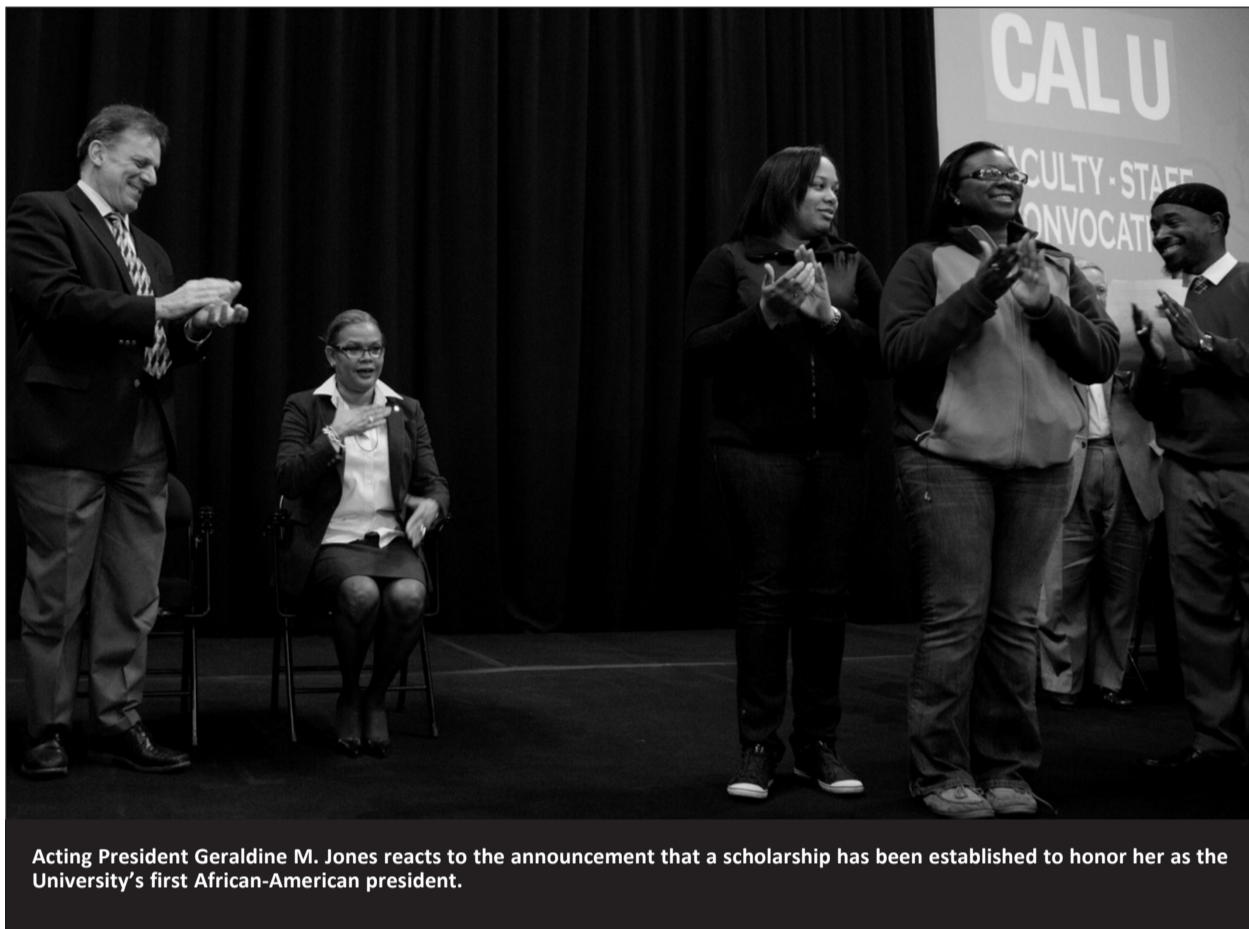


# California University JOURNAL

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3 FEB. 11, 2013

READ THE JOURNAL ONLINE: [www.calu.edu/news/the-journal](http://www.calu.edu/news/the-journal)



Acting President Geraldine M. Jones reacts to the announcement that a scholarship has been established to honor her as the University's first African-American president.

