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## President Highlights Commitment to Academic Excellence

**A** commitment to maintaining high academic standards is paying off, President Geraldine M. Jones said in her remarks at Faculty-Staff Convocation on Sept. 12.

First-year students entering Cal U have an average high school grade-point average of 3.27 this fall, exceeding the average of 3.17 for incoming students last year.

The number of entering freshmen with a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher rose by 9% this fall, compared to last year, and Cal U saw a 12% increase in first-year students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

“Even in a highly competitive market, we are maintaining our standards,” President Jones said. “Year after year, we are enrolling more students with excellent academic credentials.”

The number of transfer students is slightly higher than a year ago, she said.

The Enrollment Management team is developing a five-year strategic plan to address enrollment challenges.

Initiatives include ensuring scholarships are used most effectively to boost enrollment, introducing new academic programs in molecular biology and veterinary technology, and adding concentrations in high-demand field such as corporate communication, forensic investigation and cyber forensics.

Cal U and other schools in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education have joined Re-Up, a cost-effective program that identifies and engages with adults who have some college credits but no degree.

Despite an enrollment drop, Cal U closed the 2018-2019 fiscal year with a shortfall of just 1% of the total budget.

“Your careful spending made that possible, and I thank you all,” President Jones said.

“All of us are making do with less as we work to keep this year’s deficit within bounds.”

The President also updated faculty and staff on the University’s effort to be reaccredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Dozens of faculty, staff and students have been hard at work on the self-study report as Cal U prepares for a site visit from the Middle States accreditation team next spring.

“In order to earn reaccreditation, our University must demonstrate that it is building a campus-wide culture of assessment,” said President Jones. “We must show that we are setting goals, measuring results and using that data to drive improvements that benefit our University and our students.”

By continuing to work together, President Jones said, Cal U will remain a special place.

“Our University has weathered many changes over the years, and each time we have emerged stronger,” she said.

“We can do it again. We owe it to our students — past, present and future — to build a more secure and sustainable future for Cal U.”

### Staff honors

At Convocation, President Jones announced the first recipients of two prestigious awards that recognize staff members for outstanding job performance and customer service.

Cindy Speer, administrative assistant for the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, received the Vulcan President’s Circle Award. Rhonda Gifford,

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Cal U student Mecia Howard dances during last year’s Liberal Arts Festival. This year’s festival, ‘Culture and Arts,’ will take place Oct. 1 at the Convocation Center.

## Celebrate Culture, Arts, Diversity Oct. 1

**C**al U will celebrate “Cultures and Arts” at the third Liberal Arts fall festival.

The event, from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 1 at the Convocation Center, celebrates the importance of a liberal arts education by showcasing the departments of Art and Languages; Communication, Design and Culture; Criminal Justice; English; History, Politics, Society and Law; Music and Theatre; Psychology; and the Honors Program.

Admission is free, and the Cal U community and public are welcome to attend.

Dr. Kristen Majocho, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is impressed with the event’s impact.

“The considerable growth of the Liberal Arts festival from year to year is a testament to the importance the liberal arts have in student’s ability to succeed after graduation,” Majocho said.

“The Liberal Arts bring value to the job market. This festival showcases the breadth of offerings at Cal U

that give students what employers want and desperately need — vision, communication skills, ethical decision-making ability, etc. In other words, leadership.”

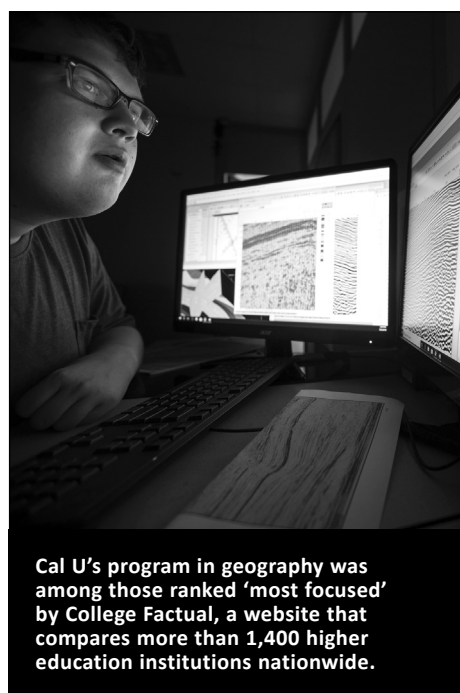
More than 500 high school students and teachers are expected to attend the festival.

From 10-11 a.m., they will hear presentations from Cal U faculty and guest speakers.

