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Cal U will host the 2013 southwestern Pennsylvania finals of the BotsIQ contest on April 19-20. Students from 40+ area high schools, guided by industry advisers, have been working for months to create robots for the gladiator-style competition.



KDKA Trains Cameras on This Month's BotsIQ Finals

Robots are revving up for the 2013 southwestern Pennsylvania finals of the BotsIQ contest, coming to the Cal U Convocation Center April 19-20.

Students from more than 40 area high schools, guided by industry advisers, have been working for months to create robots for the gladiator-style competition.

And KDKA-TV will be on hand to collect footage for a 30-minute television show about the contest and its links to workforce development and the emerging career field of mechatronics.

Known as the "smart sport," BotsIQ is an exciting science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) robotics competition, where robots designed and manufactured by students face off and fight for survival.

Contest judges look for aggression, control, damage and strategy, but teams also are judged on their engineering skills, documentation, interviews and sportsmanship.

"There's a lot more to this contest than smashing robots — although that's a lot of fun," said contest organizer Michael Amrhein, of Cal U's Department of Applied Engineering and Technology. "In the end, it's about developing students' interest in STEM and showing them how those skills can lead to jobs in industry."

Now in its eighth year, BotsIQ continues to provide students with a true manufacturing experience, contest organizers say.

Representatives from education, workforce development, government and industry volunteer as team advisers

— and a number of employers, especially in areas such as advanced manufacturing, have hired workers who once were BotsIQ competitors.

"KDKA was intrigued by several aspects of the BotsIQ contest," said Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations. "The competition itself is quite a spectacle, and there are lots of schools involved, including some where Cal U alumni are involved in technology education.

"But there are other great stories to tell — about the robotics industry in southwestern Pennsylvania, the need for skilled workers who can fill jobs in manufacturing, and the new mechatronics program that's starting at Cal U this fall."

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ESPN's Smith Headlines Hip-Hop Panel

Sports journalist, talk show host and TV personality Stephen A. Smith, a regular on *ESPN First Take*, will appear on the the keynote panel at Cal U's eighth annual Hip-Hop Conference.

Known both for his insightful analysis of professional basketball and his outspoken cultural and political views, Smith will discuss "Sports, Hip-Hop and Race" with his fellow panelists at 4 p.m. Friday in the Cal U Convocation Center.



Stephen A. Smith

"The idea of the annual conference is to examine hip-hop from every angle," said conference organizer Dr. Kelton Edmonds, of the Department of History and Political Science.

"The interrelationship between hip-hop and sports as two American cultural and economic institutions is definitely worthy of intellectual investigation, and Stephen A. Smith personifies that relationship. In fact, his show embodies the hip-hop oral tradition of debate, banter and competition."

Hip-hop artists are regular guests on *First Take*, Kelton added. Performers

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Workshops Explore Leadership, Public Service

The Hon. Theresa Dellick, juvenile court judge for Mahoning County, Ohio, will deliver the keynote address at *Leadership and Public Service*, a daylong series of leadership workshops set for April 16 at Cal U.

Organized by the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project and the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute, the event is designed to spark discussion of leadership on campus, in the community and across the nation.

"We prepare our students for careers in a professional setting, good citizenship in a social setting, and a value-based life in a personal setting," said Dr. Michael Hummel, director of the Linda and Henry Serene Institute at Cal U. "Ethics based-leadership is the foundation for any professional, social or personal endeavor."

Dellick will describe her innovative work in the juvenile court system at 7 p.m. in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

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Explorations of the Biomechanical

Senior Lee Stark puts the finishing touches on his painting for the Department of Art and Design's upcoming biomechanical art exhibit, 'Deus ex Machina: Explorations of the Biomechanical,' opening Thursday in the Vulcan Gallery inside Vulcan Hall. See story on page 2.



Caitlin Sowers works on her ceramic teapot.

Magazine Features Students' Work

Teapots handmade by five Cal U students recently were featured in a leading ceramics magazine.

