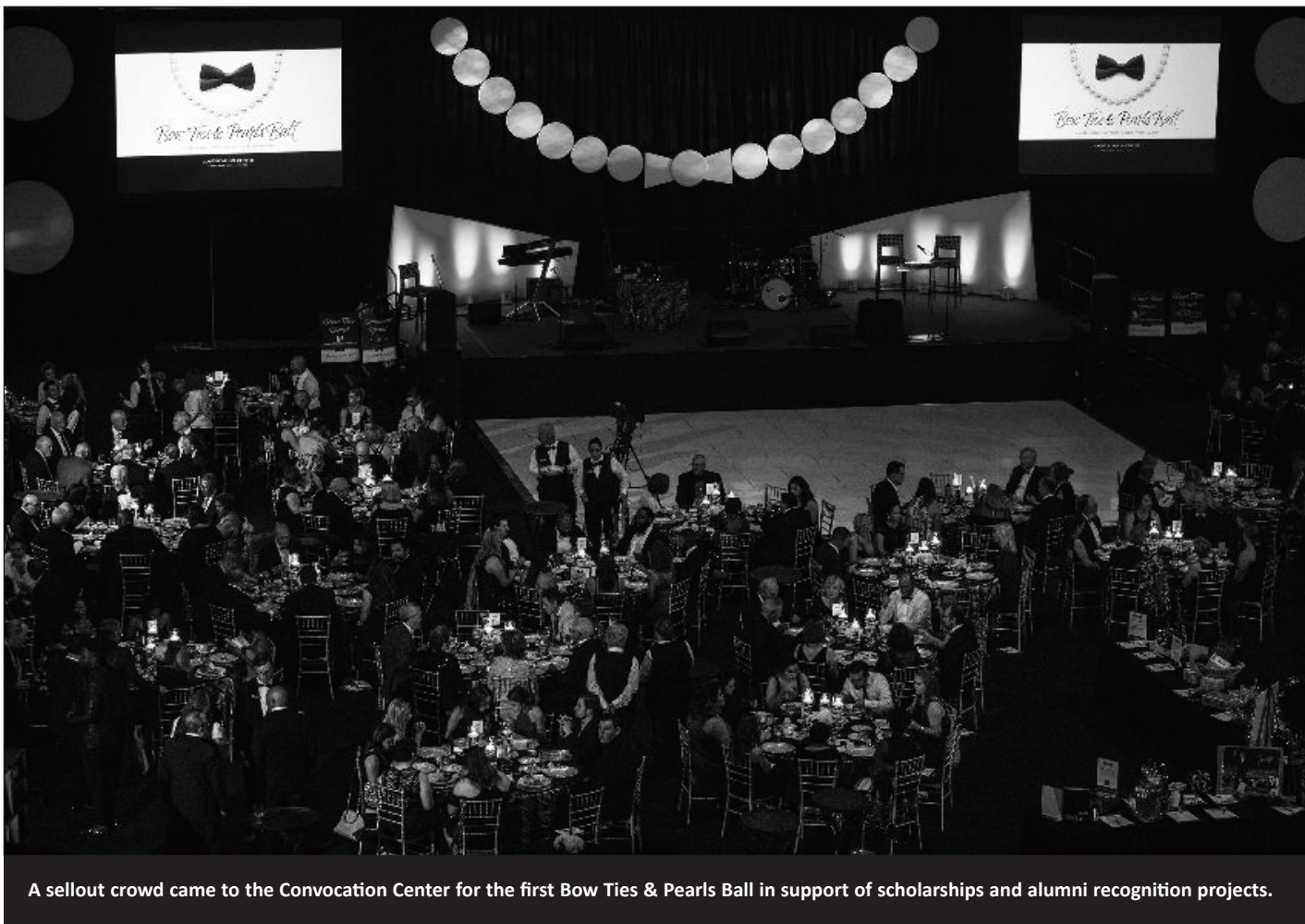


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A sellout crowd came to the Convocation Center for the first Bow Ties & Pearls Ball in support of scholarships and alumni recognition projects.