Cal U student Dana Rhadi, the University’s fourth visiting Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant in the Arabic program, will discuss the culture of Bahrain. Other presentations will discuss German culture, motifs in early Islamic architecture and artistic expressions of French monuments. Cal U’s Dance Ensemble will perform.

Activities are scheduled to include performances by the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir; University a cappella groups; the Cal U Dance Ensemble; African, salsa, and Latino bands;

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Cal U’s program in geography was among those ranked ‘most focused’ by College Factual, a website that compares more than 1,400 higher education institutions nationwide.

## Cal U Ranked Tops for Vets, Adults and Arabic Programs

**C**alifornia University of Pennsylvania has been ranked among the top 5% best colleges for veterans and adult learners by College Factual, a website that compares more than 1,400 higher education institutions nationwide.

Cal U ranked No. 10 among Top Colleges for Veterans in the Mid-Atlantic Region and No. 12 in the region among Best Colleges for Non-traditional Students.

College Factual also included Cal U in the top 5% for its Arabic language program, ranking it the No. 1 “most focused” Middle Eastern language program in the country and the No. 2

“most popular” program in the category.

The 2020 College Factual rankings are intended to help prospective students compare universities based on a wide array of attributes.

In all, Cal U received 27 awards, including a grade of “A” for the mid-Atlantic region in the overall “Best Value” category.

College Factual recognized Cal U for offering “Best Value” programs in computer and information sciences, computer information systems, health and physical education, and visual and performing arts.

Programs in business administration and management; parks, recreation,

leisure and fitness studies; health and physical education; and social sciences were recognized as “most popular.” And Cal U’s geography/ cartography and health and physical education offerings were recognized as “most focused.”

College Factual explains that its rankings are “outcomes focused” and do not rely on subjective data self-reported by school administrators. All U.S. colleges are ranked together, and students can filter the results to compare schools by region, by type and more.

For more Cal U results and information about College Factual’s methodologies, visit [collegefactual.com](http://collegefactual.com).

# Professor Shows Off Mummies at Exhibit

“There may be a mummy in your house,” says Dr. Cassandra Kuba, professor of anthropology at California University of Pennsylvania.

Want proof? She’ll show you the mummified mouse she found in her basement, preserved after its death by the dry, hot air circulating near her furnace.

Kuba will share her expertise and artifacts Oct. 5 when *Mummies of the World: An Exhibition* opens at the Carnegie Science Center’s PPG Science Pavilion™ in Pittsburgh.

Visitors can meet Kuba and see her collection of mummies outside the exhibition.

Although she’s an expert in biological anthropology and the study of the human skeleton, Kuba’s display features a variety of mummified animals, including that unfortunate mouse and a chicken her Cal U students have named “Reggie.” All died naturally before their bodies were preserved.

A frequent consultant on forensic and archaeological cases, Kuba relishes the chance to talk about anthropology with the public, and especially with children. She’s

invited a few current and former students to join her at the display table.

“I’m looking forward to the one-on-one interactions with the public to explain the mummification process that occurs in animals and answer any questions they may have,” Kuba says. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Cal U to have our students and alumni from the anthropology program share their knowledge, too.”

More than 2 million people have seen *Mummies of the World* during its global tour, the Carnegie Science Center reports. The exhibition area is dimly lit, hushed, respectful of the human and animal mummies whose presence teaches about science, history and culture.

Outside the climate-controlled gallery, the atmosphere is lighter. Kuba’s specimens are encased in clear containers, and kids are encouraged to pick them up, take a close look and ask questions.

“We think Reggie will certainly appeal to children’s natural curiosity,” Kuba says.

She will attend the media preview for *Mummies of the World* on Oct. 2 and the exhibition’s opening day, Oct. 5. She hopes the Carnegie Science Center will offer her additional dates before



Dr. Cassandra Kuba will discuss mummified animals at the Carnegie Science Center.

the exhibition closes this spring.

‘Mummies of the World: The Exhibition’ is on display from Oct. 5, 2019, to April 19, 2020, at the Carnegie

Science Center, on Pittsburgh’s North Shore. Tickets are on sale now. For details, photos, hours, ticket prices and more, visit [carnegiesciencecenter.org](http://carnegiesciencecenter.org).



Krista Wentz, of Gamma Sigma Sigma, participates in the Club and Organizational Fair, which drew about 1,000 students.

## Student Interest, Energy Heats Up at Fair

The Fall Club and Organization Fair took place on a warm day on campus — and student interest and energy was even hotter.

