

California University
JOURNAL

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Jones Named Acting President

Cal U underwent a change in leadership May 16 when the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education brought the 20-year tenure of President Angelo Armenti, Jr. to a close.

Robert Irely, chair of the University's Council of Trustees, announced the decision in e-mails sent to students, faculty, staff and alumni. The message also was posted on the University's website.



Geraldine M. Jones

"The Board of Governors ... has chosen to take a new direction," Irely told the campus community. "I join my fellow council members in assuming responsibility for the continued success of our students, our mission and our campus."

His open letter commended President Armenti for his leadership and long service to the University, adding that his "dedication to our students, and to the mission of this great University, has been unparalleled."

Irely's message mentioned Cal U Global Online, the Internship and Career Services offices, and the *Cal U Fusion* initiative among Dr. Armenti's accomplishments.

Geraldine M. Jones, who has served Cal U as provost and vice president for academic affairs since 2001, assumed the role of acting president.

A member of Cal U's Class of 1971, Jones returned to her alma mater in 1974. She spent 20 years as director for the Upward Bound program and served as the chair of the Department of Academic Development Services for 11 years.

Jones also reached out to the Cal U community.

"Cal U continues to move forward.' As the acting president, this is the message that I want to convey to you," she wrote. "Although our leadership has changed, California University remains vibrant and strong.

"Our faculty and staff remain dedicated to providing the best educational opportunities possible for our students. Our mission, in addition to 'Building Character, Building Careers,' is the success of our students and alumni.

"We are committed to continuing Cal U's great legacy by offering high-quality academics, and working to reach the

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Charles Sledge celebrates after receiving his diploma inside the packed Convocation Center. With its 174th Commencement, Cal U marked the first springtime graduation ceremonies held in the new building.

Graduates, Families Fill Convocation Center

Alumni Speakers Reminisce at 174th Commencement

Just a few years ago, Josh Giffin's parents said good-bye to their freshman son in the Hamer Parking Lot. On May 12 they watched him receive a degree in sport management in the Convocation Center, built on the very same site.

"I guess his college career started and ended here," said mom Stephanie Giffin, of Hershey, Pa. "We loved the building and the ceremony. The atmosphere was excellent."

The Convocation Center was filled to capacity for Cal U's 174th Commencement, the first springtime graduation ceremonies held in the new building.

Dr. Robert Delmontagne '66 addressed the master's degree candidates on May 11, and Maj. Gen. Donna Barbisch '84 delivered remarks at the undergraduate event.

President Angelo Armenti, Jr. conferred degrees upon nearly 1,300 students, including those whose diplomas were awarded in absentia.

"I invite you to return often," he told the graduates. "Please know that California University of Pennsylvania is extremely proud of you and your accomplishments."

Before undergraduates received their diplomas, Corey Stoner, chair of the Senior Gift Drive Committee, presented

a check for more than \$8,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families. More than \$28,000 has been raised for an endowed scholarship since the *Cal U for Life* initiative began with the first senior class donation at the spring 2010 Commencement.

Graduating seniors who gave to the 2012 gift drive wore red tassels affixed to their caps.

"Those of us who worked on the senior class gift drive embrace *Cal U for Life*, which is an important initiative," Stoner said. "This donation is a token of our pledge to have a lifelong relationship with our alma mater."

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Alumni Weekend, Gala Coming Up

California University will honor alumni, recognize faculty and raise funds for student scholarships during the 2012 Alumni Weekend and President's Gala, set for June 1-2.

Acting President Geraldine M. Jones will host the annual gala, "A Night on Broadway," at the Omni William Penn hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit student scholarships.

The gala reception begins at 6 p.m. June 2, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. A silent auction raises scholarship funds, and dancing also is on the agenda.

During the festivities, Acting President Jones will honor Dr. David Amati '70, '72, winner of the Lillian Bassi Core Values Award.

Also being honored are faculty members Dr. Marc Federico, of the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, who will receive the President's Faculty Award for Teaching, and Dr. Paul Crawford, of the History and Political Science Department, who will receive the President's Faculty Award for Research.

Dr. Kelton Edmonds, of the History and Political Science Department and director of the Frederick Douglass Institute, will receive the President's Faculty Award for Service.