Alumni, Friends Show Support at Bow Ties & Pearls Ball

Cal U's first Bow Ties & Pearls Ball on June 29 was a sellout, with 300 guests filling a Convocation Center transformed into an elegant ballroom by Conference Services staff.

Emcees Andrew Stockey, of WTAE-TV, and Melanie Taylor, of STAR 100.7 radio, introduced the evening's honorees as guests enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by AVI, Cal U's dining services provider.

President Jones welcomed former student-athletes Helena Van Eysendeyk (tennis), Nate Forse (football), Kristin Heslop (softball) and Dr. Les Bakos (baseball) to the Cal U Athletic Hall of Fame.

She also presented the Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award to distinguished graduate Bill Booker.

The fundraiser brought in about \$100,000 from generous sponsors, donors and guests. Proceeds from the event support scholarships for Cal U students and alumni recognition projects on campus.

President Jones introduced one of those efforts — a donor-funded project called Champions Way.

"It will bring together, in one space, artworks honoring our national championship teams and information about members of our Athletic Hall of Fame," she said.

"I envision Champions Way as an enduring point of pride



Tennis standout Helena Van Eysendeyk receives her Hall of Fame award from Athletic Director Karen Hjerpe (left) and President Geraldine M. Jones.

not just for our Athletics Department, but for our entire Cal U community."

The second annual Bow Ties & Pearls Ball is scheduled for May 2, 2020.

Two New Options for Business Students

Cal U is getting down to business with two new academic programs: an undergraduate concentration in corporate communication and a master's degree in accounting.

Corporate communication is a specialized option within Cal U's interdisciplinary studies in business and commerce major. It blends business and communication studies to position students for careers as communication professionals in corporate settings, government agencies or nonprofit organizations.

Students master basic principles in accounting, economics, finance, management, marketing and other business disciplines, then build skills in oral communication, business writing, public relations, digital media and more.

"Businesses and other organizations need professionals who are skilled in communicating using a wide range of platforms and media, and who are well versed in business disciplines," says Dr. Paul Hettler, chair of the Department of Business and Economics.

"This concentration prepares students for these opportunities, and for the challenges of a digital media age in which technological change transforms work and life at the speed of light."

The four-year, on-campus program begins this fall. It leads to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (B.S.B.A.) degree.

The Master of Accountancy (M.Acc.) degree program builds accounting knowledge and skills for individuals seeking higher-level positions as auditors or accountants. It prepares students to sit for the rigorous, four-part exam required to become a certified public accountant, or CPA.

Program coordinator Dr. Joshua Chicarelli says it provides "the skills needed to thrive in the accounting profession, whether it be in public, private or governmental practice."

Students gain hands-on experience with the profession's most current and relevant tools. Required courses help them obtain the 150 credit-hours required to become a CPA, and students may qualify for deep discounts on CPA exam-prep materials through Cal U's partnerships with selected vendors.

The 30-credit M.Acc. degree can be completed in four semesters of full-time study, or on a part-time schedule. Students may enroll now; online classes begin in Summer 2020.

Cal U Ready for Welcome Weekend

Cal U has a full weekend of events planned as the University welcomes the Class of 2023 for the start of the fall semester Aug. 26.

On the main campus, Move-In Day for first-year students will be Aug. 23. New students whose last names begin with letters A-M are scheduled to arrive between 9 a.m. and noon. Others will move in between noon and 3 p.m.

Volunteers will be on hand at the main-campus residence halls to greet incoming students and their families,

and to help carry their belongings to their rooms.

Move-In-Day activities include a picnic-style lunch for all first-year and transfer students and their families from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 23 in the Convocation Center.