The March/April edition of *Pottery Making Illustrated* includes "Thirty Minute Teapot," written by ceramics artist Yoko Sekino-Bové.

The article describes a workshop hosted last semester by Cal U's Art Education Club, and it depicts teapots made by students Johnathyn Simpson, Caitlin Sowers, Andrea Alvarado, Megan McAlpine and Maria Lopresti.

Under the direction of Sekino-Bové, each workshop participant made a ceramic teapot and learned how to teach the soft-slab ceramic construction techniques used in its creation.

The article also featured the workshop's demonstration project, which the artist created with her husband, Jim Bové, an associate professor in Cal U's Department of Art and Design.

"Even though it was their first time to create a teapot — or to work with clay, for most participants — the students were quite impressive in coming up with strong designs," Jim Bové said.

"Each teapot has a story to tell. There were amazing details, and everyone took the challenge of the limited time very well."

Artist Sekino-Bové maintains a studio in Washington, Pa. A 2011 Niche Awards finalist in the professional wheel-thrown ceramics and teapot divisions, she teaches ceramics classes at community centers and art classes at Waynesburg University.

The Art Education Club received complimentary copies of *Pottery Making Illustrated*.

Artists Explore Biomechanical Theme

Art enthusiasts can expect the unexpected when the Department of Art and Design presents *Deus ex Machina: Explorations of the Biomechanical*.

An opening reception, hosted by The Associated Arts of California, will be held from 6-9 p.m. Thursday in the Vulcan Gallery inside Vulcan Hall. Live music and food will be provided.

Prizes will be awarded for outstanding works. Serving as judges will be faculty members Scott Lloyd, Greg Harrison and Sue Urbine.

The exhibition will run through April 18. Students and faculty from advanced drawing and painting classes will be installing the show, which will explore the connections between bodies and machines, or the structure and function of biological systems. Submissions from students, faculty, staff and alumni were considered for the show.

Maggy Aston, associate professor of Art and Design, said students were inspired to explore the topic when they composed drawings at last winter's *Leonardo da Vinci: Machines in Motion* exhibition in the Convocation Center.

Because the connection between man and machine is becoming closer than ever, biomechanical tattoos are becoming more and more popular, she added. Tattoos and certain machine-based styles, such as steampunk, create an array of artistic possibilities.

"Biomechanical is the study of the human

body and how it works, the inner mechanisms of the human body," said Aston, who teaches a biological illustrations course. "We are trying to (examine) the relationships of the human body with machines. ... It all comes together in this concept of biomechanical. Anything is welcome."

Todd Pinkham, associate professor of Art and Design, said the exhibition is timely because of the increasing impact of technology.

"It's a double-edged sword now, because we have all this technology that we are relying on more and more, but there's also the natural world and (natural) history, which was here first," he said. "It's almost science fiction. We are artists dreaming about what could be."

Senior Lee Stark is incorporating mannequins, gas masks and cameras into his submission for the show.

"I think we're ... searching for the reasons why we are letting technology take over perhaps too much," he said. "This exhibit's theme is really interesting and challenging."

"Deus ex Machina: Explorations of the Biomechanical" will be on display from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., weekdays through April 18 in the Vulcan Gallery, inside Vulcan Hall. An opening reception at 6 p.m. Thursday is free and open to the University community and the general public. The reception will include food and music. For more information contact Maggy Aston at aston@calu.edu or Todd Pinkham at pinkham@calu.edu.

Leadership Workshops Set

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Because she believes that mental health and substance abuse issues are related, Dellick created a Treatment Court that blends the two elements for rehabilitation. She also has launched model programs that provide specific treatment and sanctions, including education and truancy courts, a counseling program, a comprehensive sports program for juveniles, the Parent Project, a teen court and an ADHD program.

"Judge Dellick, long before being elected to public office, was a successful attorney and community activist," said Dr. Melanie Blumberg, a professor in the Department of History and Political Science.

"Her work on juvenile courts garners national attention for its effectiveness in giving young people a second chance and making them productive members of society. Many of the teens finish high school and several pursued college degrees. Judge Dellick embodies the true meaning of public service."