Retired professors Dr. Phyllis McIlwain and Richard Nemeck '65 will be honored with the President's Emeriti Faculty Awards.

Honorary chairs for the event are Dr. Charles '73 and

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Three ROTC Cadets Commissioned as Army Officers

Three ROTC cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army at a ceremony May 11 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre.

Cal U cadets Benjamin Snyder and Joseph Friedman received the gold bars signifying their new rank at the Department of Military Science's Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioning ceremony.

They were joined by cadet Lindsey Potter, who attends Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa.

Before taking the oath of office and following welcoming remarks by Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr., the cadets heard words of advice from State Sen. John Pippy, who represents the 37th District and who also serves as a lieutenant colonel in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

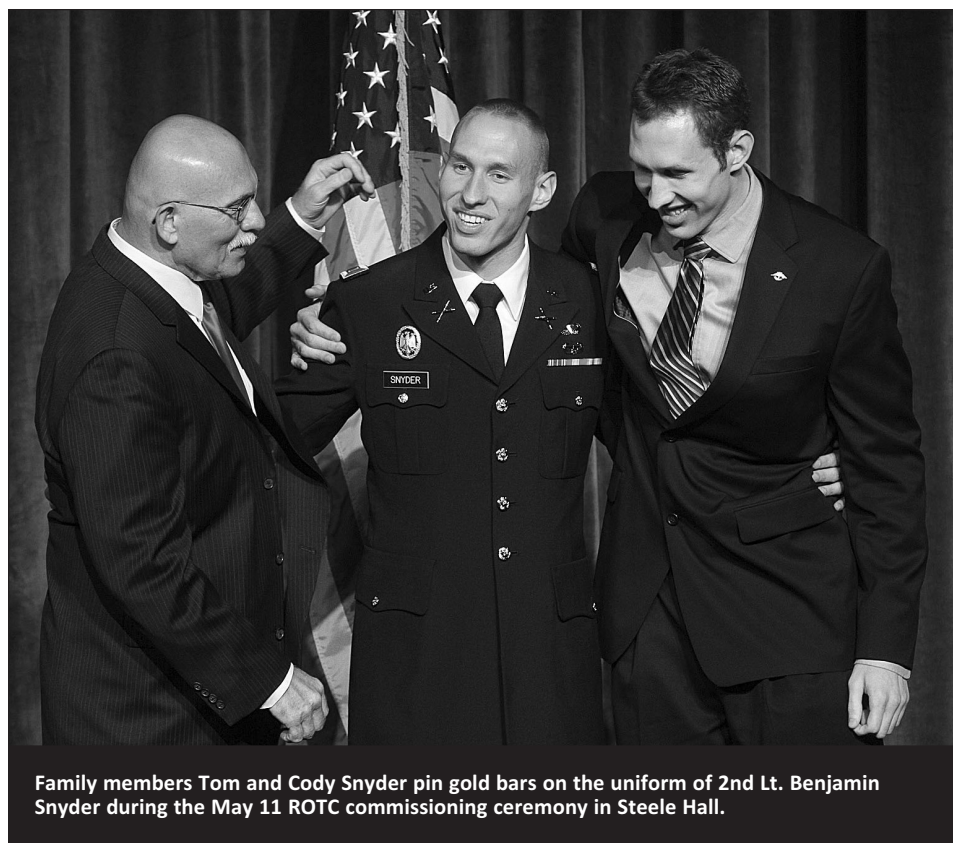
"Today you join the ranks of men

and women who over the last 236 years have sworn an oath to uphold and defend our Constitution and our way of life," he said. "The legacy of the American soldier is one of selfless service, personal sacrifice on behalf of a nation.

"The American soldier represents the embodiment of the American spirit."

The three new officers have different military assignments. Snyder is receiving a National Guard commission into the Field Artillery Branch. He will attend an Officer Basic course at Fort Sill, Okla. Friedman is receiving an active duty commission into the Transportation Branch. He will attend an Officer Basic course at Fort Lee, Va. Potter is receiving a National Guard commission into the Ordnance Branch.

