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Cal Pride Weekend

Dr. Marcella Rye Blout '65 will receive the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday during Cal Pride Weekend festivities. Her address at 7 p.m. in the Performance Center is open to the entire campus community. For details, see story on page 3.

Tickets Still Available for Kenny Rogers Concert

Good seats are still available for Kenny Rogers, appearing live in concert Friday at the Convocation Center.

The three-time Grammy Award winner headlines a celebration marking the Grand Opening of the Convocation Center.

Festivities are scheduled to begin with a 3 p.m. ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony in front of the building. A free Community Celebration of Music will be held from 4-7 p.m. in the Convocation Center Courtyard. Performers scheduled to appear include the Cal U Jazz Band; Brother Jeep and the Old Shoes Band, featuring Cal U police officer George "Jeep" Kyle; and Nashville performer Amber "Ambie Mac" McDonald, a Cal U alumna. McDonald is expected to perform a number she recently recorded in Nashville with members of the University Choir.

The winner of Froggy radio's "Froggy Idol" contest will sing, and radio personality Danger Frog will be on hand for a live broadcast.

Doors open to ticketholders at 6:30 p.m. for the Kenny Rogers show, which begins at 7:30. Opening acts are Billy Dean, a Grammy Award-winning contemporary country music star, and singer-songwriter Andy Gibson, one of Nashville's brightest young talents.

Tickets to the Kenny Rogers concert are available at Ticketmaster locations, online at ticketmaster.com, or at the Convocation Center Box Office, open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. To charge by phone, call 1-800-745-3000.

Cal U Senior Takes 2nd Place in PASSHE Competition

A Cal U senior has won second place in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Student Business Plan Competition.

Chaz Sztroin, a senior graphic communications major, was awarded \$5,000 for his plan to promote mixed martial arts competitions. The money is to be used for business development.

Sztroin competed against a total of 236 submissions, which were whittled to 25 and then to six before a panel of judges chose the winners.

Another team from Cal U — Michael Rhoads, a senior business administration major, and Matthew Lacey, a freshman business administration major — was among the top 25 finishers.

Rhoads and Lacey have created Keystone Agriculture Consulting, which specializes in resource management, feed and livestock brokerage and technology integration.

The three students traveled to Harrisburg on April 2 for the awards ceremony. They were accompanied by Provost Geraldine Jones; Dr. Len Collelli, dean of the Eberly College of Science and Technology; and Kelly Hunt, executive director of the Cal U Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and Student Incubator.

At Cal U, the competition was coordinated through the Entrepreneurial



Cal U senior Chaz Sztroin earned second place in the PASSHE Student Business Plan Competition for his plan for a mixed martial arts business.

Leadership Center.

"We are very proud of our students for their hard work in preparing for this competition. All of them had wonderful

ideas," Hunt said.

"The education we give our students is great. We just need to come alongside of them to develop the opportunity."

Sztroin said he values the outside input into his mixed martial arts business plan.

"I have been thinking of it for a long time," he said. "I wrote the business plan a year prior to the contest, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to pursue it. So I look at this as a validity test, because it was reviewed by an objective group."

Rhoads and Lacey met at the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and already are serving clients with their business, Keystone Agriculture LLC (www.keyaglife.com).

"Matt is a powerhouse of knowledge when it comes to the ag aspect, and I bring the business knowledge," Rhoads explained. "We have similar interests, and Kelly (Hunt) brought us together at the center."

All three students work at the center, offering support and advice to one another and to others who may have a business idea.

"We help each other out," Sztroin said. "A lot of peer mentoring goes on here. Anytime you can be with like-minded individuals who see themselves on an upward trajectory, that's a positive thing."

Convocation Honors Top Scholars

California University will recognize more than 1,500 of its most accomplished scholars at an Honors Convocation 2 p.m. Saturday in Hamer Hall Auditorium

Dr. Dennis L. Eckels '71 will deliver the honors address.

Eckels has been in private practice since 1976 at Valley Ambulatory Health Center in Seward, Pa. A member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), he holds additional qualifications in geriatric and osteopathic manipulative medicine.