## Violin Duo Returns for Black History Month

Two classically trained musicians will bring a DJ and a mix of jazz, hip-hop, funk and classical strings back to Cal U on Friday as part of the University's celebration of Black History Month.

Black Violin — Florida natives Wil B and Kev Marcus — will perform at 7 p.m. in Steele Hall. The group has worked with musicians such as P. Diddy, Kanye West, Fifty Cent, Aerosmith, Tom Petty, Aretha Franklin and the Eagles.

Black Violin, which performed at Cal U during Black History Month in 2011, aims to foster self-expression among urban youth and to reinvigorate music programs across the country.



Chinua Hawk

DaeShawn Ballard, a Cal U student who performs as Lil D Da Prince, will be the opening act.

Also as part of the Black History Month celebration, acoustic recording artist Chinua Hawk will perform at 9 p.m. Thursday in the Underground Café, in the Natali Student Center. Hawk has written songs with Wyclef Jean and worked in the studio with producer/rapper Kanye West.

Other events include:

- The 10th annual Black Student Union Formal, 7 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Performance Center;
- "Decades of Fashion," the second annual fashion show, 8 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Performance Center;
- A trip to the August Wilson Center and the Waterfront in Pittsburgh, 2 p.m. Feb. 23;
- The history of black Greek organizations, 5:30 p.m. Feb. 28 in Duda Hall.

For a complete schedule of events and more information, or to see videos of performances by Black Violin and Chinua Hawk, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

Black History Month events are sponsored by the Black Student Union; SABUG, the Student Activities Board/Underground; the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office; the Frederick Douglass Institute; Multicultural Student Programs; and Career Services.

## Convocation Ends with Scholarship Surprise

Faculty, staff and alumni have established a scholarship in honor of Geraldine M. Jones, Cal U's first African-American president.

The news came as a surprise to Jones, who first learned about the scholarship when it was announced Jan. 29 at the University's spring convocation of faculty and staff.

"I had no idea about any of this!" said Jones, whose family was on hand for the announcement. "I can't tell you how much this has touched my heart. I am so very pleased and honored."

The effort to create the Geraldine M. Jones Scholarship was led by faculty, staff and students involved in planning for Cal U's annual Black History Month celebration.

"Rather than looking to national figures, we challenged our student leaders to celebrate their own heroes," said Dr. Harrison Pinckney, a co-adviser for the

annual celebration.

"One name came up repeatedly, so during our planning meetings we began to discuss ways to celebrate President Jones and her role as the first African-American president of Cal U. This is the type of person we want our students to emulate. Ultimately, we decided to establish a scholarship in her honor."

The scholarship will be awarded annually to a female student of color, with priority given to a student enrolled in the commercial music technology program. Jones, an accomplished pianist, earned her undergraduate degree in music education at California State College in 1972. She also earned her master's degree at Cal U.

Before the surprise scholarship announcement, President Jones updated the audience on the University's progress in three key areas: educating — Continued on page 3

## Officer Finds Missing Man on Tracks

A Cal police officer's timely response may have saved the life of an elderly man who wandered away from a care home last month.

While on routine patrol on the evening of Jan. 18, Officer Ryan Kempert spotted a man on the train tracks adjacent to Watkins Hall.

Earlier that day, Cal U Police Department had received a "be on the lookout" radio notification from Washington County 911 describing a man who had left a personal care home in Centerville, Pa.

"When I first passed him, he was walking toward the Bezel Street area, up on the tracks, and I thought it looked strange," said Kempert. "When you're on patrol in a vehicle, your head is kind of always on a swivel. When I got turned around, he was sitting on the tracks. I parked, approached him, and talked to him to

make sure he was all right."