Family members or military instructors, one by one, pinned a gold bar to each cadet's uniform. Following Army tradition, each newly minted second



Family members Tom and Cody Snyder pin gold bars on the uniform of 2nd Lt. Benjamin Snyder during the May 11 ROTC commissioning ceremony in Steele Hall.

lieutenant gave a silver dollar to an officer in exchange for his first salute.

Lt. Col. Andrew Loeb, a professor of military science at the University of Pittsburgh and commander of the Three Rivers Battalion, closed the ceremony.

"Our greatest asset is our people, and you have the privilege to lead them," he told the new officers. "Sharpen your mind and challenge the paradigm, because the Army is always changing."

Student Marketers Win International Recognition

Cal U's Student Marketing Association (SMA) enjoyed noteworthy success last month in New Orleans, where members competed at the 34th annual International Collegiate Conference sponsored by the American Marketing Association.

Participating students say they already are working on being more effective and further appealing to prospective members.

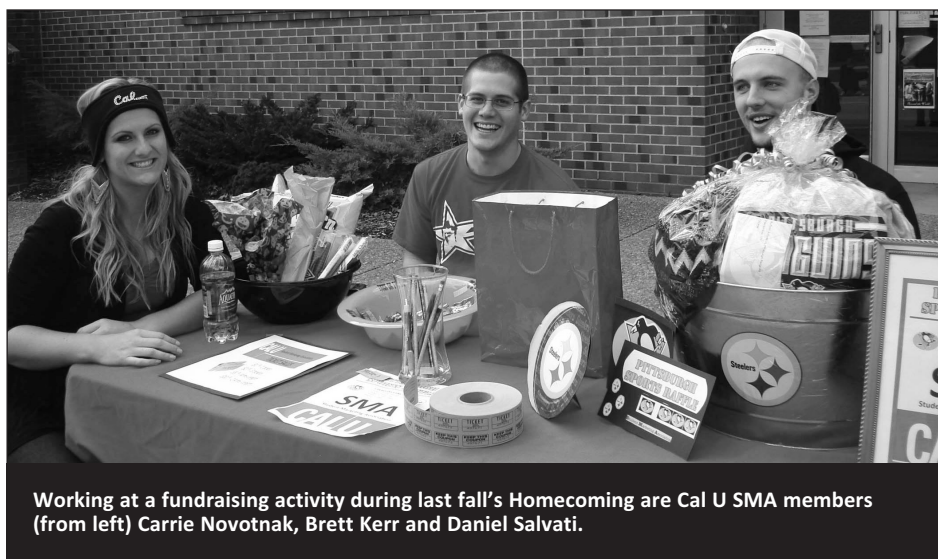
In early fall, each SMA chapter submits a plan outlining activities, plans and goals for the upcoming academic year. At the conference, the SMA's annual performance plan was evaluated against plans from student chapters at more than 150 universities nationwide.

Cal U's chapter received outstanding performance awards for fundraising programs, membership activities and communications.

The commendation for fundraising reflects the chapter's success in raising nearly \$3,300 through a variety of activities, said Cody Foster, SMA president for 2011-2012.

Recruiting and retaining student members plays a considerable role in the award for membership activities, he explained.

A significant challenge for Cal U's SMA is connecting with the University's many commuter students. Still, the



Working at a fundraising activity during last fall's Homecoming are Cal U SMA members (from left) Carrie Novotnak, Brett Kerr and Daniel Salvati.

chapter has 20 active members and another 30-35 inactive members, and it holds weekly meetings for officers and members.

Cal U's strongest area was its communication programs, Foster said.

The chapter distributes many fliers, posters and brochures promoting upcoming activities and projects. Each features a QR code that can be scanned with a smartphone, linking the user to the chapter's active Facebook page.

In 2012-2013, Cal U SMA hopes to have its own text messaging system to provide regular updates and information.

"We think that will take off, too," said Foster, who earned his degree in marketing and business administration earlier this month. "The QR code and possible text messaging system are very big for us. In keeping with *Cal U Fusion* we are consistently trying to get more technologically based."

The experience paid off for Foster. One week after Commencement, he began working at Buckeye International's office in Murrysville, Pa. The Missouri-based company is a manufacturer of quality cleaning and maintenance products for industry, school, retail and

health care facilities.