In 2010 he was one of 14 osteopathic family physicians nationwide to receive the ACOFP Fellowship Award, an honor conferred on those osteopathic family physicians who have contributed outstanding service through teaching, authorship, research or professional leadership.

Eckels serves on the clinical faculty at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and he is an adjunct clinical instructor at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pa.

He is program director of the ACOFP Family Practice Residency Program at Conemaugh Medical Center in Johnstown, Pa. In 2009 his office was



Dr. Dennis L. Eckels '71, program director of the ACOFP Family Practice Residency Program at Conemaugh Medical Center in Johnstown, Pa., will address the Presidential Scholars at Saturday's Honors Convocation in Hamer Hall beginning at 2 p.m.

selected to participate in the Chronic Care Collaborative in Diabetes, a statewide research project.

A member of the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, Eckels is certified as a master scuba diver and a scuba rescue diver. He also serves on

medical response teams that assist with deep mine rescue and urban search-and-rescue assignments, and that respond to disasters by providing medical assistance and tactical medical support.

Eckels earned his bachelors degree in
— Continued on page 3

57 Students Slated to Serve with AmeriCorps

Two recent grants awarded to the Center for Civic Engagement will give 57 Cal U students the opportunity to serve the community and enhance their resumes.

The Pennsylvania Campus Compact recently awarded Cal U 38 AmeriCorps Community Fellow positions for the 2012-2013 academic year, increasing the number of fellows on campus by 250 percent.

The Philadelphia Higher Education Network for Neighborhood Development awarded 19 additional AmeriCorps positions through the Scholars in Service to Pennsylvania program. This award for the 2012-2013 program year is nearly four times the amount awarded for the 2011-2012 program year.

In all, the two programs represent nearly \$68,000 in potential scholarships for Cal U students if they complete the program requirements.

Both programs require students to complete a minimum of 300 service hours per year. Each participant will receive a Segal Education Award of \$1,175 from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Community Fellows serve in K-12 schools, on Cal U's campus, and at community-based after-school programs, working with at-risk students to enhance college readiness and success.

The Scholars in Service to Pennsylvania program recognizes, trains and supports students who are engaged with the community, fostering an atmosphere of service and leadership.

Nancy Skobel, associate dean for Student Affairs, said the AmeriCorps positions help to foster mutually beneficial relationships between Cal U and local communities.

"We've seen a direct change in the culture of service on our campus, because once our students serve in these positions, they are coming back to us and asking about different opportunities to serve," she said.

"In these challenging economic times, it's a way for our students to earn an educational stipend, as well as offering



Cal U AmeriCorps students Andrea Marcolini (kneeling), Darla Kurnal (left) and Kelsey Craig prepare kits of shampoo, lotion and soap at the Ronald McDonald House in Morgantown, W.Va. The kits were given to families who stay overnight at the house while their children receive treatment at area hospitals.

nonprofits hit hard with budget cuts much-needed staffing assistance. This increases Cal U's access and success."

AmeriCorps Community Fellow students from Cal U currently are assisting at California Area and Charleoi school districts and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services Family Center in Washington, Pa. On-campus service work involves the Peer Mentoring program, the offices of Admissions and Veterans Affairs, and the Center for Civic Engagement.

Scholars in Service are engaged with the Center in the Woods, The Village

Childcare and Preschool Center, the River Towns project and the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. On campus they assist with Peer Educators and the Cal U *Leader for Life* program, and they work with Dr. Elizabeth Larsen in the Department of Sociology.

The AmeriCorps program is growing on campus, from just nine positions two years ago to the 57 available next year.

Diane Williams, director of the Center for Civic Engagement, interacts closely with all the AmeriCorps students at Cal U, and she said their verbal and written feedback is very positive.

"These students have a significant competitive edge over other students, especially in teaching," Williams said. "They just want to help people in the community in different ways."

Graduate student Darla Kurnal, who is studying both elementary and special education, has been tutoring at California Elementary School.

"This has been so beneficial, because I get to come here and apply what I've been learning in my classes," she said. "I'm able to plan lessons, give instruction and have great interaction with the students. It's all so hands-on."

Kelsey Ruffit, a junior who is studying secondary education and earth and space science, tutors at Charleoi Middle School.

