

# California University JOURNAL

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Dr. John Pierce Watkins '53, who served as president of California University of Pennsylvania from 1977-1992, joins Interim University President Geraldine M. Jones for a first look at a plaque identifying the G. Ralph Smith II Honors Hall.

## Seniors Take Third at Freescale

A team of four Cal U seniors raced their way to third place at the Freescale Cup East Coast Regional competition April 27 at the Convocation Center.

Sponsored by the microprocessor manufacturer Freescale, the global collegiate competition challenges students to program and race autonomous, small-scale model cars, seeking the fastest time.

This year's competition included 19 teams that traveled from as far away as Indiana and New York.

Cal U failed to complete a lap in their inaugural competition last year, and as this year's contest got under way, the team's confidence wavered.

"We haven't got a chance, especially against some of these larger schools," said senior Dakota Diehl, a computer engineering technology major at Cal U.

But Cal U's doubts turned to excitement as the team's car crossed the finish line with a time fast enough to earn third place in the competition.

"We are very excited just to have completed a lap this year, and it's great that we qualified for third place," Diehl said after the event.

The West Coast Regional winner, University of California, Berkeley, also joined the competition. The Golden Bears rounded the course in the fastest time and qualified for the international competition Aug. 21-24 in Harbin, China.

A team from the University of Rhode Island finished second, and

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## Hall's Name Recognizes 'Remarkable Gift'

In the words of Interim President Geraldine M. Jones, the ceremonial renaming of the G. Ralph Smith II Honors Hall was "a special moment, where the past and present intersect."

The University community gathered May 3 to christen the former Residence Hall A and to remember Professor G. Ralph Smith II, a member of Cal U's English Department for 30 years. He retired in 1994 and was awarded emeritus status the following year.

Upon his death in 2010, Smith donated his estate to the University to endow the G. Ralph Smith II General Scholarship. His gift of \$1.95 million is believed to be the largest in Cal U's modern history.

The scholarship will be awarded to

students in any major, based on merit and financial need. The University expects to award the first G. Ralph Smith II General Scholarship in the 2013-2014 academic year.

"As a University, we want to express our gratitude for Professor Smith's gift by acknowledging his contributions to Cal U and making certain that his generosity continues to be recognized," Jones said. "By christening this residence hall with Professor Smith's name, we ensure that his life, his work and his legacy will not be forgotten."

Among the speakers was Emeritus President Dr. John Pierce Watkins '53, a former English professor who served as University President from 1977-1992.

He spoke of Professor Smith's

contributions to the University, such as enhancing the library's resources and serving as an officer in the Faculty Senate.

Smith was a man of few words, Watkins said — "never five words when three would be sufficient" — but his office in old Dixon Hall was "a crossroads, a way-station" for colleagues and students.

"He listened to people, and most often that was enough," Watkins said. "He was a complicated and interesting man — but above all, he was a caring man. The gift that he made to the students of California is remarkable."

Senior Michael Crosen, who serves on the University's Council of Trustees,

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## Two Alumni Will Address Graduates

Two distinguished alumni will address graduating students when Cal U holds Commencement ceremonies this weekend in the Convocation Center.

Interim President Geraldine M. Jones will confer degrees upon nearly 1,000 undergraduates and 300 graduate students in separate ceremonies.

Dr. Deborah Ann Shanley '74, the dean of the School of Education at Brooklyn College, will address master's degree candidates at 7 p.m. Friday.

Shanley's work with multiple college and community constituencies earned her a Humanitarian Award from the CUNY Consortium for the Study of Disabilities and the Medgar Evers College Worker Education Program. Her current work focuses on creating collaborations and partnerships with New York

City schools and cultural institutions as vehicles for extending teacher preparation beyond academic walls.

Her scholarly writing has focused on topics including women in leadership roles and educational reform issues. This year, with a colleague from West Virginia, she completed a scholarly work examining developments in urban and rural communities impacted by No Child Left Behind and other education policies.

As the senior education dean in the College of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, Shanley regularly shares her expertise in policy and practice with both the New York State Regents and the New York State Education Department

During the ceremony, master's degree candidates will be vested in their academic hoods.