Foster said he believes that being involved with SMA and attending conferences enhances students' career opportunities.

"The networking opportunities have been incredible, because you meet the important people who are in the industry," he said. "Every year it's scary when you go to the conference and compete against so many other schools, but you also see what other chapters are doing, and it helps us plan ahead."

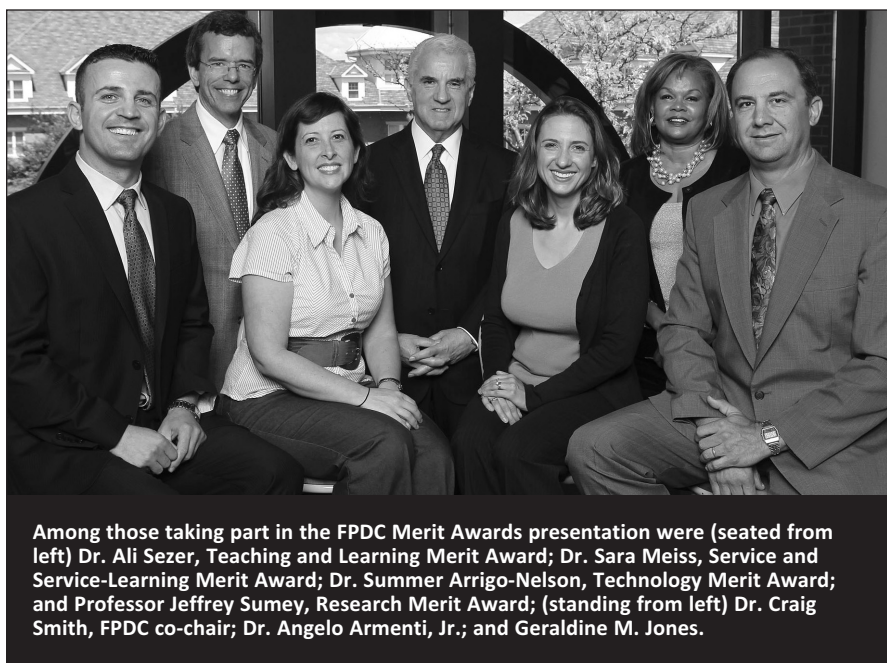
Foster praised first-year SMA faculty adviser Dr. Richard LaRosa, as well as the previous adviser, Dr. Shirley Lazorchak.

"They both have given us unique perspectives and been very helpful," he said.

LaRosa pointed out that the SMA mission is to provide student members with the experience, knowledge and skills necessary to become successful marketing professionals.

"Our chapter did an outstanding job this year and hopefully their accomplishments will strengthen awareness and enthusiasm of who they are and what they're doing," he said.

Current vice president Courtney Scanlon will assume the role of SMA president this fall.



Among those taking part in the FPDC Merit Awards presentation were (seated from left) Dr. Ali Sezer, Teaching and Learning Merit Award; Dr. Sara Meiss, Service and Service-Learning Merit Award; Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, Technology Merit Award; and Professor Jeffrey Sumey, Research Merit Award; (standing from left) Dr. Craig Smith, FPDC co-chair; Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.; and Geraldine M. Jones.

Faculty Earn Merit Awards

Five Cal U faculty members are recipients of 2012 Faculty Merit Awards.

Given by the subcommittees of the Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC), the awards recognize Cal U professors who are engaged in exceptional research, committed to teaching, using grants and contracts, devoted to service or exploring cutting-edge technology.

The awards were presented at a luncheon on May 11. Winners are Professor Jeffrey Sumey, of the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, for research; Dr. Sarah Meiss, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, for service and service-learning; Dr. Summer Arrigo-

Nelson, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, for technology; Dr. Thomas Mueller, Department of Earth Sciences, for grants and contracts; and Dr. Ali Sezer, Department of Chemistry and Physics, for teaching and learning.

Each recipient received a plaque and a \$1,000 award; all were recognized at Commencement. The monetary awards can be used for professional activity such as travel, supplies, equipment, books or periodicals, publications, or professional memberships.