"Because I am in the classroom every day and already have 300 hours of experience, I am ... comfortable with the setting and students," she said. "This will make the transition into student teaching much easier. It has been an awesome experience."

Michael Sears, principal of California Area Elementary, noted that AmeriCorps students work directly with Title I teachers, who place them with children most in need of one-to-one assistance.

"We've got a system in place where we can maximize the utilization of these AmeriCorps students," he said. "They are actively engaged with our students and know exactly what they are going to be doing. We appreciate the support from Cal U."

Skobel and Williams both praised post award administrator Lewis Honaker and Cal U's Office of Grants and Contracts for helping them acquire the AmeriCorps funding.

Williams is glad to see students utilizing the Center for Civic Engagement, and Skobel said the center has helped service become a focal point of the campus community.

"Service is a part of our culture," she said. "The students are getting it. They are coming to Diane and the center has become a central location for them to find service opportunities."



Cal U Theatre and Dance majors Sarah Schumaker (left), Steven Singer and Breanna Otto rehearse a scene from the upcoming production of 'Noises Off!'. This British farce will be performed in Steele Hall's Mainstage Theatre Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and also at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

'Noises Off!' Ends Theatre Season

The Department of Theatre and Dance looks at the world of theater from a backstage perspective when it presents *Noises Off!*, the final production of the 2012 spring season.

The fast-paced farce by English playwright Michael Frayn whisks the audience backstage for the behind-the-scenes shenanigans of a battered troupe of actors as they flub lines and miss entrances in their effort to mount a theatrical masterpiece.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 2

and 8 p.m. Saturday in Steele Hall's Mainstage Theatre.

Because of its mature themes and strong language, this play may not be suitable for all ages.

The play is directed by Dr. Michele Pagen, professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Ticket price is \$12 for adults, seniors and children. Students with valid CalCards are admitted free; their \$5 deposit will be returned when they attend the performance. For ticket information, or to charge tickets by phone, call the Steele Box Office at 724-938-5943.

GACO Seminar Looks at Federal Rules

GACO, Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office, will host a Federal Acquisition Regulations seminar at 8 a.m. Thursday, the second in a three-part series.

The FAR outline the policies and procedures that govern the federal government's acquisition activities. Its purpose is to ensure that purchasing procedures are standard, consistent and conducted in a fair and impartial manner.

The FAR applies to all federal executive agencies in their acquisition of supplies and services. These regulations govern the three phases of the acquisition process: acquisition planning, contract formulation and contract administration.

Thursday's seminar on "Negotiated Procurement and Negotiation" will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton hotel in Monroeville, Pa. The presenter is Barbara Weaver, of the U.S. Small Business Administration. She is responsible for providing support, training and advocacy to small businesses doing business with the federal government.

For information about registration or seminar content, please contact Kate Lacey Glodek at 412-237-6098 or glodek@calu.edu.



Abstract works created over the last two years by graduating senior Tyler Rahl will be on display April 20-24 with an opening set from 5-9 p.m. Friday in the Vulcan Gallery.

Solo Show's Artwork Has Texture

Works by student Tyler Rahl will be on display from 5-9 p.m. Friday in the Vulcan Gallery, located on the first floor of Vulcan Hall. The exhibition will remain on view from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays through April 24.

Rahl is a graduating senior and 2007 Carmichaels High School graduate who is majoring in fine arts and graphic design. His solo show, "No Greater Love," comprises abstract works created over the last two years.

Rahl describes his artwork as "visual encounters with human emotion" that can be engaged through the senses of sight, touch and smell.

His work has been influenced by real-world situations and experiences, such as 911 emergency phone calls, articles in newspapers and video documentaries.

"As I am creating my artwork, I am constantly feeling its surfaces to help articulate my message," he said. "Sensual and emotional intuition is a critical element of human experience. People want to touch and feel the things that surround them. These intuitions drive me to create visceral worlds of color and texture.

"The sculptural quality of my paintings is due to my use of found objects, which help create textural surfaces that convey ideas of empathy and tragedy."

The solo exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cal U's Department of Art and Design at 724-938-4182 or e-mail Rahl at rah6840@calu.edu.