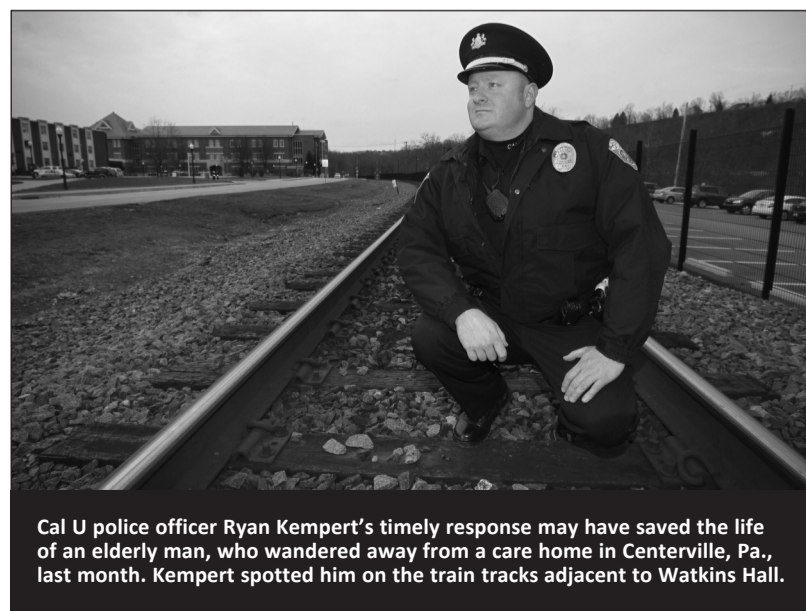
The man said he was trying to get to nearby Dunlevy, Kempert recalled. The weather was cold, but the man was wearing only a flannel shirt, mud-covered sweat pants, and canvas slip-on shoes.

"It was pretty cold out, and he had 'bush burrs' all over him," Kempert added. "I just wanted to check him out. He definitely was not dressed for the cold."

The lost man did not have identification, but he told Kempert his name and date of birth. While the officer confirmed the information and discovered that he was indeed the missing man, Cal U police Sgt. Steve Orbin transported the man to the Cal U police station.

The officers saw that the man was warm and offered him water before Brownsville EMS

— Continued on page 4



Cal U police officer Ryan Kempert's timely response may have saved the life of an elderly man, who wandered away from a care home in Centerville, Pa., last month. Kempert spotted him on the train tracks adjacent to Watkins Hall.

# Office's New Name Aligns with Its Mission

To better describe its mission, the Office of Grants and Contracts officially will change its name to the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPR).

The name change, which has been approved by the President's Cabinet, goes into effect Tuesday, according to OSPR director Cheryl Vogrig, a certified research administrator, and Dr. Stanley Komacek, dean of School of Graduate Studies and Research.

"Sponsored Programs and Research' will more accurately reflect the nature of the work carried out by Cheryl Vogrig and her staff, as well as the scholarly, educational and service work completed by faculty and staff who secure funding from outside sources to support the University's goals and objectives," said Komacek, who also serves as an associate provost in the Office of Academic Affairs.

The new name is part of a strategic plan supported by a 15-member OSPR advisory board assembled last fall. Faculty, staff, students and external contacts all have a voice on that panel.

The OSPR's mission is to provide support for faculty and staff in the pursuit of external funding and the execution and stewardship of such projects, while ensuring compliance with appropriate University, federal, state and other funding agencies' policies, procedures and regulations.



Cheryl Vogrig believes that the mission of the area she directs will be better described beginning Tuesday, when the Office of Grants and Contracts officially changes its name to the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research.

"We are trying to stimulate external funding on the campus, and our new name clearly represents the work we do," Vogrig said.

Over the past three years, the office has helped faculty and staff secure nearly \$9.5 million in grants and contracts.