Co-chairs of the FPDC for 2011-2012 were Dr. Ali Sezer and Dr. Craig Smith. The Faculty Center coordinator is Dr. Kurt Kearcher.

GIS Students Pinpoint Likely Flood Sites

With hopes of enhancing flood-prevention efforts in Jeannette, Pa., Geographic Information Systems (GIS) students from Dr. Tom Mueller's Disaster Vulnerability course ended the spring semester by presenting the results of a months-long research project to the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety.

Work on the project began last fall, when senior Grant Eaton interned with Westmoreland County Emergency Management, which supports emergency services and resources throughout the county.

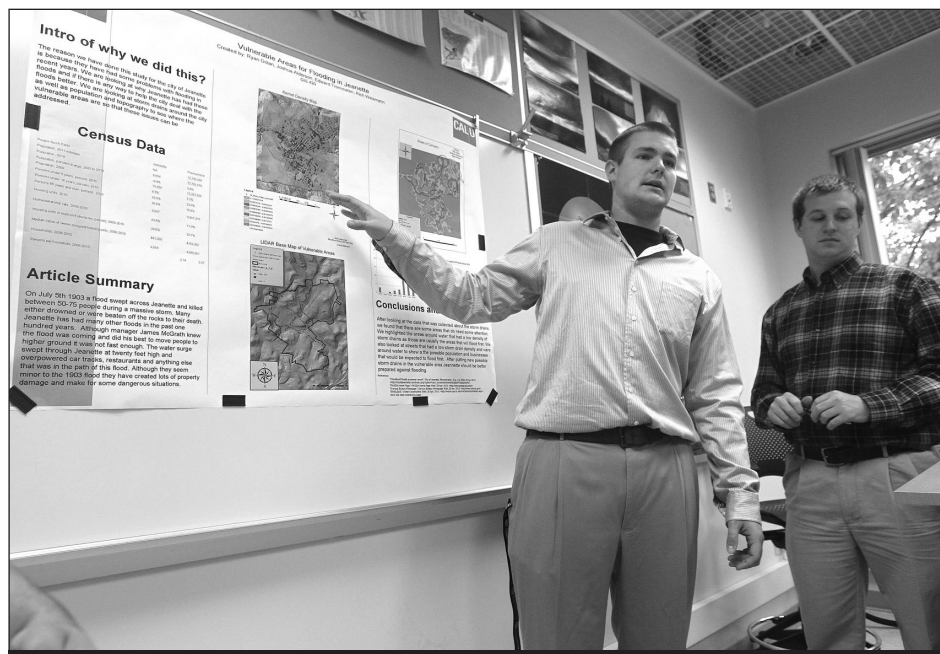
After mapping the city and developing research hypotheses, Eaton and his classmates used handheld GPS units to gather data about fire hydrants, stormwater outlets, storm grates, manhole covers and sewers throughout the city.

The GPS units they used can pinpoint locations to within 1 meter, Mueller said.

Students completed processing the data this spring and presented their work on May 2 to Mueller and Rachel Deckard, a computer-aided drafting technician for Westmoreland Public Safety.

The department has been using GIS systems for only a few years, Deckard said, and it hasn't yet developed comprehensive data for items such as fire hydrants. She and supervisor Pat Bauer are the only GIS technicians with the department.

"The students' work is very beneficial to us," Deckard said. "We are concerned



Cal U GIS students Joshua Alderson (left) and Ryan Dolan present their research on flood and fire prevention efforts in Jeannette, Pa.

about getting first responders to where they need to be, and having this type of information readily available ... significantly speeds up the whole process.

"This has been wonderful, because we do not have the available personnel to conduct this important research. We appreciate the support."

Joshua Alderson, who graduated earlier this month, said using the handheld global-positioning equipment enabled his group to identify key areas of the city — places that are close to water but lack adequate numbers of storm drains, leaving them prone to flooding.

Analyzing the city's topography also helped students to identify trouble spots.

"We were able to use the tools that we've learned about over the years to build the maps, analyze the data and sort of bring everything together," he said. "This project was definitely a resume-building experience."