Registration for the 6:30 p.m. New Student Convocation and Candle Lighting Ceremony, also on Aug. 23, is from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the Convocation Center lobby. The Cal U First Night Celebration, with an outdoor movie and

ice cream social, will begin at 8:30 p.m. on the campus Quad and the President's lawn outside of Old Main.

Returning students will move in to main-campus housing from noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25.

Meal plans for on-campus dining will begin Aug. 25 with the 10:30 a.m. brunch in the Gold Rush.

At Vulcan Village, on Cal U's upper campus, new and returning students will

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Mechatronics Internship Builds Skills

The summer before his first class at Cal U, Stephen Gerba landed a job with Ductmate Industries Inc., a Charleroi, Pa.-based maker of heating, ventilation and air conditioning components.

The senior mechatronics engineering technology major has been an intern with the company for four years, earning greater responsibilities along the way.

Workforce development is an important strategy for Ductmate.

"We take responsibility and effort and time," said engineering manager Dana Smith. "We try to keep a nice pipeline. We'd like it if the interns came back to work for us, but regardless, workforce development is the right thing to do for the community. It fuels the economy."

Under Smith's direction, Gerba's role with the company has grown.

"Last year, I took the training wheels off and had Steve design a machine for us, with some guidance," Smith said. "He spent the summer behind the computer to do the design work. This year, as the capstone to his internship, we're finishing the fabrication up."

Gerba has helped Ductmate to incorporate advanced manufacturing into its processes.

"Your machine is only as smart as its sensors, and that's where we come in, to troubleshoot and repair and then do maintenance," Gerba said.

"A lot of our machines are 'dumb' — you turn them on and they make stuff," Smith explained. "For advanced manufacturers, machines are complicated and automated using sensors.

"Senior engineers never thought of that 20 years ago. We want to evolve into advanced manufacturing areas, so we need workers with that aptitude and skill. Steve has that."



Senior Stephen Gerba works on a machine that he helped to build at Ductmate Industries Inc.

Gerba said the internship experience has been invaluable.

"I have applied so many things I learned at school at Ductmate," he said, "and I have applied things like OSHA standards and safety codes that I learned at work to my classes.

"I highly recommend an internship. I've gotten to work with production workers, the machinists, the chemical engineers. Being out in the real world, you get to see all sides and learn to work as a team.

It's a huge resume-builder. A degree and an internship — that's a great combination to have."

Summer Academy Enriches Upward Bound Students

Cal U hosted 65 students from nine area school districts for the TRIO Upward Bound Summer Academy, a five-week residential experience that helps prepare them for postsecondary education.

Students took classes in robotics, Italian, geometry and trigonometry, calculus, physics, chemistry, computer science, communications and algebra. Sessions also helped students with career planning, scholarship and financial searches and more.

Upward Bound is a nationwide, federally funded TRIO program that has been offered at Cal U since the 1966-1967 academic year. It targets students from families where neither parent has a college degree, or where household income falls within federal guidelines.

Dr. Pamela Twiss, from Cal U's Social Work Department, taught "Changing Faces of Northern Appalachia" during the Summer Academy.

"We often don't embrace our Appalachian heritage," Twiss said. "When I ask students in this area where they're from they'll say, 'You've never heard of it,' or 'It's not important.' It's fundamentally wrong for young people to feel that way about where they're from."

The class explored the region's contributions to the industrial revolution, immigration and recent newcomers to region due to Marcellus shale drilling. Students were encouraged to explore their families' roots in the region for a final class project.

"I don't want them to overlook their legacies," Twiss said. "I want them to know that Cal U is a place that values them, and their families, and their



Yu Hang Pan (left), Shallyn Oakes and Trevor Nicholson react to their robot moving for the first time during the TRIO Upward Bound Summer Academy at Cal U.

contributions to the region, the nation and the world."

In Vulcan Hall, Cal U art professor Laura DeFazio took students for a walk on the creative side with "Movin' and Groovin' with Animals of PA."

