yates was working as a residential intern in the addiction recovery program, was a depiction of Dymphna, a saint believed to have the power to cure mental disorders.

Who?

Exactly.

"I thought, 'Why have I never heard of this?'" said Yates, who is a senior graduating this month with a bachelor's degree in social work.

With the support of Dr. Azadeh Block in the Department of Social Work, who was the faculty adviser on the project, she dug in to learn more.

Dymphna was a 7th-century princess who fled to Geel, Belgium, to escape her father and devoted her life to serving the mentally disabled. She became a martyr when her father discovered her located and traveled to Geel to behead her.

Today — as it has been for centuries — Geel is known for its de-institutionalization of those with mental disorders. Patients, known as "boarders," are placed with hosts in the community, providing a sense of

belonging and access to family life.

The hosts integrate the boarders into their lives, providing them with food, care and work.

Yates delved into the Geel model of acceptance and integration for a scholarly project she presented April 24 at the 5th Annual Strike a Spark Conference, in the Convocation Center.

The one-day event, sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research at Cal U, highlights research, scholarship and creativity.

In her project, "Unwrapping Stigma and Mental Behavioral Health: Lessons from Geel, Belgium," Yates explored the town's acceptance of those with mental illness who are often stigmatized — by themselves, their families or society.

She also visited the National Shrine of St. Dymphna, which is located on the grounds of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Massillon, Ohio.

The undergraduate research center provided a \$500 to Yates for her work.

"I'd like to travel to Geel one day, to try to understand why this model works there — what ingredients make it so the community takes on understanding and empathy.

"There can be a perception that

someone with a mental illness just isn't trying hard enough," Yates said. "If such stigma isn't addressed at the public level, it's hard to make progress.

"The solutions involve a multitude of approaches, including a familial approach. Research is important to learn more about which direction to go."

Block praised Yates' dedication and

"Maria took a scholarly look at the ways engaging with a family not your own can impact your mental health," Block said. "She also looked at why such a model didn't work in the United States.

"She also looked at mental health, which is more about thoughts, and behavioral health, which is more about actions that might impact mental health, and the stigmas around each.

Her project was inclusive of both mental and behavioral health because these terms are often used interchangeably but perhaps the stigma attached to each varies given the values we attach to the terms "behavior" and "mental."

"Maria was very motivated to take on this project, to engage more deeply with the subject," Block said. "We're fortunate to have a research center on campus to promote that." Page 4 MAY 6, 2019

Hip-hop Conference Message: Don't Be Silent

t Cal U's 11th annual Hip-hop Conference, two figures with national stature reminded Cal U students to stand up for their rights, work together and continue the fight against racism.

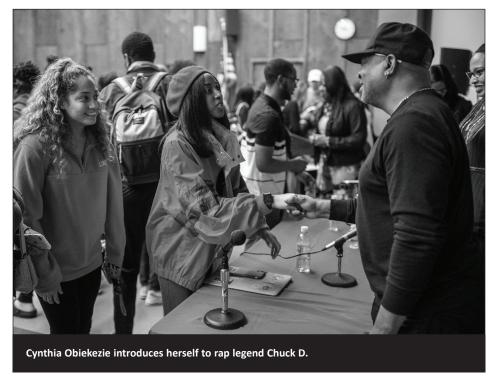
The April 26 panel presentation brought a crowd of more than 150 students, faculty and staff to Morgan Hall for a wide-ranging discussion with Sybrina Fulton, mother of the late Trayvon Martin, and Chuck D, founder of the groundbreaking rap group Public Enemy.

Fulton, author of "Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin," described how her "average, ordinary life" was upended when her son was shot and killed in 2012.

"To lose a child is a different type of loss ... a more severe pain," she said. Although she battled depression and cried alone every day, Fulton chose to appear strong in public as she "committed my life to fighting for young people" through a nonprofit foundation that provides support for families who have lost a child to gun violence.

Chuck D, who redefined hip-hop as a socially conscious art form, urged students to learn about local government and get involved with community affairs.

"There's nothing on the streets we can gain from," he said, dismissing artists who glamorize violence. "It takes



'doers' and 'thinkers' to make a solid community. You've got to come back from college, come back to where you live, with something your community

Both speakers spoke bluntly about racism in America — comments that appeared to resonate with both the black and white students in the audience.