The OSPR provides assistance in the following areas: identifying potential funding sources; assisting with developing proposals and budgets; facilitating compliance with federal, state, sponsoring agency and University regulations; completing electronic applications; submitting proposals to sponsoring agencies; negotiating contracts and other award agreements; accepting award documents; and administering post-award non-accounting functions, including sub-awards, no-cost extensions and budget revisions.

Working alongside Vogrig in the OSPR is Donna Gilmore, post-awards administrator, and office secretary Kim Rabbitt. The office is located in Dixon Hall, Room 425.

"By changing our name, I believe we can reach out to a wider audience and reduce confusion, such as receiving calls about student tuition grants," Vogrig said. "Now we have a broadly accepted, modernized name, which is a better descriptor for the work we perform."

For more information about external funding opportunities, contact Cheryl Vogrig at [vogrig@calu.edu](mailto:vogrig@calu.edu).

## GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- **Sheri Boyle**, assistant professor and field coordinator for the Department of Social Work, has been awarded a contract from Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services CONNECT. This contract, in the amount of \$15,000, will enable her to perform evaluation services for CONNECT's 21st Century Community Learning Center 6A LEARN Afterschool Program.

- **Dr. Lisa Kovalchick**, associate professor in the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, has been awarded a grant through the EdLab Group to continue serving as a representative for the Pennsylvania STEM National Girls' Collaborative Project funded by the National Science Foundation. This award includes \$10,000 for mini-grants to support and motivate collaboration between organizations that serve girls.

- **Dr. Robert Skwarecki, Dr. Samantha Procaccini and Nancy Carlino**, of the Communication Disorders Department, have been awarded a Highmark Healthcare Academic Program grant of \$4,827 through the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Their project is titled "Electronic Health Record Conversion for the Cal U Speech and Hearing Clinic: Aligning Clinician Training with Current Healthcare Practices."

- **Monica Ruane and Ryan Sittler**, assistant professors who work in Manderino Library, have been awarded a Muslim Journeys Bookshelf grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This award, valued at \$1,000, includes 25 books and three films, along with bookmarks, bookplates, posters and access to a companion website with digital resources.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research serves faculty and staff by providing comprehensive resources related to external funding for sponsored projects. The OSPR provides support in developing proposals for funding from federal, state and local grants, contracts, foundations and related associations. For more information call 724-938-1662 or e-mail [vogrig@calu.edu](mailto:vogrig@calu.edu).

## Speaker: King's Ideas Still Relevant Today

Cal U celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 31 with a discussion about the continuing merit of his work.

Dr. Charles Thomas, vice president for Administrative Services at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Ga., shared his thoughts with students, faculty and staff who packed the Vulcan Theatre.

"There have been misunderstandings of Dr. King's work and life, as well as his philosophies and theologies," Thomas said. "There has also been a lack of appreciation of his contributions beyond the civil rights movement."

"When we think of Dr. King, we think of the 'I Have a Dream' speech, bus boycotts and other sermons he preached ... but there is much more."

Although civil rights laws have been established in the United States, true equality has not been achieved, Thomas argued. He pointed to King's statements about love, justice and equality, saying he believes they are still relevant today.

"Even with equality rules set in place, without people with the ethical and moral fortitude to enforce these rules, they are



During a presentation Jan. 31 in Vulcan Theatre, Dr. Charles Thomas, vice president for Administrative Services at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga., speaks about the merits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work.

nothing more than resounding words on paper. Therefore, his message of love, justice and equality still stands."

Thomas, a former adjunct professor at Slippery Rock University, is new to his role at the ITC, an independent, nonprofit, coeducational graduate school of theology that advocates for churches

to take a more aggressive role in American societies.

He changed the tone of the discussion when he began giving examples of how times have not changed since King's fight for equal treatment for every citizen. He even declared that King would be "disappointed" because his dream has not

been achieved.

Inequality "still lies in the ethos of America," Thomas said. Members of the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities and many others still suffer from discrimination.