"This is a college-level introduction to gesture and movement," DeFazio said. "I want students to think about what things actually do when they move to give them an advanced understanding of how line, form and movement come to life in animals. I have them literally pose like an animal to feel where that movement comes from."

Jared Rastoka, who teaches physics and physical science at Carmichaels Area Senior High School, helped his "Lego Robotics" class get their creations up and running.

The class taught technology and engineering concepts as students build robots using bricks, motors and sensors and bring them to life with a programmer application.

"I liked the creativity," said Connellsville Area High School sophomore Trevor Nicholson. "I'm interested in business as a career, but you can't go wrong learning more about computers."

Another Summer Academy highlight was the first STEAM Lecture Series, with speakers John Siciliano, an actor and paralympian who shared his inspirational story, and Antoine Patton, executive director of the Photo Patch Foundation, which facilitates communication between children and their incarcerated parents.

Ready for Welcome Weekend

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arrive between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Aug. 23-24, and from noon-4 p.m. on Aug. 25.

Move-in Day is part of Welcome Weekend, a three-day experience from Aug. 23-25 that helps new students meet their classmates and discover the programs and services offered at Cal U.

In addition to the activities planned on campus, students may attend the California Borough Recreation Authority's seventh annual RiverFest, which takes place from 1-9 p.m. Aug. 24-25.

One of many highlights will be a performance by The Vics — an alternative rock band of former Cal U Commercial Music Technology students Ben Auer, Dominic Bell, Bobby Dugan, and Henri Seabright — at 7 p.m. on the Wood Street stage followed by fireworks on the Cal U campus.

For a complete schedule of Welcome Weekend events visit calu.edu/welcome.

Cal U Night at PNC Park

The fourth annual Cal U Night at PNC Park will take place on Friday, Sept. 6. The Pittsburgh Pirates will host the St. Louis Cardinals. Tickets are \$16 and are on sale now by visiting the Events and Reunions section of calu.edu/alumni.

Tickets include a baseball cap and a pregame event. An Alumni Association tailgate party is planned in Red Lot 6.

Cal U Ranked No. 1 for Online Education

California University has been named the No. 1 online college in Pennsylvania by OnlineColleges.com, an educational resource for students seeking accredited online degree programs.

The 2019-2020 ranking is based on the latest data from IPEDS, the National Center for Education Statistics' Postsecondary Education Data System.

On its website, OnlineColleges.com says it "ranked more than 2,500 accredited colleges and universities on a variety of factors, including affordability, student services and the availability of online programs."

Cal U received a score of 98.18 out of 100, based on criteria such as:

- Number of online programs offered.
 - Average in-state tuition and fees for undergraduates.
 - Availability of tuition payment plans.
 - Services such as career counseling, placement services and credit for life experiences.
 - Percentage of students participating in online learning.
 - Total electronic library collections, including digital books, databases and media.
 - Graduation and retention rates.
 - Credit offerings, including dual degrees, Advanced Placement and military.
 - Percent of undergraduates awarded financial aid.
 - Average amount of federal, state, local, institutional or other grant aid awarded to undergraduates.
- OnlineColleges.com offers an interactive tool that prospective students can use to explore their options for online education. Fifty public and private institutions are included in its complete list of college rankings in Pennsylvania.
- To learn more about convenient, affordable online education at Cal U, visit calu.edu/online, or explore Cal U's online and on-campus programs at calu.edu/academics.



Landowner and farmer Roberto Jimenez shows Cal U students Hannah Derry and Taylor Krucher the queen leaf cutter ant that he unearthed while working on his sustainable coffee farm in Costa Rica.

Students Travel to Costa Rica

Twelve students traveled to Costa Rica for two weeks to learn more about sustainability and conservation from a country considered to be a model for the practices.

The Topics in Field Biology: Sustainable Agriculture and Conservation course was taught by Drs. Carol Bocetti and Sarah Meiss, from the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences.