All of Dellick's work with the juvenile courts focuses on youth accountability and



Theresa Dellick

responsibility, as well as preserving victims' rights.

Additional leadership presentations are planned throughout the day:

- 11 a.m. — "Leadership and Diversity," Eberly Hall, Room 110.
- 12:30 p.m. — "Keeping Our Schools Safe: New Faces in Violence Prevention, Crisis Management and Community Resources," Duda Hall, Room 117.

- 2 p.m. — "The Role of Public Service in Environmental Education, Policy and Management," Duda Hall, Room 312.

- 3:30 p.m. — "Student Leaders on Campus, in the Community and in Politics," Duda Hall, Room 312.

Leadership and Public Service is co-sponsored by California University's Office of Academic Affairs/Office of the Provost, College of Liberal Arts, Department of History and Political Science, Department of Justice, Law and Society and Cal Campaign Consultants.

All presentations are free, and the public may attend. Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. To see a list of presenters, visit www.calu.edu.

Dylan Appears in Concert Saturday

Tickets are on sale for a performance by American music icon Bob Dylan and his band, appearing in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the Convocation Center.

A member of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame since 1988, Dylan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, at a White House ceremony.

Appearing with him is Dawes, a rock band from Los Angeles, Calif.

Ticket price is \$52 at www.ticketmaster.com and at the Convocation Center Box Office. A limited number of student tickets are available only at the Convocation Center Box Office. Cost for student tickets is \$29.50; buyers must appear in person and show a valid student ID from any university.

Bob Dylan's influence on American music spans both genres and generations. His multiple hits have helped to shape

American folk music, traditional and Christian rock, country, R&B and blues, and his music has remained fresh and relevant to audiences since the 1960s. A member of the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame since 1988, he is the winner of 10 Grammy Awards, an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and the National Medal of Arts.

Last year Dylan received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, at a White House ceremony. In announcing the award, President Barack Obama cited the singer/songwriter's "considerable influence on the civil rights movement of the 1960s and (his) significant impact on American culture over the past five decades."

Doors to the Cal U Convocation Center will open at 6 p.m. Saturday. Parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.



Bob Dylan and his band will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Cal U's Convocation Center.

Newsboys Deliver Music With a Message

Tickets are still available for a concert by the Christian pop-rock band Newsboys, who will bring their "God Is Not Dead" tour to the Convocation Center at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Five-time winners of the Gospel Music Association's Dove Award, Newsboys have five gold albums to their credit and 28 No. 1 radio hits. Their 2010 album, *Born Again*, reached No. 4 on the overall Billboard chart.

In addition to Newsboys' top hits, the playlist for the concert at Cal U will include songs from the band's current album of rock-driven worship anthems, *God's Not Dead*,

including "Your Love Never Fails," which has been No. 1 for six weeks in a row at Hot AC radio.

Appearing with Newsboys is the Nashville-based singer/songwriter Britt Nicole, a Grammy Award nominee for her 2012 album, *Gold*. Opening acts are All Things New and the new duo Campbell.

General admission tickets cost \$25 in advance, \$30 on the day of the show.

Tickets are available online at www.ticketmaster.com, by phone at 800-745-3000, or at the Convocation Center Box Office, open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.



Newsboys will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Convocation Center.