Blout Honored During Cal Pride Festivities

Cal U will honor alumna Dr. Marcella Rye Blout '65 with its 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award during the sixth annual Cal Pride Weekend festivities.

The celebration Thursday through Saturday features events designed to connect alumni with current and prospective students.

On Thursday, President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Blout, who will speak at 7 p.m. in the Performance Center of the Natali Student Center.

Her talk is free and open to the public.

Blout taught for 32 years in Cal U's Communication Studies Department. A hard-working coach for the Cal U forensics team and a devoted member of the Honors Advisory Board, she retired in 2000 after grooming hundreds of students for careers in broadcasting, education, sales and public relations.

In retirement, she is an active member of the Emeriti Faculty Association and was a member of the group's board of directors for more than 10 years.

Blout received the Cal U Alumni Association's C.B. Wilson Distinguished Faculty Award in 2004.

In 2006 she accepted an Emeriti Faculty Award at the annual President's Gala. That recognition marked a return to the gala spotlight: At the 1997 event, Blout had been honored with the President's Faculty Award for Teaching.

In 2010 she was awarded the Distinguished Alumna of the Year Award.

Blout is the sixth recipient of the University's Lifetime Achievement Award. Previous winners are retired Talbotts executive Michele Mandell '69, longtime Cal U faculty member George Novak '55, the late U.S. Rep. Frank R. Mascara '72, former Nationwide Insurance executive

Thomas Crumrine '64 and Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper '63.

At deans' receptions from 2-5 p.m. Thursday, awards will be presented to distinguished alumni from Cal U's three undergraduate Colleges and the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Award winners are:

- Angela Covert '56, an independent education consultant, honored by the College of Education and Human Services.

- Dr. Deborah Shanley '74, dean of the College of Education at Brooklyn City University of New York (CUNY), honored by the School of Graduate Studies and Research.

- J. Scott Roberts '75, retired deputy secretary of Environmental Services in the Department of Environmental Protection, honored by the College of Liberal Arts.

- Robert Rodi '74, president of Mount Pleasant Capital Group, honored by the Eberly College of Science and Technology.

On Thursday and Friday, a group of accomplished alumni will discuss their careers with classes related to their particular disciplines, a tradition at Cal Pride Weekend.

Among the guest speakers returning to campus are Mark Camillo '76, Reggie Long '81, Adele Lynn '74, Michele Mandell '69, Renette Oklewicz '69, Jay S. Roberts '75, Tom Rutledge '77, Tom Skrtic '69 and Sheryl Stebbins '76.

On Saturday, the Cal U Alumni Association Board Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the Booker Great Room at the Kara Alumni House. The Parent Leadership Council will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Kara's second floor conference room.

For more information about Cal Pride Weekend and specific classroom presentation times, contact Montean Dean, of Alumni Relations, at 724-938-4418 or e-mail dean@calu.edu.

UTech Survey Will Assess Technology Services

Keep an eye on your in-box. Students, faculty and staff soon will be receiving an important survey from the Office of University Technology Services. It's designed to assess expectations for the technology and customer service provided by UTech Services.

"We want to understand how our customers feel about the technology services we offer," said Dr. Charles Mance, vice president for University Technology Services. "It will help us determine what our customers expect, so we can focus our resources based on those expectations."

The confidential, online survey should take about 15 minutes to complete.

After a few opening questions, respondents will be presented with a series of statements describing technology services at Cal U — "Having a campus Internet service that is reliable and that operates consistently



Dr. Charles Mance

across campus," for example, or "Getting timely resolution to problems that I am experiencing with campus technology services."

For each statement, the respondent will be asked to rate three factors: the minimum level of service you expect, the level of service you desire, and the level of service you believe is typically provided at Cal U.

"This will help us to identify areas where we are meeting expectations, and to home in on areas where we may be falling short,"

Mance said.

Not every service is equally important to customers, he explained.

"If people would be satisfied with a rating of 8 for a particular service, and we're already delivering service they're rating at 9, there is no reason to spend money trying to reach a perfect 10. We're already exceeding the customers' expectations."