Costa Rica is committed to sustainability — the practice of using resources today in a manner that ensures future generations will have access to those resources.

"We take students to that country because it provides a model for sustainable living," Bocetti said of the trip, which is scheduled every other year and took place May 20-June 3 in 2019.

"We chose agriculture and conservation, because that is one

example of integrated sustainability. Costa Rica has decided that this intersection is their future. Ecotourism is a big deal to them, and if they would no longer have a rain forest to share with the world, that's a problem."

The class visited four different ecosystems — a dry forest, cloud forest and high and low rain forests. They also talked with those who are engaged in sustainable farming practices.

"I wanted to see what it was like in another country and how they were able to decrease their carbon footprint," said Julianna Leiendecker, a fisheries and wildlife biology major.

"Some of the trip is about appreciating the incredible diversity," Meiss said. "Students get a chance to see what we talk about in class, like sloths and red-eyed tree frogs. It's an immersive experience. We are literally in the jungle; we wake up to howler monkeys."

Students also get lessons in economics.

"You vote with every dollar you spend," Meiss said. "You can be an informed consumer and ask questions about how items are produced. From the producer's side, you have to be able to make a living to stay in business. It's not a sustainable practice if it's good for the environment but bad for business."

"Our students also consider the realities and challenges of applying the Costa Rican model to the United States," Bocetti said.

To complete the class, students must write a paper about a concept they found interesting or intriguing on the trip.

"One student did a paper on green composting, taking a look at whether we could do this on a bigger scale in the United States," Bocetti said.

"It was rewarding for us to see our students so excited and engaged."

Two New Awards Recognize Outstanding Staff

Staff members play a critical role in University operations and campus life. They address student needs, support faculty, interact with parents and community members, and keep Cal U's facilities, technology and services running smoothly.

Two prestigious new awards will recognize Cal U staff members for outstanding job performance and customer service.

The Vulcan President's Circle Award and the Vulcan Exceptional Service Award will be presented each spring and fall to staff members who truly make a difference for Cal U.

"These awards arose from discussions of our campus-wide customer service initiative and are based on survey feedback from staff members," says Eric Guiser, director of Human Resources.

"Every day, staff members provide

services that are essential to our mission. And through their interactions with students, families, community members and colleagues, they set the tone for our University.

"These awards demonstrate Cal U's commitment to excellence in everything we do."

All students, faculty and staff are invited to nominate an exceptional staff member or manager to receive one of these awards:

- The **Vulcan President's Circle Award** for outstanding job performance. The recipient will have demonstrated one or more of these traits:
 - Collaboration and cooperation.
 - Passion for and commitment to the University.
 - Innovation that improves the quality of services or provides cost savings.

The **Vulcan Exceptional Service Award** for superior customer service to

students, parents, fellow employees and/or community members. The recipient will have shown exceptional:

- Responsiveness to customer needs.
- Willingness to remove barriers and improve customer satisfaction.
- Perseverance in identifying solutions to reach a positive outcome.
- Caring and support for customers and/or colleagues.
- Friendliness, patience, approachability and understanding.

How to make a nomination

Links to nomination forms and a complete overview of each award's criteria can be found under "Staff Awards" on the Faculty/Staff and Current Students resource pages at calu.edu. With the exception of Cabinet members, all staff and managers are eligible to receive the awards.

Guiser and a committee representing

management and various non-faculty bargaining units will use a rubric to identify award recipients anonymously. One President's Circle and one Exceptional Service award will be presented each fall and spring semester, for a total of four awards per academic year.

Award recipients will be announced at faculty/staff convocations. In addition to a plaque and specially branded apparel, each honoree may select three items from a menu of options such as a designated parking space for a semester, a three-month pass to Herron Recreation and Fitness Center, event tickets and more.

As University President Geraldine Jones noted in her spring convocation address, "This recognition of staff members is long overdue. I am pleased that we will be honoring our staff, just as we do our distinguished faculty."