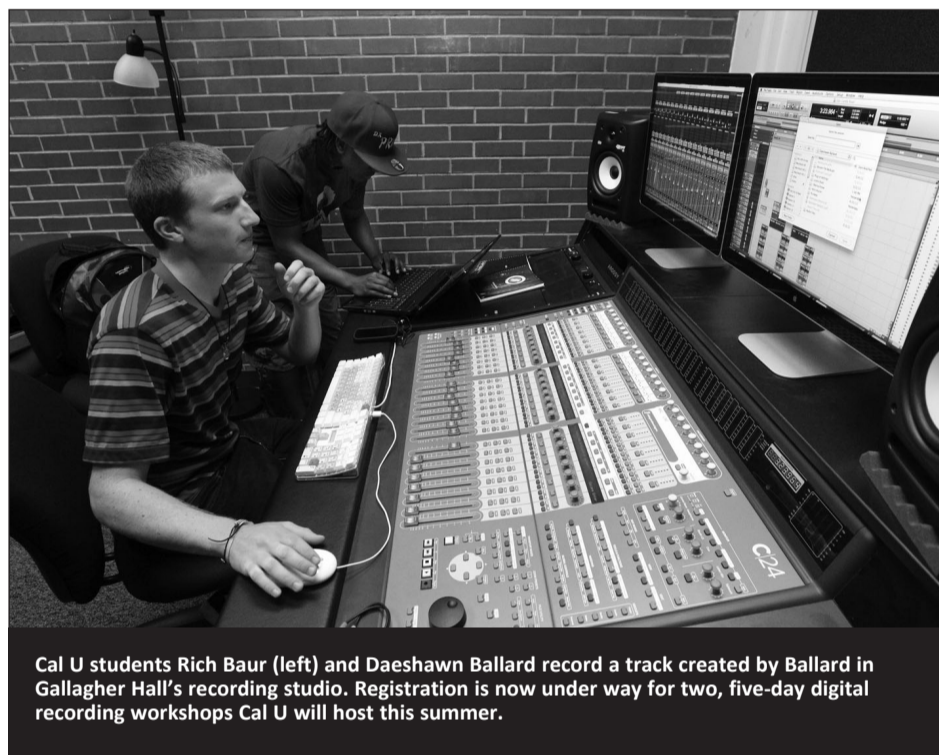
Register Now for Digital Recording Workshops

Musicians and recording engineers can learn to use the digital "tools of the trade" when Cal U offers two summer workshops in Pro Tools, computer software that has become the industry standard for recording, editing and mixing digital music and sound.

Registration is now under way, and students are being accepted on a first come, first served basis. Just 20 seats are available in each workshop. No audition or prior experience is required.

Under an agreement signed last spring, Cal U is the only university in Pennsylvania to be an AVID Learning Partner, an educational provider for AVID-brand products, including Pro Tools. For the first time this summer, Cal U will offer Pro Tools training and certification to musicians and recording engineers who are not enrolled in a full-time degree program at the university.

"Whether you transfer your favorite analog vinyl albums to digital at home, record your performing ensemble or run the soundboard at your church, these workshops can give you the knowledge to do what you do even better," says Dr. Yugo Ikach, chair of the Music Department at Cal U.



Cal U students Rich Baur (left) and Daeshawn Ballard record a track created by Ballard in Gallagher Hall's recording studio. Registration is now under way for two, five-day digital recording workshops Cal U will host this summer.

"Students in Cal U's Commercial Music Technology program earn certification in Pro Tools as part of their four-year degree. Now we're offering the same professional-level training to anyone who is interested in recording, editing and mixing digital sound."

Both five-day workshops will be held in state-of-the-art classrooms in Gallagher Hall. Classes will be held daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and labs will be staffed during evening hours so students can work on assignments and projects. Workshop participants will learn at

individual workstations equipped with the latest hardware and Pro Tools software.

These sessions are planned:

- **June 10-14** — Pro Tools 101: An Introduction to Pro Tools 10 (prerequisite for Pro Tools 110 and User Certification).

- **June 17-21** — Pro Tools 110: Pro Tools Production I.

Courses (and exams) may be taken separately, but participants wishing to become Pro Tools User Certified must enroll in both courses and successfully pass the User Certification Exam that is given at the conclusion of Pro Tools 110.

Educators may be eligible for Act 48 continuing education credits.

Cost is \$375 for each workshop session; fee includes the required textbook. University housing is available for workshop participants at an additional cost. A nonrefundable deposit of \$150 is required to reserve a seat. Fees must be paid in full by June 3, 2013.