Mark Camillo '76, a law enforcement and security professional who specializes in emergency preparedness operations, will speak to undergraduates at 10 a.m. Saturday

During 21 years as a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service, Camillo completed three separate assignments at the White House, served as deputy assistant director and chief technology officer for the agency, and coordinated security operations for the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

He currently is a senior fellow at the George Mason University Center for Infrastructure Protection and senior vice president for strategic planning at Contemporary Services Corp., a national leader in event security and crowd management.

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Deborah Ann Shanley '74



Mark Camillo '76

# Cal U Alumni Return for Military Badge

Active-duty service members, along with troops in the reserve and National Guard, traveled from across the country to earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge April 26-28 at California University.

The participants included seven Cal U alumni and current students.

Nearly 90 soldiers tried to meet benchmarks in a series of events outlined by the German Armed Forces, including swimming, track and field, marksmanship, first-aid and a road march with gear.

Of the participants, 51 successfully completed the grueling physical fitness tests.

While the experience of earning a badge is rewarding in itself, soldiers with Cal U ties also enjoyed their return to campus.

"There was a spot open in my unit to come and test for the badge, and I jumped on the opportunity when I found out it was at Cal U," said Steven Holt '10 of the 110th infantry in Waynesburg, Pa.

"The Convocation Center and Vulcan Garage were not complete last time I was here. It was great to have this



Cal U student and ROTC cadet Zach Graybill completes his swimming requirements during the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge testing held at Cal U for the second consecutive year.

opportunity to test for the badge and at the same time return to campus."

A decoration of the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Armed Forces Proficiency

Badge is one of the few foreign awards that U.S. military members may wear on their uniform.

"The badge represents honor and pride for me," said junior Zach Graybill,

an ROTC cadet at Cal U. "This is definitely a great opportunity for someone still in college. I am very fortunate."

The badge is awarded in gold, silver or bronze, depending on the results of the pistol qualification, the first-aid test and the road march.

All eligible members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and National Guard may compete for the award, but the opportunity is rare.

"I am extremely grateful to have participated in such a unique event," said Staff Sgt. Chris Catlin '07.

Cal U's Homecoming king in 2007, Catlin now serves with the National Guard in Colorado.

"The Veterans Affairs Office and Veterans Club really delivered by making an event possible that I have not had the opportunity to participate in during nearly 11 years in the military," he added.

"I am thankful that I was able to see some old friends from Cal U and some combat veterans I served with overseas, as well as making some new friends in the process."

## Basketball Coach Stops Back to Speak With Men United

One of college basketball's hottest coaches praised Cal U Men United during the mentoring group's year-end reception last month.

Shaka Smart '01, head coach of the men's basketball team at Virginia Commonwealth University, delivered the keynote address at the group's final meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year.

Smart has led his VCU Rams to a 111-37 cumulative record over the past four years, including a remarkable run to the NCAA Final Four in 2011.

He returned to Cal U, where he earned a master's degree in social science, to speak with the group and touch base with Vulcans men's basketball coach Bill Brown.

The veteran coach recruited Smart and coached him through his freshman season at Kenyon College in Ohio before both made the move to Cal U.

"The reality is, in the game of basketball and in life, there are certain things that can not be accomplished by one person," Smart told the students. "Most of the best things you can do in life you cannot do alone.

"If you put the team agenda first, you'll find that you also meet your personal goals. I believe that's what you're doing here with Men United."

Brown introduced Smart by recalling how the future point guard and assistant coach stood out during a 1995 high school all-star game in Wisconsin. Brown said the words "humility" and "gratitude" come to mind when he thinks of Smart.

"Shaka has been driven and passionate about what he wants in life. He has come a long way in a short period of time, while never forgetting the people he's known along the way," said Brown, a member of the Cal U Men United advisory board.