STEM Training Stimulates Teachers, Students

Learning is not remembering. Teaching is not telling. Under that guiding principle, students from nearby districts and teachers from the area and across the country gathered at California University June 17-29 for the Summer STEM Teacher Training Institute and Student Workshop, presented by the National Center for the Advancement of Education (nCASE).

nCASE works to increase U.S. competitiveness in the global economy by promoting innovative STEM education and helping teachers integrate technology into their classrooms.

Training is supported by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and incorporates Defense Department scientists, engineers and other STEM professionals as it immerses teachers and students in inquiry- and design-based learning activities.

“We use teams because that’s the 21st-century workforce model,” said Nancy Priselac, nCASE director for programs and training. “Problems are solved more quickly and at a higher level with teams.”

“The DoD funds STEM education training because it hires a large percentage of scientists and engineers and needs to have a deep pool of potential applicants,” she said.

During the first week of the summer institute, teachers developed curriculum and learned teaching techniques in two modules: “Math with Robot I” and “Smart Sensors.”

Students arrived for week two. In the math module, they integrated robotics and worked in teams to perform hands-on activities to program, collect and analyze data, and compare and contrast attributes of different wheels and gears.



Dr. Scott Rhodes (left), a geometry teacher at Trinity Area High School, and Phillip Matsick, a math and algebra teacher at Brownsville Area Middle School, work with a robotic vehicle.

In the sensors module, teams investigated the behavior of pressure and heat-sensitive films and their roles in coin-counters and other sensing devices like interactive touch screens.

“Time is spent discovering,” said Dr. Anthony Pyzdrowski, a math professor at Cal U and an nCASE master teacher. “Activities and experiments are designed to understand the ‘whys.’ We’re teaching math, but we’re doing it by incorporating science, engineering and design.”

Geometry teacher Scott Rhodes was excited to integrate techniques into his classes at Trinity Area High School.

“Students don’t need you to give them the answers,” he said. “Our role is more to guide them in the right direction and let them get it on their own.”

Alexis Sherman, a California Area High School sophomore, enjoyed the team problem-solving approach.

“It was frustrating at first, but when we got to the chemistry behind it, it all clicked for me,” she said of the smart sensors module. “This is more hands-on, and each team had different ways of solving a problem. Teams are definitely way easier, and I wouldn’t have been able to stick with this if not for my teammates.”

Science and English teacher Kristi Hayes attended from Gage Middle School in Los Angeles, Calif., which has a focus on STEM education.

“I enjoyed the format where first you learn, and then you apply,” she said. “It reinforced the goal of teaching kids how to learn. We want to teach them

how to learn, investigate and explore.”

Those from Cal U involved in the Summer STEM Institute were Pyzdrowski, Dr. Ghassan Salim, from Applied Engineering and Technology; Dr. Diane Fine, from Childhood Education; Dr. Kevin Koury, dean of the College of Education and Human Services; Dr. Len Colelli, associate provost and associate vice president for Academic Affairs; and Robert Prah and Jesse Maund from Military and Veterans Affairs.

Students Phillip Langley, who earned his bachelor’s degree in biology and his master’s degree in exercise physiology and is pursuing a master’s degree in conflict resolution, and Karlee Reeves, who majored in secondary education and is pursuing her master’s degree in special education with a concentration in applied behavior analysis, helped to manage the event.

The plan is to hold the nCASE Summer STEM Institute at Cal U for five years, with teachers and students invited back for expanded modules.

“This is learning by doing, and we want to spread that approach,” Colelli said. “There is an enrollment piece to it, because teachers are a driver of enrollment, and having Cal U be even better known for STEM education will attract more students. We’d like to increase faculty involvement as well, because the inquiry-based models are useful in their classrooms, as well.”

PTC was the corporate sponsor for the event. Aaron Tuomi, customer success senior director, and staff provided two presentations for teachers during the second week showcasing its emerging technologies. Tuomi also talked about the variety of future careers within PTC available to their students.