"We cover them in interpretations that we have been fed, and we have bought into, that causes us to believe that they are less than us."

Thomas asked his listeners to push through those negative perceptions and embrace the positive aspects of life.

"It really stuck with me, to keep everything positive," said sophomore pre-med major Maurice Burns. "Whether it is on Facebook, Twitter, or in everyday conversation, as long as you push forward, everything will work out."

King's themes of justice, equality and love will always be part of human nature, Thomas said.

"When you leave from this institution, you are going to encounter challenges that will come and people who will have different backgrounds and ideas.

"You should provide equality and justice to them as you want given to yourself."

## Fun for All Ages on Horizon at Annual Stormfest

Fun is in the forecast at the sixth annual StormFest at the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh.

The annual educational outreach event is hosted in part by the Southwestern Pennsylvania chapter of the American Meteorological Society (Cal U Meteorology Club) and the Earth Sciences Department, in collaboration with the Science Center. The family friendly event, which explores geology, geography, meteorology and more, will be held Friday and Saturday.

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, children in grades K-6 will

take field trips to the Science Center. StormFest is open to the general public from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday. Activities are free with paid admission to the Science Center.

Dozens of activities have been designed by Cal U students to teach children about the science behind weather and other natural phenomena. Crowd favorites include making rocks, lava lamps, rains sticks and "glurch," a substance with both solid and liquid properties.

Cal U meteorology students will staff the event, along with students majoring in geology, geographic information

systems, mathematics and education. Cal U also has recruited volunteers from Ohio University.

Nick "the Weather Dude" Walker, a meteorologist from The Weather Channel, will be at StormFest on Saturday to sign autographs and perform. Walker is the author of *Sing Along with the Weather Dude*, a book and CD for children, and *Don't Get Scared, Just Get Prepared*, a CD of weather songs to teach severe weather preparedness.

Visitors on Saturday will receive a free souvenir T-shirt if they complete at least 18 activities.



## Cal U Winter Wonderland

Kathleen Kuharik, executive staff assistant for University Development, sweeps snow off her car outside of Dixon Hall after a Jan. 28 snowfall blanketed the campus. The campus community can check [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu) for weather alerts and sign up for Cal U text alerts.

# Scholarship Surprise at Convocation

— Continued from page 1

students, stabilizing enrollment and instituting fiscal solvency principles.

In keeping with Cal U's focus on academics, President Jones reported that the faculty/student FTE ratio has been adjusted. Last semester that ratio returned to the fall 2005 level, she said.

"We did this so that students were able to get the classes they needed to keep on a timely four-year path to graduation," President Jones said. "Our core mission must be preserved."

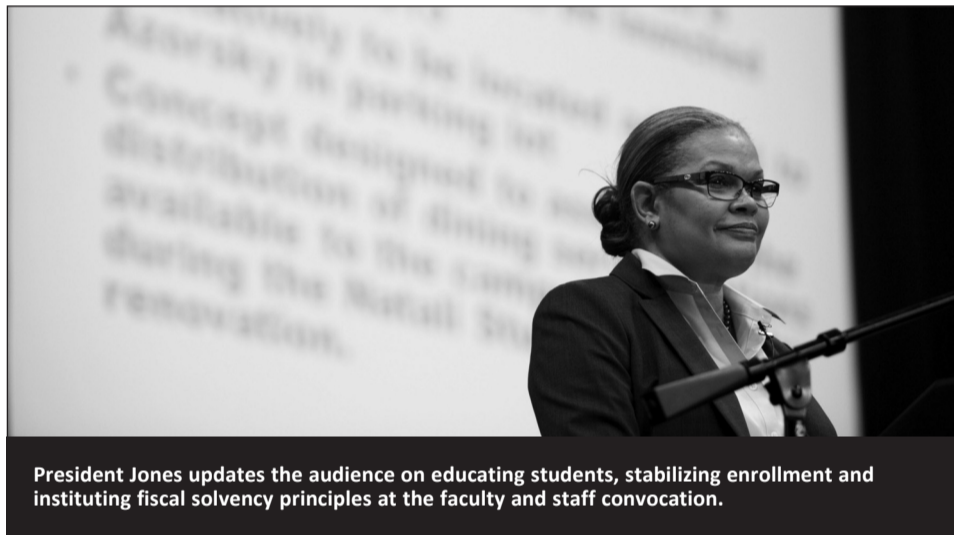
Plans for changes in admissions standards also were announced. Multiple criteria, including a prospective student's grade-point average, high school curriculum and class standing will be considered, in addition to standardized test scores.