With more than 110 clubs and organizations, Cal U offers groups that will fit many interests, including academics, faith and religion, volunteering, sports, the arts, and event planning.

Extracurricular involvement is more than just a good time. It can improve a student’s time-management and professional skills and can be a great item on a resume.

The fair is an ideal way for new students to find out what’s available to them as well as helping clubs and organizations increase membership.

Junior Angela VanGorder, president of the Judo and Self Defense Club, benefited from the fair as a new student.

“I always wanted to do martial arts, found out about it at the fair, joined it to make friends and have never regretted it,” said the dual major in mechatronics and technical studies. “We’ve had many people stop by today, and this is so worth it.”

First-year students Derrica Kuhns,

a criminal justice major and featured twirler with the Cal U Marching band, and Michelle Douglas, a digital media communications major, checked out the options.

“There’s a lot to look at, and I really enjoy it here,” Kuhns said. “Once the fall (band) season ends, I know I will have more time to do more clubs, and I’m getting a good feel of what’s out there today.”

Douglas added: “I’m interested in joining the Printmaking Club and am not sure what all I will get involved with, but being new, this is very helpful.”

Emily Bard, a senior sociology major and secretary and treasurer of the Travel Club, was thrilled to have had more than 75 students fill out inquiry forms at their table. The club is planning a three-day trip to New York city this fall and a series of day trips to such places as Ohiopyle State Park and Deep Creek, Md.

“We are very excited because we have new officers who have a lot of different plans with a very good communication level,” she said. “We believe we have a lot of things to get people interested, and today is a great way to let many students know what we have to offer.”

## Month Focuses on Cyber Security

Cal U will observe National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October by offering training and safety tips to students, faculty and staff

Online training will be offered to students throughout the month via Desire2Learn, the University’s web-based learning management system for face-to-face and online courses.

Faculty and staff may complete security-awareness training through ATLAS (Apply, Train, Learn and Succeed), an online platform used to manage professional development training.

The training includes how to recognize common scams, the importance of choosing strong passwords, and the types of information, such as credit card and Social Security numbers, that should not be sent via email.

Dennis Carson, director of Networking and Security at Cal U, said companies frequently spend considerable money on security controls but less time is put into educating the users about the direct risks they face.

“Security awareness is a life skill,



and this isn’t something that’s just going to protect someone while they are at Cal U,” he said. “The rest of your life people will be targeting you trying to steal your information, and if you don’t recognize it and fall victim to identity theft, it takes a long time to remediate.”

Throughout October, the University’s social media accounts will provide tips from University Technology Services to protect personal information online.

Carson warned that one person can target tens of thousands of people with a fraudulent email.

“We want the entire Cal U community to take the training because it’s so important for everyone to be aware, cautious and knowledgeable in protecting their personal information,” he said.

## Winter College Registration Opens Oct. 7

Registration for Cal U’s five-week Winter College begins Oct. 7. Students who attend any college, including the 14 universities in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education, may register for the online classes offered during the break between the fall and spring semesters.

The winter session runs from Dec. 16 through Jan. 17.

This year’s Winter College offers 27 undergraduate and 26 graduate courses. Online registration and a complete course list are available at [calu.edu/winter-college](http://calu.edu/winter-college), along with information about tuition and fees, financial aid, library services and technology support.

“Because Winter College courses are 100 percent online, they are especially convenient for students who may be busy with work or family obligations between the fall and spring semesters,” said Dr. Bruce Barnhart, Cal U’s provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs.





Career Week will help students prepare for the Cal U Career Fair on Oct. 3.

## Career Opportunities for Students

Cal U's Career and Professional Development Center plans a full week of events Sept. 23-27 to help students prepare to join the workforce.

Career information tables will be set up in the Natali Student Center Food Court from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. throughout the week.

Students will learn how to find internship and job opportunities at next month's Career Fair (Monday); schedule an appointment for free professional clothing (Tuesday); get advice on finding the right internship and graduate program (Wednesday); get a Career Advantage check-up (Thursday), and review their resumes and get interview tips (Friday).

Students can swipe their CalCards during Career Week events to earn Career Advantage points, which can lead to Career Advantage graduation cords.

The Cal U Fall Career Fair will be held 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Oct. 3 in the Convocation Center. More than 80 employers are scheduled to attend to recruit for internships, jobs, and volunteer opportunities.

Cal U students are encouraged to dress professionally and bring resumes and their CalCards to the event.

"Whether students are exploring options, looking to gain experience or trying to make connections, Career Week and the Career Fair will help them gain their unique career advantage," said Rhonda Gifford, director of the Career and Professional Development Center.