The survey is part of the Higher Education TechQual+ Project, a broad-based project aimed at improving technology services in colleges and universities.

"This survey gives us the ability to look at things differently," said Andrew Caudill, UTech's director of strategy and architecture. "We can look at results from various groups — freshmen vs. seniors, for example — and we can compare our results against other schools."

The survey is conducted by a third party, and the results are confidential. Information about those who respond will be reported to the University in aggregate only.

"It's important that we get a broad response from all areas of the University," Mance said. "We're looking at this in the spirit of continuous improvement. We want our Cal U students, faculty and staff — our UTech customers — to be satisfied with what we offer."

Scholars to be Honored

— Continued from page 1

biology at California State University. A U.S. Army veteran, he graduated from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975 and served a rotating internship in Tri-County Hospital in Springfield, Pa.

Cal U President Angelo Armenti, Jr. will preside over the Convocation, and Provost Geraldine Jones will introduce the platform party.

The University rewards academic excellence on the part of master's, bachelor's and associate degree-seeking students by honoring Presidential Scholars at this annual event. In addition to meeting other requirements, Presidential Scholars carry a grade-point average of 3.25 or above. Both full- and part-time students are eligible for the award.

Cal U Welcomes Courage Winner

Jennifer Brunner, winner of a John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2008 for her work to address voting irregularities, will speak at 7 p.m. April 24 in Eberly Hall, Room 110.

As Pennsylvania residents go to the polls for primary elections, Brunner, the former secretary of state in Ohio, will speak on "Profiles in Courage: Guarding the Vote," detailing her work to improve the election process. The event is sponsored by the

American Democracy Project at Cal U.

Election Day events also will include two panel discussions sponsored by the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute at Cal U. "New Barriers to the Ballot" will be held at 11 a.m., and "Leadership and Politics" at 3 p.m. Both will be held in Duda Hall, Room 303.

All events are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Vulcan Garage, off Third Street near the campus entrance.

THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY FORUM

April 17, 2012 / 4:00 p.m., Dixon, Room 327

TENTATIVE AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. MINUTES OF March 20, 2012

(Approved by e-mail ballot – refer to Forum website or Public Folders in Outlook)

V. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(Informational Only - Minutes of April 3, 2012)

VI. PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Miscellaneous Information
Forum Meetings dates 2012/13:

September 4, 2012
January 29, 2013
October 2, 2012
February 19, 2013
November 6, 2012
March 26, 2013
December 4, 2012
April 23, 2013

B. Notice of Executive Committee Meeting:
August 28, 2012 - University Community Welcome

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. INTERPELLATION

IX. ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO THE NSSE (NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT) REPORT REVIEW

X. BUDGET COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET REVIEW

XI. PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE'S RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY POLICIES, PRIORITIES, AND RESOURCES REVIEW

XII. MOTION:

That the Forum extends its gratitude to the students who served on the Forum – Cary Banner, Nicholas Battista, Janelle Brewer, Alexandra Brooks, Lena Danka, Yancey Goshorn, Autumn Harris, Darla Kurnal, Morgan O'Rourke, Jacob Smith, Michael Wagner - whose service to the Forum will end with this meeting.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next FORUM Meeting September 4, 2012

XV. ADJOURNMENT

THE CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY FORUM

MARCH 20, 2012 / 4:00 p.m., Dixon, Room 327

APPROVED MINUTES

The California University Forum met in regular session Tuesday, March 20, 2012, in Dixon, Room 327. Presiding Officer Hoover called the meeting order at 4:10 p.m.