"Our academic standards are not being lowered; it simply means that we will consider more than one measure for admission," the President explained.

Turning to fiscal matters, President Jones noted that the University's deficit has been reduced by \$1.3 million since August, bringing it to \$2.9 million. Despite the budget cuts, \$1 million in discretionary allocations was added to support academic areas.

"Even with the additional \$1 million to the academic side of the house, we were able to reduce our deficit," she said. "Once the final Spring 2013 enrollment numbers are recorded on the 16th day of the semester, we will have a better idea of where we stand for this fiscal year."

She urged the faculty and staff to participate in the Cal U Campus Climate Survey, which began Feb. 4. The voluntary survey is a comprehensive study of the living, working and learning environment for Cal U students, faculty and staff.



President Jones updates the audience on educating students, stabilizing enrollment and instituting fiscal solvency principles at the faculty and staff convocation.

"Please take a few minutes to help us understand the current climate at Cal U," Jones said. "This survey is your opportunity to describe your own personal experiences, share your observations and offer suggestions for change that might enhance the climate."

The "state of the University" address included a brief review of accomplishments from all administrative areas. Among the highlights: the new bachelor's degree program in mechatronics engineering technology scheduled to debut in fall 2013, and work to upgrade the television studio in Morgan Hall.

This spring a food truck, parked near Azorsky Hall, will offer an additional dining option while preparations for the Natali Student Center renovation are under way, the President reported. And the Adobe creative software suite soon will be installed on nearly all University computers.

Finally, President Jones put to rest staff and faculty concerns that balancing the budget might require layoffs.

"Retrenchment and lay-offs have never been on the table," she said. "We have cut or scaled back programs and initiatives

that are outside of our core mission in order to control costs, and we will continue to look at these types of expenses."

Before President Jones' update, Dr. Michael Slavin, president of APSCUF, spoke about the "attack on public education happening nationwide" and the likelihood of a strike by the faculty union.

Dr. Bruce Barnhart, acting provost, reported on several changes to the academic calendar. Beginning this semester, there will be no classes on the Monday following Easter.

Reading Day will be eliminated in both the spring and fall semesters, he said, and Mission Day will take a new form. The adjustments mean there will be no classes during the week of Thanksgiving.

President Jones concluded her presentation by praising the work of faculty and staff.

"You are more than salary figures on a spreadsheet," she said.

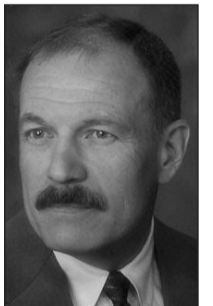
"Please know how very much I appreciate each of you. Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication on behalf of Cal U and our students."

# JLS Speaker Series Resumes Tuesday

The speaker series sponsored by the Department of Justice, Law and Society begins its second semester with a talk by federal contract investigator Lawrence W. Bush at 11 a.m. Tuesday in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

The series is intended to promote student awareness of the interrelated and specialized careers within the areas of justice studies, sociology, anthropology, women's studies and leadership.

Bush has been a federal contract investigator since 2005. His credentials currently allow him to conduct personnel security background investigations for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,



Lawrence W. Bush

National Security Agency and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Additionally, Bush conducts fraud prevention inspections for the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services.