"People with big voices, with celebrity status, don't always speak out," Fulton said. She referred to racism as

"not the elephant in the room, but the enemy in the room."

"How can you be silent when you know it's wrong?"

Fulton's comment struck home with Samira Wilson, who's studying communication disorders. "We have to recognize what that enemy is," she said. "We have to realize what we're fighting — and it's not ourselves."

Jerron Corley, a journalism major, said people of all races need to face these difficult issues. "It's important to allow a diverse group of people into that space. We have to all work together to find a solution."

A remark by the panel's moderator, psychologist Dr. Traice Webb-Bradley, stood out for psychology major Cynthia Obiekezie, president of the Black Student Union at Cal U.

"When she said 'we don't need allies, we need accomplices' — that could be my bumper sticker," she said. "I wish more people were open to the idea that we need all types of people around us."

JohnKarl Council, a business major and music minor, left the auditorium energized by what he heard, especially from Chuck D.

"I liked his encouragement to students, to keep pushing on," he said. "To hear that message from influential people in society, and to hear that in a group setting - it's important to make people aware."

Cal U's annual Hip-hop Conference is organized by Dr. Kelton Edmonds, a history professor who counts Public Enemy among the best rap groups of all time. Sponsors for the 2019 conference were the Office of the President; Office of the Provost; American Democracy Project; Department of History, Society, Politics and Law; Black Student Union; Cal U Men United; Cal U Women United; and the College of Liberal Arts.



Earth Day Celebrated

s Cal U students celebrated Earth Day, their passion for supporting environmental protection was evident.

Coordinated by the Horticulture and Sustainability Club, Earth Day activities took place throughout the morning and afternoon of April 22 in the Natali Student Center. Outside the Performance Center, drawing class students worked on a 30-foot mural depicting a scene of the closed Hatfield's Ferry Power Station along the banks of the Monongahela River in Masontown, Pa.

While many student groups collaborated to make the Cal U's Earth Day celebration a success, Brian Cunningham emphasized the same teamwork is needed to keep Cal U's entire campus sustainable, safe and eco-friendly every day.

Cal U's director of Environmental Health and Safety, Cunningham delivered the event's keynote address.

The celebration concluded with students tending three campus gardens. Along with installing a pollination garden in front of Frich Hall, students planted and worked on at the SAI Farm and at the sensory garden located outside the Learning and Language Center in Morgan Hall.

Kids, Parents Enjoy Day Together at Work

people are nice."

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day had just begun on April 25, but it was already a good one for 11-year-old Ryan Connelly.

Cathy Connelly, a senior director of development for University Development and Alumni Relations, enjoyed spending time on campus with her son, who was looking forward to the code your own computer game activity.

"It's very nicely done, and the setup with each kid getting a schedule with their events is almost like a day in the life of a college student," she said. "They learn but have fun doing so."

Grandchildren participated for the first time, so grandma Mary Kirk brought Aiden Collings and Emily Davis, both students at Marion Elementary School in Belle Vernon, Pa.

"They announce this day at their schools, so they've wanted to come for a couple of years now. When they found out grandchildren could come this year they both yelled, 'Yes!'" said Kirk, a management technician in Cal U's Office of Parking and Transportation. "They wanted to come to work with their grandma."

Ann Bergamasco, of the Department of Social Work, helped to coordinate faculty involvement. Dr. John Burnett and Tracy Breckenridge, of the Office of Social Equity, organized the overall event with support from the Office of the President.

Breckenridge credited nearly 80 student volunteers as well as many faculty, staff, and coaches who helped with the event. Before lunch, all the kids met and posed for a photo with Cal U's coaches, student-athletes, cheerleaders and Cal U mascot Blaze.

"This is great day that's about the kids," she said. "We simply could not do it without the volunteers and really appreciate them. It's truly a campus-wide team effort."

Volunteer Cynthia Obiekezie, a junior psychology major, helped with registration. She enjoyed hearing Cal U student escorts explaining what they do on campus to the little ones.

"A community assistant compared his job to being a hall monitor at their school, and it was just so cute seeing them connect and understand," Obiekezie said. "The kids were great, and I will definitely do this again next year if my schedule permits."

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

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