Senior Nathan Hartman said his group categorized every sewer or storm grate as being in good shape, clogged or in need of repair. Those characteristics were entered into the GPS unit, then downloaded into a computer database for the student groups to analyze.

"Most of the storm sewers in Jeannette are OK to handle heavy amounts of rainwater, but some need to be repaired soon and others need further monitoring," he said. "This project gave us the opportunity to see how many different ways we can apply the GPS information to answer questions."

Ryan Dolan, another recent graduate, said the Jeannette research was one of several real-life experiences that were part of his Cal U education.

"When I go for a job, I can show that I've applied what I learned in class to real-world situations. We've done it," he said.

Mueller said he was pleased with the students' results and glad they could serve a local community.

GIS students have been involved in other, similar projects: Last fall, for example, a group worked with Washington County's Department of Public Safety to improve utilization of the department's spatial data. And this year Junior Brendan Rusbatch worked with the Rostraver Township Planning Department to map fire hydrants and help with road development.

Rusbatch was recognized May 1 at a meeting of the Rostraver Township supervisors, and all of the students in the Disaster Vulnerability course will receive a letter of thanks from city officials in Jeannette.

"To use those famous words, this is 'win-win,' because our students get the experience and the communities get the spatial projects they need," Mueller said.



Maj. Gen. Donna Barbisch '84 addresses undergraduates at the 174th Commencement in the Convocation Center.

Graduates, Families Fill Center

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Fifty-one graduates who completed the Cal U *Leader for Life* leadership development process also were recognized at Commencement.

Both alumni speakers praised Cal U for helping to start their extraordinary careers.

Delmontagne is the founder and past chairman of EduNeering Inc., the first company to create computer-based training programs for business and industry. Also an accomplished author, he retired from the firm in 2007, after 25 years at the helm.

Delmontagne recalled the moment during his senior year of college when he realized he understood the subject matter being taught in a philosophy course. This intersection of interest and aptitude led him to see that he could do more.

"Cal U provided me the heat and light I needed for that one insight," he said. "We create our stories every day, every time we make a decision.

"Make the world a better place because you are in it. Be a positive force, and add value whenever you can."

Now the president of Global Deterrence Alternatives, Barbisch retired after a 28-year career in the U.S. Army, where she was the first female nurse to command a mobile army surgical hospital.

A non-traditional student, Barbisch said her life

experiences helped to shaped her — but Cal U brought it all together. She emphasized that failure cannot be an option and charged the graduates to find success.

"I want to challenge you to 'do common things uncommonly well' and make your place on this Earth," Barbisch said.

"You've come along way on this journey of yours. You're Cal U graduates, so dream big. You are our future, and I wish you all the best."

Before diplomas were distributed at the undergraduate ceremony, a Doctor of Humane Letters was awarded to educator Muriel Summers.

Principal of the A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, N.C., Summers turned the once-failing school into a thriving magnet school when she focused on leadership and infused the principles of Dr. Stephen R. Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* into every class, creating *The Leader in Me* model.

Calling the Convocation Center "a magnificent building," she urged the graduates to lead with their hearts, minds and soul. And she praised their alma mater for its commitment to innovative learning.

"Cal U's mission of building character and building careers embodies everything that is good and right in higher education," Summers said. "This university is blazing the trail, changing the face of higher education and nurturing the global leaders of tomorrow."

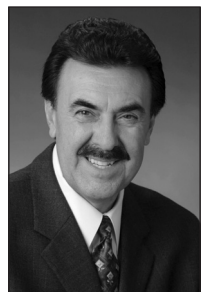
Alumni Weekend Set June 1-2

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Marianne '72 Pryor.

The gala is the highlight of Alumni Weekend festivities that begin June 1 with campus tours at 3 p.m. and a 5 p.m. reception for members of the Classes of 1962 and 1987 in the Kara Alumni House.

The annual Pioneer Dinner follows at 5:45 p.m. in the Kara Alumni House. Special recognition will be given to the Class of 1962, but all alumni may attend; ticket price is \$30.



Dr. David Amati

On June 2, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors will open at 9 a.m. in Room 206/207 of the Natali Student Center. At 11 a.m. guests will convene for the annual Alumni Association Awards of Distinction Luncheon in the Performance Center of the student center. Cost is \$20.