Prior to his retirement in 2004, Bush worked as a parole agent for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole for 33 years. During his tenure with the board, he became a Pennsylvania- and NRA-certified firearms instructor, defensive tactics instructor, and a certified armorer for Smith & Wesson and Glock.

An active member of the Fraternal Order of Police, he has served for the past 10 years as the Western Region vice president of the Pa. Criminal Investigators Lodge No. 91.

Bush holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in school psychology, both from Duquesne University.

"The department is excited to begin our second-semester lecture series with a host of outstanding professional speakers," said Dr. Emily Sweitzer, chair of the Department of Justice, Law and Society.

"The department welcomes all interested students, faculty, staff and community members to this open forum for the exchange of ideas and networking opportunities.

"Our series enlists speakers with diverse academic and professional backgrounds, so that we can begin to prepare our students for careers and professional opportunities that utilize skill sets from various disciplines and fields."

Admission to the series is free, and the talks are open to the public.

For more information about upcoming speakers in this series, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

## GACO Plans Government Contracting Seminar Wednesday

Cal U and Slippery Rock's Government Agency Coordination Offices (GACO) will host a free seminar that examines the basics of federal government contracting 8:30 a.m.-noon Wednesday at the Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township.

Presenters are Debra Ball, contracting officer for the U.S. Dept. of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh; Randy Strothman, president of Randy Strothman & Associates; Dana Mattern, government sales manager for 84 Lumber Co.; and Kevin White and Karen Waigand, deputy district

director and economic development specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration, Pittsburgh.

For more information, contact Renee Decker at 724-738-2346 or Cal U's GACO office at 724-938-5881. Register online by Tuesday at <http://cupgaco.centerdirect.com>. Choose "training events."

# Vulcans Now 3rd in Dixon Trophy Standings

With a PSAC championship in women's golf and two runner-up finishes on its scorecard, Cal U athletics currently ranks third in the 16-school Dixon Trophy standings.

The Dixon Trophy is awarded annually to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference member institution with the most successful all-around program. The winner is determined by a point system based on the results of conference playoffs and/or regular-season records.

This season, the league adopted a new scoring format to calculate the Dixon Trophy standings, which now are based on an average score for every PSAC Championship sport that an institution sponsors.

The point values for each sport remain the same, with 16 points awarded to each conference champion and descending point values for depending on placement. In previous years, only an institution's top 12 finishes — six men's, six women's — were used to calculate a point total.

Cal U averaged 11.19 overall points through the fall season, including a



Cal U athletics ranks third in the 16-school Dixon Trophy standings. Part of that success is because of the women's golf team, led by PSAC-medalist Maria Lopez (above), which won its fourth conference title in five years this past fall.

league-best 13.00 points in women's sports.

In October, women's golf earned 16 points when it won its fourth conference title in five years.

Also earning double-digit points were women's soccer (15), volleyball (13),

men's golf (12) and football (10.5).

Both women's soccer and men's golf placed second at their respective conference tournaments, while the women's volleyball team reached the PSAC semifinals. The cross country team rounded out the women's fall

sports with eight points.

The men's cross country team also totaled eight points. Men's soccer received seven points after making a second consecutive PSAC playoff appearance.

IUP leads the Dixon Trophy standings with an average of 11.79 points. Shippensburg ranks second in the standings with an average of 11.26.

Seven different institutions have won the Dixon Trophy, which began in the 1995-96 academic year.

Since 2008, Cal U has finished no less than fifth in the standings each year. The Vulcans won the Dixon Trophy in 2009 and placed second in 2010.

Cal U athletic teams are competing for five PSAC Championships during the 2012-2013 winter season: men's and women's basketball, women's swimming, and men's and women's indoor track and field.

The Dixon Trophy standings will be updated next after basketball championships are completed in early March. The trophy will be awarded in May.

## Faculty Needed for Forum Committee

The California University Forum has announced a call for the nominations of faculty members for election to the Academic Policy Committee of the University Forum.