Information about the Fall Career Fair, including a list of employers who will be attending the fair, is available at [calu.joinhandshake.com](http://calu.joinhandshake.com). From the Handshake app, click on the events tab.

For more information, contact the CPDC at 724-938-4413, visit [calu.edu/careers](http://calu.edu/careers), or email [careers@calu.edu](mailto:careers@calu.edu).

## Celebrate Culture, Arts

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and a Middle Eastern dancer.

Painting and drawing demonstrations; cultural diversity tables; a metal work showcase; puppetry art; art technology; and medieval sword-fighting demonstrations are also on the schedule.

Students and faculty from the College of Liberal Arts will present academic works and share interactive experiences with visitors.

Andrea Cencich, from Art and Languages, is the event organizer, with assistance from Sabrina Hykes-Davis, from Music and Theatre, Amanda Magdic, from the Admissions Office; and Becky McMillen, from University Conference Services.

"The festival is a wonderful way of showing our openness and tolerance to not only visiting high schools but our campus and the community," Cencich said. "It's so important to celebrate culture, arts and diversity."

"This festival allows high school students to see how their college experience can be enriching and rewarding, not to mention absolutely fun!" Majocho said.

The Office of the President is the gold sponsor. Co-sponsoring the festival are the Office of the Provost, College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Art and Languages, and Department of Music and Theatre.

For more information contact the Department of Art and Languages at 724-938-4182 or email [cencich\\_a@calu.edu](mailto:cencich_a@calu.edu).



President Geraldine M. Jones presents the Fall 2019 Vulcan Staff Awards to Cindy Speer (left) and Rhonda Gifford.

## President Highlights Commitment to Excellence

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director of the Career & Professional Development Center, won the Vulcan Exceptional Service Award.

The Vulcan President's Circle Award recognizes a staff member for outstanding job performance. The Vulcan Exceptional Service Award honors a staff member who consistently provides superior service to students, parents, fellow employees and/or community members.

These awards were announced last spring, and members of the campus community were invited to submit nominations to the awards committee, led by Eric Guiser, director of Human Resources.

"Staff members play a critical role in University operations and campus life and serving our students is so important," said President Jones. "Our first two awardees demonstrate Cal U's commitment to excellence in everything they do."

## Campus BRIEFS

### Athletic Day of Giving Benefits Scholarships

Fans can help Cal U student-athletes continue to succeed on the playing field and in the classroom during the second annual Cal U Athletic Day of Giving on Sept. 24.

Donations can be designated for a particular team or to the Athletics Department.

State funds cannot be used for athletic scholarships.

To donate, visit [calu.edu/athletics-give](http://calu.edu/athletics-give).

### National Voter Registration Day Sept. 24

Cal U will mark National Voter Registration Day with a registration drive from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 24 in the lobby areas of Manderino Library and the Natali Student Center.

Dr. Bruce Barnhart, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs, will ask faculty to set aside the first five minutes of class on Sept. 24 for students to register to

vote by using their smart phones, tablets and laptops.

Faculty teaching online classes will also be asked to encourage their students to register.

### Three Open Houses Planned for Fall

Cal U invites prospective students to explore all that the University has to offer at three undergraduate events this fall.

The fall 2019 dates are:

- Saturday, Sept. 28
- Monday, Oct. 14
- Saturday, Nov. 9

Oct. 14 is an Academic Experience Day, where visiting students will sit in on classes taught by Cal U faculty members.

During each of the Open House events, students and families will learn more about programs of study, housing and student life.

Each event will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. in the Natali Student Center followed by a welcome and overview. All students receive a free Cal U T-shirt at the end of the day.

To register for an Open House date and see a schedule of events, visit [calu.edu/visit](http://calu.edu/visit) or call 724-938-4404.



# Cal U Adds New Head Coaches

Cal U's athletic program has added two new head coaches.

Alumna April Gitzen '09, '10 is Cal U's new swimming coach, and Anita Onufer will coach tennis.

Gitzen served as the head coach of the men's and women's swimming programs at West Virginia Wesleyan for the past eight seasons.

She received Mountain East Conference Coach of the Year honors three times over the past two years, receiving the accolade for men's swimming in both 2018 and 2019 and women's swimming in 2019. Both teams won MEC team championships in 2019.

Gitzen served as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) advisor at West Virginia Wesleyan for five years and was also an adjunct professor in multiple departments on campus.