Program and registration details are available at www.calu.edu. For more information, call Rose Markovich in the Cal U Music Department at 724-938-4878 or send e-mail to protoolsinstitute@calu.edu.

Campus BRIEFS

Final Spring Academic Open House

Cal U welcomes students and their families to an Academic Open House from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

The program is designed to introduce prospective students to Cal U and to give students who already have been accepted a chance to explore the campus.

Students and families who attend will meet faculty and learn more about Cal U's programs of study, housing, extracurricular activities and student life.

For more information or to register online, visit www.calu.edu. Prospective students also may contact the Welcome Center at 724-938-1626 or e-mail Carrie Pavtis at pavtis@calu.edu.

Register to Bring Kids to Work

Tuesday is the final day to register for Cal U's "Take Your Child to Work Day" on April 16.

The event is open to Cal U staff and faculty members only. Children must be ages 8-18.

This year's event will allow kids to explore career possibilities and University services, and to enjoy a variety of physical and educational activities.

For more information, contact Dr. Melissa Sovak, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Systems, at sovak@calu.edu.

Founded in 1993 as "Take Our Daughters to Work Day," the annual program now includes sons, as well.

"We encourage faculty and staff to participate in this nationally recognized job shadowing and career development experience," Sovak said.

To register, visit the Events carousel at www.calu.edu, choose "Take Your Child to Work" and click the icon in the upper right.

ESPN's Smith Headlines Hip-Hop Panel

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including Li'l Wayne, Common, Chuck D, Ice Cube, Snoop Dogg (Lion), Nelly and many others have appeared on the show and hip-hop artists Wale and Staley perform its theme song.

"Hip-hop music is utilized throughout all major sporting events' venues, especially college and pro basketball, baseball and football," Edmonds said. "Stephen A. Smith stands at the crossroads of these two areas that co-exist and feed off each other."

A former sportswriter, Smith has held a permanent seat on *First Take's* "Embrace Debate" segment since spring 2012. In addition, he currently hosts *The Stephen A. Smith and Ryan Ruocco Show* on ESPN Radio New York, and he is a featured columnist for ESPNNY.com.

Smith's career as a sportswriter included stints at the New York Daily News, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Winston-Salem Journal and other

newspapers. He also was a morning show host on Fox Sports Radio and ESPN Radio in New York and Los Angeles.

Smith started his television career on the now-defunct cable network CNN/SI in 1999. He has appeared as a special commentator on MSNBC, as well as ESPN.

"Sports, Hip-Hop and Race" is free and open to the public. A question-and-answer session will follow the panel presentation, with special commentator and Olympic gold medalist Roger Kingdom, the track and field coach at Cal U.

The presentation will close with an impersonation contest. A prize will be awarded to the student who performs the best Stephen A. Smith impersonation.

Cal U's 8th annual Hip-Hop Conference is open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For more information about the conference or Stephen A. Smith's appearance, visit www.calu.edu.

Mentor Honored at Wild Game Dinner

Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society presented the inaugural Joseph V. Stefko Outstanding Wildlife Mentor Award to its namesake during the 16th annual Outdoor Bash and Wild Game Dinner.

In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the National Wild Turkey Federation, the event was held March 23 at the Richeyville Fire Hall in Richeyville, Pa.

Stefko, a wildlife education supervisor for the Game Commission, has been working with Cal U interns since 2000. He often speaks to classes, and he occasionally brings a bear to campus so students can learn how to trap, tag and process the animals.

Dr. Carol Bocetti, club adviser and an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, explained that the student chapter established the award to recognize outstanding individuals who make extraordinary efforts to contribute to the professional development of members.

"There is no one more deserving of this honor than Joe Stefko," she said. "In every setting where he encounters our students, he demonstrates the proper professional behavior and ethical



Dr. Carol Bocetti presents Joseph Stefko with Cal U's inaugural Outstanding Wildlife Mentor Award, named in his honor, during the 16th annual Outdoor Bash and Wild Game Dinner.

conduct.

"He not only mentors our students through amazing work experiences, but he also advocates for them throughout their careers."