Alumni award recipients are Walt Sigut '64, recipient of the John R. Gregg Award for Loyalty and Service; Dr. Melanie Blumberg, the C.B. Distinguished Faculty Award; Dr. Timothy Skraitz '80, the W.S. Jackman Award of Distinction; Shaka Smart '01, the Michael Duda Award for Athletic Achievement; First Lady Barbara Armenti, the Pavlak/Shutsy Special Service Award; Jack Zduriencik '74, the Professional Excellence Award; Marshal Carper '09, the Young Alumni Award; and Dr. Patricia A. Mitchell '83, '85, the Meritorious Award.

Speakers Describe Autism Intervention

A husband-wife team who developed an autism intervention strategy that focuses on children's key developmental areas presented the keynote address at Cal U's fifth Autism Conference, held May 15 at the Convocation Center.

Drs. Robert and Lynn Kern Koegel are co-founders of the Koegel Autism Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Their Pivotal Response Treatment method is an acclaimed, research-based intervention that focuses on core developmental areas — such as motivation, responding to multiple cues, self-management and social initiations — that can produce widespread changes in a child's function.

Motivation is key when working with autism spectrum disorders, Robert Koegel explained to an audience of about 260 family members, educators and service providers at the conference, which was presented by Cal U's special education and Master of Social Work programs and Intermediate Unit 1.

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges.

"Teaching a child about colors with M&Ms is better than with colored construction paper," he said. "Think about the kids you know. Doesn't it seem like they know way more sometimes? The key is getting it out. If we can identify the motivation to bring that out, that's key."

Pivotal Response Treatment also emphasizes family involvement and working in a natural environment.

"The more you can get the treatment in a natural



Dr. Lynn Kern Koegel emphasizes a point during Cal U's fifth Autism Conference. She and her husband, Dr. Robert Koegel, are co-founders of the Koegel Autism Center at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

environment, the better," Koegel said. "In order to develop normally, you need to be exposed to a normal environment. It's like having the wind at your back."

Lynn Koegel, who is active in the development of programs to improve communication in children with autism, related her experience with 3-year-old Tristin, who was nonverbal, on the hit ABC television show *The Supernanny*.

In a week, she was able to use family inclusion and communication techniques to help Tristin use more than 20 different words to ask to play a favorite game, have a

favorite snack and more.

"I think that what is great about the Koegels is how they really bridge the research-to-practice gap in education," said conference coordinator Dr. Katherine Mitchem, a professor and endowed chair in the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education at Cal U.

"They provide teachers, parents and providers effective evidence-based practices that result in significant improvements in quality of life for those individuals with autism. These are practical, research-based strategies that truly help individuals with autism access and participate in life in general. And ultimately, the focus on pivotal behaviors really allows us to do more with less."

The Koegels spoke more in depth about aspects of the Pivotal Response Treatment during the afternoon breakout sessions at the Autism Conference.

Attendees were able to choose from a variety of other topics, as well, including "Bullying: Addressing Repetitive Aggressive Behavior," "Practical Applications for the iPad and iPod," and "Help Me Make Friends! Teaching Social Skills to Young Children with Autism."

Another session, "PictureTools," was led by Cal U graduate assistants Darla Kurnal, Kelly Rogers, Lindsay Schademan and Becca Ritter.

The *PictureTools* program uses customizable images to support self-management and problem-solving skills for children who have not yet learned to read. It was created by Mitchem and Dr. Gail Fitzgerald, a professor in the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri.

SEEK Summer Camp Returns to Cal U

Children in grades 1-8 will play starring roles when SEEK, the Summer Educational Enrichment for Kids program, holds two Hollywood-themed sessions this summer.

Classes will be held from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. July 16-20 and August 6-10. This year's theme is "SEEK Goes Hollywood!"

Since it was founded in 2000, the award-winning summer program has provided children with learning experiences that are entertaining, yet academically

challenging. The curriculum is tailored to specific age groups and encourages all participants to reach their maximum learning potential.