At Cal U, she earned All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference status as a senior in the 400 individual medley by placing second in the event with a then-school record of 4 minutes, 36.66 seconds. She also received all-conference



April Gitzen



Anita Onufer

accolades as a member of the 400 medley relay and was a 2009 College Swimming Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) Scholar All-America honoree.

She replaces Ed Denny, Cal U's first-ever women's swimming coach, who retired after 18 successful years earlier this month.

"I want to thank University President (Geraldine M.) Jones and Athletic Director Dr. (Karen) Hjerpe for believing in me and giving me this amazing opportunity," Gitzen said.

"I am honored to return to my alma mater as its head coach and follow in the footsteps of my mentor, Coach Denny.

I look forward to working with the team and connecting with the alumni to continue to build this program."

Onufer spent the past two seasons on the coaching staff at PSAC rival Seton Hill after being a three-sport athlete at Saint Vincent College, an NCAA Division III program. She was a member of the tennis, swimming and lacrosse teams while with the Bearcats.

Onufer helped Seton Hill finish fourth in the PSAC West standings in each of the past two seasons.

As a tennis player, Onufer posted a combined 10 wins in singles play and 15 wins in doubles over her last two seasons. She played three seasons of lacrosse at Saint Vincent, and in the pool, Onufer was a member of the conference champion 200 freestyle relay. She placed third overall in the 100 butterfly at the 2014 conference meet.

"We are proud to have Anita join our coaching staff," said Hjerpe. "Her knowledge of the PSAC and NCAA Division II, along with her playing and coaching experience are invaluable as we move forward."

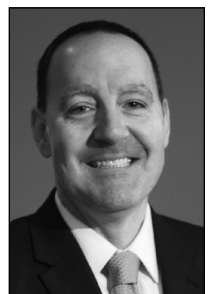
# Scholarship Fundraising Success Recognized

CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, has honored Cal U with its 2019 Educational Fundraising Award.

A first-time winner, California is the only university in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to receive the CASE fundraising award this year.

"Scholarships are more important than ever," says Anthony Mauro, vice president for University Development and Alumni Relations at Cal U.

"For many students, a scholarship makes the difference between earning a college degree and taking another path. And our donors take great pride in empowering students to succeed."



Anthony Mauro

Cal U was one of four schools honored for overall performance among public comprehensive institutions with endowments under \$35 million. CASE bases its selection on a review of data submitted to its annual Voluntary Support of Education (VSE) survey. Among other characteristics, award recipients demonstrate "solid program growth" and "breadth in the base of support" for fundraising initiatives.

Cal U's University Development Office uses an affinity-based fundraising model that encourages donors to support scholarships and programs that resonate with their life experiences and their time at the University.

"So many of our alumni tell stories about an individual who helped them stay in school," Mauro says. "Maybe it was a family member who helped to fund their education, or a professor who influenced their career. Every story is different, but they inspire our donors to support scholarships for a new generation of Cal U students."

For information about supporting scholarships or programs at California University of Pennsylvania, visit [www.calu.edu/giving](http://www.calu.edu/giving) or contact the Office of University Development and Alumni Relations at 724-938-5775.



## Cal U Trains Taiwan Officers

Chang-Han Yang (left) and Pei-Fang Chung, crime scene officers from the Tainan City Police Department, receive certificates of completion and present a gift of appreciation to criminal justice professors Drs. Raymond Hsieh (right), director of Cal U's justice studies program and John Cencich, director of the criminal justice graduate programs. Hsieh provided computer forensic training for the officers, who serve a city of nearly 2 million people in Taiwan. The three-day course was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Center for Investigative and Forensic Sciences, which Cencich also coordinates. "The center has connections around the world in the areas of international law, crime, and security," Cencich said. "This allows us to broaden our network of colleagues for academic and professional purposes as well as cultural exchange."

# Vulcans' Receive Academic Achievement Awards

A total of 72 California University of Pennsylvania student-athletes, representing all sports, recently earned Division 2 Athletics Directors Association (D2ADA5) Academic Achievement Awards for the past academic year.

The Academic Achievement Awards is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the NCAA Division II level.

In order to receive the Academic Achievement Award, student-athletes must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.50 or higher, have attended a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college and have been an active member



of an intercollegiate team during their last academic year.

The Cal U student-athletes were part of 975 Academic Achievement Award honorees from the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. Overall, a total of 185 institutions and a 11,600 student-athletes were recognized. The PSAC led all Division II conferences in recipients.

"These significant academic awards are a testament to the dedication and commitment of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty and academic support staff here at California University," said Dr. Karen Hjerpe, Cal U's athletic director. "We look for continued success both in the classroom and on the field in 2019-2020."

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