Stefko said he was deeply moved by the honor. He credited Bocetti and Dr. David Argent, department chair, for

providing quality interns.

"The majority of our interns come from Cal U and we've had a lot of good ones," he said. "We have a great relationship with California University that should only become more advantageous for both parties as it continues."

This year's game dinner attracted 380 guests who were served more than 30 dishes made from deer, bear, beaver, rabbit, hog, turkey, pheasant, quail, duck and goose.

Proceeds from the event provide opportunities for students to attend workshops and other hands-on learning experiences. Bocetti described this year's fundraiser as the most successful ever held.

Last fall at the Wildlife Society's 19th annual meeting in Portland, Ore., Cal U's student chapter of the Wildlife Society was named 2012 Chapter of the Year. Bocetti received the 2012 Student Chapter Advisor of the Year.

At the game dinner, Cal U's student chapter presented Bocetti with a beautiful blanket in appreciation of her teaching and guidance.

"The event was a tremendous success," Bocetti said. "Not only will our students benefit from the funds raised, but they also have learned how to stage a large event. And they had a chance to network with professionals from the Game Commission, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and the Ruffed Grouse Society.

"The dinner is a learning experience and an opportunity to have fun!"

Spring Cleaning

The men's soccer team takes a break after completing a cleanup project at Center in the Woods, a community center in California Borough that serves older adults and relies heavily on volunteers. With guidance from head coach Dennis Laskey, the players raked leaves, swept parking lots, moved stones and landscaped portions of the property. "We were just glad to be of help," Laskey said. "It's important to be able to do something positive for the community."



KDKA to Film BotsIQ Finals

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The KDKA-TV program, scheduled to air a week after the contest, will introduce viewers to Cal U's new four-year program in mechatronics engineering technology. The first four-year program of its kind in Pennsylvania, it will prepare students to work with mechanical devices that incorporate mechanical, electrical, computer and software components, such as robots, automated guided systems, computer-integrated manufacturing or other "smart" devices.

"There are good jobs in this field right here in western Pennsylvania," Amrhein said.

In fact, the state Department of Labor and Industry's Center for Advanced Manufacturing estimates there will be 300 to 600 job openings each year through 2020.

In past years, Cal U has hosted the preliminary rounds of the regional BotsIQ competition.

"This is the first year that the BotsIQ finals are being held at Cal U, and the Convocation Center is the ideal venue," Butzine said.

"We want to create a really exciting atmosphere for the competitors. We want this to be one learning experience they're never going to forget."

The public is invited to watch the BotsIQ competition. Friday's events begin with an opening ceremony at 9:15 a.m., and bouts conclude at 5:30 p.m. Saturday's rumbles start at 9 a.m., with the closing awards ceremony at 6 p.m.

Admission to the Convocation Center arena is free, and visitor parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance. For a complete contest schedule, plus lists of competing schools, industry partners and awards, visit www.calu.edu.

Labor Laws Topic for GACO

Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO) and the Government Contracting Assistance Center at Slippery Rock University will sponsor an introductory seminar on complying with labor laws in federal government contracts.

The free seminar will be held from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. April 18 at the National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochran Mill Road, Pittsburgh.

Participants are required to register in advance; deadline is April 16. Online registration is available at <http://cupgaco.eccenterdirect.com/Conference>

Detail.action?ID=81.

The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division enforces labor laws pertaining to the federal minimum wage, child labor, overtime pay, recordkeeping and prevailing wages on federal contracts for construction and the purchase of goods and services.

Beginning at 9:25 a.m., investigator Sam Glover, of the division's Pittsburgh office, will discuss these laws and explain how to comply.

For more information about the registration process or the seminar's content, contact Kate Lacey Glodek, GACO manager, at 412-237-6098 or glodek@calu.edu.

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Bruce Wald, Wendy Mackall, Jeff Bender
Writers

Office of Communications and Public Relations 250 University Avenue California, PA 15419 724-938-4195 wald@calu.edu