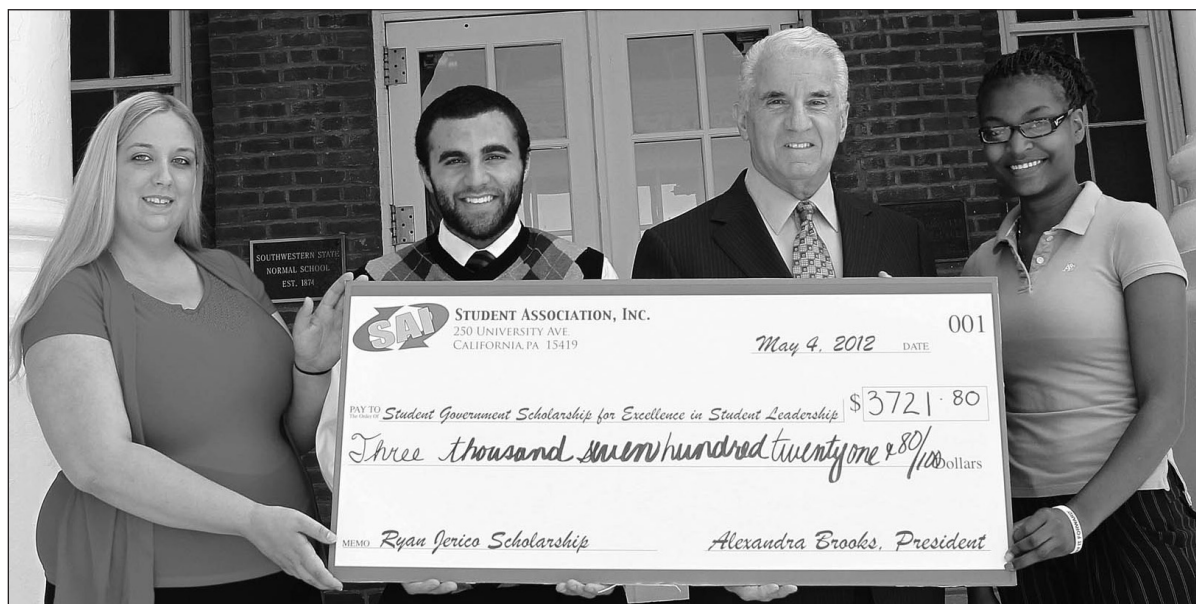
The Learning Resources Network, an international association in lifelong learning, honored Cal U in 2007 for developing SEEK in response to needs expressed by area parents.

Cost is \$135 per child for a full-week, full-day program, or \$90 per child for a full-week, half-day (morning or afternoon) program.

Participants are escorted between classes and supervised at lunchtime. Each child should bring a bag lunch; refrigeration is not available.

Registration and payment information, plus a list of SEEK classes, can be found online at www.calu.edu/academics/seek. Payment can be made by credit card, using MasterCard, VISA or Discover.

For more information, contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 724-938-4407 or e-mail seek@calu.edu. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Scholarship Endowed

Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr. accepts a check signifying that the Ryan Jerico Scholarship for Excellence in Student Leadership has been endowed. The scholarship fund was established by the Student Government Association during the 2008-2009 academic year. It is named for Ryan Jerico '09, who was SGA president and a student member of the PASSHE Board of Governors. After graduation Jerico served for three years as Cal U's coordinator of student and young alumni programs in the Office of Alumni and Annual Fund. The check was presented May 4 by students (from left) Alexandra Brooks, president of Student Government; Mike Mendolia, outgoing financial secretary; and Jasmin Runner, corresponding secretary.

Jones Named Acting President

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goal of having every eligible program earn national accreditation.

"Clearly, California University is facing formidable challenges, but we have faced similar challenges in the past. Working together, I ask that we remember our core values of integrity, civility, and responsibility as we address these challenges and find workable solutions.

"For 160 years, California University of Pennsylvania has served the commonwealth and has measured its success in the accomplishments of its graduates. We take great pride in the achievements of our alumni, and we expect wonderful things from our current and future students."

"Our University will continue to move forward. I ask every student, faculty and staff member, every alumnus and friend of the University, to join me on this journey.

"Working side by side, we can realize the promise and the potential of this great University."

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