The Forum Constitution calls for the election of six regular (tenured or tenure-track) faculty members to the Academic Policy Committee, with each undergraduate college having two representatives.

The Academic Policy Committee meets periodically to tackle certain issues and make recommendations to the full Forum. For further information, visit the Forum website at <http://www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/forum/index.htm>.

The Executive Committee will supervise the election and certify the results. Committee members serve a three-year term.

Self-nominations are permitted. The nominees will be contacted to confirm acceptance of their name to be placed on the electoral ballot.

Following the nominations, six faculty members will be elected to the Academic Policy Committee by secret ballot. All regular (tenured and tenure-track) faculty members may vote. The voting will take place electronically on Feb. 21 and 22, 2013.

Further information will be provided to faculty members who are eligible to vote.

Nomination forms will be sent to the campus mailboxes of all regular tenured and tenure-track faculty members. The form also is available on the University's Microsoft Outlook site; check Public Folders/Campus-Wide Resources/University Forum.

All nominations must be submitted to Dana Turcic, Forum Recording Secretary, Campus Box 99, no later than Friday. For more information, call Turcic at 724-938-1633, send e-mail to [CalForum@calu.edu](mailto:CalForum@calu.edu) or [turcic@calu.edu](mailto:turcic@calu.edu), or write to her at University Forum Office, 250 University Ave., California, PA 15419.

## Officer Finds Missing Man

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transported him to Monongahela Valley Hospital for treatment of possible hypothermia and other injuries.

When he followed up with Washington County 911, Kempert learned that the man suffered from dementia and recently had undergone surgery. He had wandered from the personal care home around 1:30 p.m. State police were notified about two hours later, and a search involving multiple agencies and a state police helicopter commenced.

Lt. Michael Miles, Cal U's interim police chief, had nothing but praise for his officers.

"I cannot say enough about the efforts of the University Police officers who actively searched for the missing gentleman," Miles said. "Officer Kempert's dedicated efforts saved this gentleman from serious injury or possibly worse. I express my sincere appreciation not only to the

University police officers, but to all agencies who assisted in this effort."

Kempert, a Cal U police officer since June 2010, said this was the first time he found a missing person — but he stressed that serving the entire community is all part of the job.

"We are just like any other police department around," said Kempert, who previously served with the West Newton, South Greensburg, and Edgewood Borough police departments. "We are watching out for everyone."

The California University Police Department consists of two supervisors, three specialists, 10 patrol officers, one administrative assistant and three dispatchers. Miles emphasized that Cal U police are fully certified, and their services are not limited to the campus alone.

"The department has grown tremendously over recent years, and we frequently assist local communities. We want to be good neighbors, especially when quick action is needed."

## Nursing Department Seeks Comments

The Department of Nursing is seeking re-accreditation of its RN-to-BSN program and first-time accreditation of the MSN in Nursing Administration and Leadership program.

As members prepare for the upcoming visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), the department has issued a call for comments from communities of interest, including students, alumni, faculty, employers and the general public. Written feedback about the nursing programs' compliance with accreditation standards will be shared with the

CCNE evaluations team, which is scheduled to visit campus March 25-27.

The CCNE shares third-party comments only with members of the evaluation team, which considers only those comments that relate to the program's compliance with the accreditation standards.

Written and signed third-party comments will be accepted until Feb. 23, 2013. Submit comments to: Cristina Walcott, Administrative Assistant, Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 1 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036.

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Geraldine M. Jones  
Acting University President

Robert Thorn  
Vice President for Administration and Finance

Dr. Nancy Pinardi  
Interim Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Bruce Barnhart  
Acting Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Craig Butzine  
Vice President for Marketing and University Relations

Christine Kindl  
Editor

Dr. Charles Mance  
Vice President for University Technology Services

Sharon Navoney  
Interim Vice President for University Development and Cal U for Life

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](mailto:wald@calu.edu)