Nine Graduate from Police Academy

Nine cadets graduated from Cal U’s full-time IUP Police Academy on July 12.

Gene Vittone, the Washington County district attorney, was guest speaker at the ceremony, which was held in Kara Alumni House. This is the fourth class to graduate at Cal U.

“What attracted you to this program?” Vittone asked the group of cadets — Benjamin Baldwin, Kaley Barota, Jordan Dollard, John Frederick, Colton Gray, Aaron McClelland, Matthew Rouse, Phillip Saracco and Kyle Stawowczyk.

“A desire to serve others, make the community better, and help out the best I can,” replied class president Stawowczyk.

“You wouldn’t be here if you didn’t have a desire to help others,” Vittone said.

“You’ll be expected to react to a situation where most people would rather run for the hills. The best officers honor their oaths to serve and protect

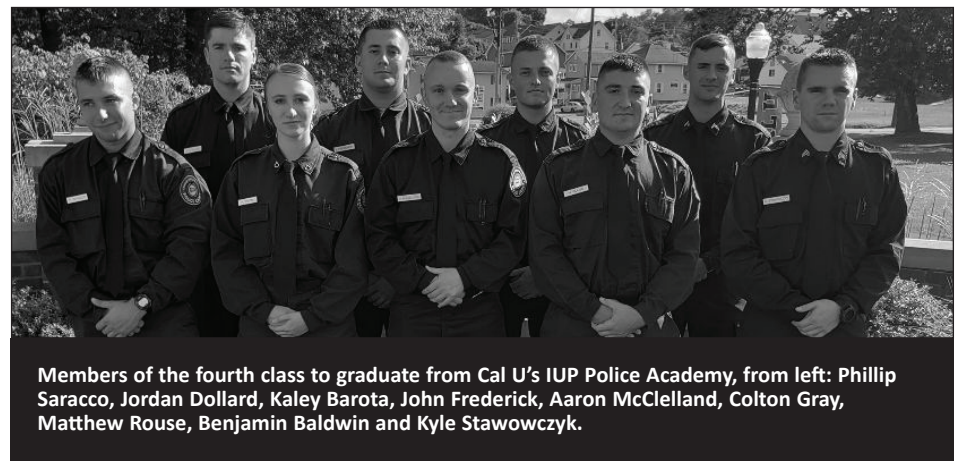
every day and act accordingly.”

Each of the cadets completed more than 950 hours of training to earn Act 120 Municipal Police Officer certification, which is required for employment as a police officer in Pennsylvania.

In addition to their Act 120 certification, police academy graduates are awarded 15 college credits at Cal U. Those who enter the academy without a degree can apply those credits to the B.S. in Criminal Justice or the associate degree in applied policing and technology. Both the bachelor’s and associate degree programs are available on campus or online.

Dr. Christopher Wydra, coordinator and instructor for the police academy at Cal U, praised the graduates.

“This was an excellent class,” said Wydra, who is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Cal U. “It takes special courage and love for the community to serve as a police officer.



Members of the fourth class to graduate from Cal U’s IUP Police Academy, from left: Phillip Saracco, Jordan Dollard, Kaley Barota, John Frederick, Aaron McClelland, Colton Gray, Matthew Rouse, Benjamin Baldwin and Kyle Stawowczyk.

These cadets demonstrated a high level of professionalism and commitment to community service with an emphasis on civil rights.”

Graduate John Frederick is enrolled in Cal U’s criminal justice program, with 25 credits left to graduate.

“Earning a degree is important to me because it’s possible I may want to pursue a career in federal

law enforcement, and many of those positions require a bachelor’s degree,” Frederick said.

“It’s a really good program,” Stawowczyk said. “Each of the instructors brought something different to the table, and we learned a lot from each of them. This has definitely better prepared me for a career in law enforcement.”

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