The following senators were in attendance:

Ms. Cary Banner
Dr. Bill Biddington
Dr. Jane Bonari
Ms. Alexandra Brooks
Ms. Roberta Busha
Mr. Craig Butzine
Ms. Lena Danka
Ms. Fran Fayish
Ms. Jill Fernandes
Ms. Rhonda Gifford
Mr. Yancey Goshorn
Dr. Kevin Koury
Dr. Charles Mance
Ms. Morgan O'Rourke
Mr. Gary Seelye
Dr. Craig Smith
Mr. Jacob Smith
Mr. Robert Thorn
Dr. Brian Wood
Dr. Kimberly Woznack
Ms. Donna Wright

The following were also in attendance:

Mr. Douglas Hoover, Presiding Officer
Mrs. Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary

The following senators were absent:

Dr. Lenora Angelone
Dr. Angelo Armenti, Jr.
Mr. Nicholas Battista
Mr. Rick Bertagnoli
Ms. Janelle Brewer
Ms. Betsy Clark
Dr. John Confer
Mr. Todd Edwards
Mr. Shane Fox
Ms. Autumn Harris
Ms. Geraldine Jones
Ms. Darla Kurnal
Dr. Sean Madden

Mr. Donny Marszalek
Mr. Josh Mrosko
Dr. Carrie Rosengart
Dr. Michael Slavin
Dr. Emily Sweitzer
Mr. Michael Wagner
Dr. Tom Wickham
Dr. Mohamed Yamba

The agenda was presented, approved and the meeting proceeded

Presiding Officer Hoover stated that the approved Forum minutes of February 21, 2012 are available on the Forum website (<http://www.calu.edu/faculty-staff/administration/forum/index.htm>) or Public Folders in the Microsoft Outlook. A hard copy of the executive committee minutes of March 6, 2012 is included in the senators' packets for informational purposes.

Presiding Officer's Report

Presiding Officer Hoover noted the next executive committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 in Room 408 of the Manderino Library and the University Community is welcome to attend.

Public Comments

There were no public comments offered at this time.

Interpellation

Senator C. Smith noted that the NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) Report is available on-line on the cwis website if there is an interest to review it before the recommendations are presented by the Academic Policy Committee in April.

Unfinished Business

Presiding Officer Hoover explained that at the end of the last meeting, the Forum agreed to cease debate on the following

motions, but was unable to vote on them due to a loss of quorum. Therefore, without additional debate on either motion (a. or b.), the Forum needs to proceed to an immediate vote on:

Motion: Postpone Indefinitely the main motion.

If passed: The main motion is dispensed with; therefore, skip item b.

If fails: Proceed to vote on the main motion (without debate).

Main Motion: [Resolved, That] the University Forum renounce the temporary substitutions for English Composition II and endorse a more collaborative decision-making process between the University Curriculum Committee, The General Education Committee, the English Department, and the Chairs' Forum ad hoc committee on writing.

There being no further discussion, Presiding Officer Hoover called the question to **postpone indefinitely the main motion.**

VOTE: Yeas: Majority
Nays: One

New Business

There was no new business presented at this time.

Announcements/Adjournment

Presiding Officer Hoover noted the next Forum meeting will be held on April 17, 2012. There being no further business, Presiding Officer Hoover adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Mrs. Dana Turcic, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES APPROVED BY MAJORITY VIA E-MAIL BALLOT.



Hundreds of children are expected to return to the Pike Run Fishing Festival on Saturday to try their luck at landing a trophy fish.

Fishing Festival Set Saturday

Young anglers can try their luck at the 17th annual Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival, set for 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at Rotary Park, off Route 88 (Third Street) in California.

The free event is open to boys and girls ages 15 and younger. Children ages 12 and younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other responsible adult.

Participants may bring their own fishing gear, or they can borrow equipment from a Cal U student volunteer as part of the state Fish and Boat Commission's Borrow-A-Rod-and-Reel program.

The Pike Run Fishing Festival Committee will stock the stream with nearly 800 rainbow, brook and golden trout, some as long as 24 inches. As it has done in the past, the committee will provide entertainment and food for the event.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. Besides excellent fishing, participants can look forward to family-friendly games, raffles, fishing contests and many other activities. The festival closes with a weigh-in, prizes and the awarding of trophies.

Youngsters are encouraged to help stock the stream at 2 p.m. Friday.

The fishing festival is co-sponsored by Cal U's Student Government, the Department of Earth Sciences' parks and recreation program and the Cal U Eco Learning Community, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the California Rotary Club, the Borough of California and the California Borough Recreation Authority.

The festival also celebrates Earth Day.

For more information, contact Dr. John Confer, of the Department of Earth Sciences, at 724-938-4211 or confer@calu.edu.

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