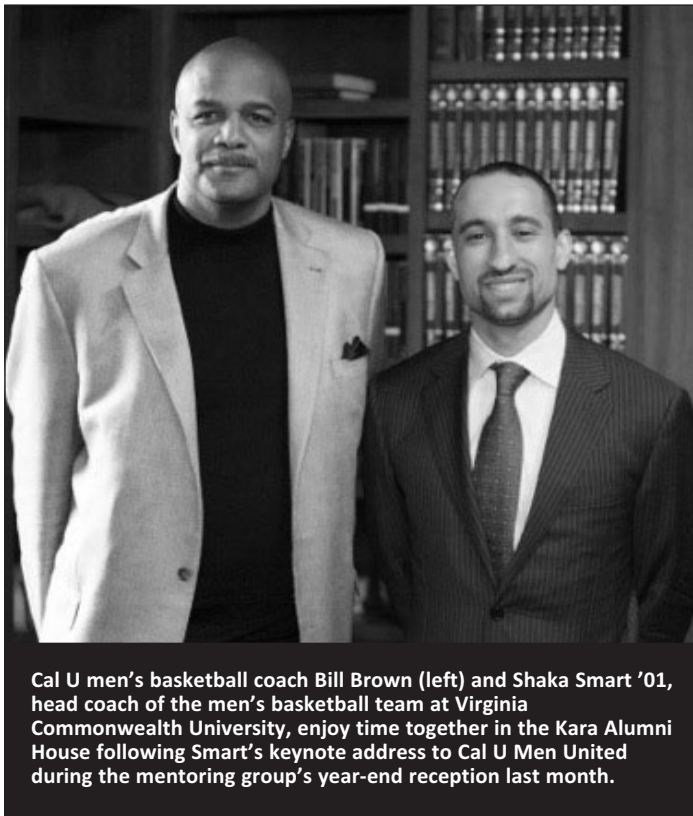
"He is an over-achiever with talent. When you put those two ingredients together, you have something special."

Dr. Gwendolyn Perry-Burney, another advisory board member, noted that Cal U Men United is making measurable progress in promoting student retention and providing men of color with greater opportunities for success.

"In just a few years, Men United has made things happen," she said.

The group was founded in 2010 "to support the growth, development and achievement of young men of color as they strive to become men of character," according to its mission statement.

In September, National Journal's "The Next America" demographic report listed Cal U among the top public universities that have seen graduation rates increase among black male students. Perry-Burney said the grade-point average for Men United members also has increased since the



Cal U men's basketball coach Bill Brown (left) and Shaka Smart '01, head coach of the men's basketball team at Virginia Commonwealth University, enjoy time together in the Kara Alumni House following Smart's keynote address to Cal U Men United during the mentoring group's year-end reception last month.

organization began.

Interim President Geraldine M. President Jones, who accompanied Men United members to the Black, Brown and College Bound Summit in Tampa last winter, said the group also has changed perceptions.

"You have enhanced your reputation on and off campus with the exemplary way you interact with others," President Jones said. "There is no doubt that the mentorship and friendship experienced by this group changes lives."

Freshman Davidson Okrafo-Smart, a business management major, said Cal U Men United helped him make the shift from his Philadelphia high school to campus life.

"This has helped me transition to college and get on the right path," he said. "I've developed good study habits and met a lot of good people. I already have many friends."

Smart concluded his talk by reviewing the five core values his team strives to live by — appreciation, enthusiasm, competitiveness, unselfishness and accountability. They apply to everyday life, he said.

"You guys are creating wins for yourselves and other people," he told the Cal U Men United members. "You're at a special place here at Cal, and I want you to take advantage of it and make the most of it."

## Hall Named for Smith

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described the residence hall's new name as "a fitting tribute to Professor Smith and his legacy."

"I think Professor Smith would be proud of what Cal U has accomplished since his retirement and would be proud of us students as we continue to learn, grow and share our knowledge with others," he said.

Sophomore Brittany Kusinar, president of the Student Honors Advisory Board, touched on the value of living among other highly motivated students as part of the University Honors Program.

"We understand each other's hardships and push each other to excel," she said. "The opportunity to live in Smith Hall has shaped my college experience for the better. ... I continue to learn from the other honors students who live around me every day."

Dr. M.G. Aune, director of the University Honors Program and an associate professor in the English Department, agreed that "living with smart people makes you smarter."

Community is a cornerstone of the honors program, he said.

"Having a residence where honors students can live together makes them, the program and the campus more successful."

Before unveiling a plaque with the building's new name, President Joes explained that for many years Smith provided financial support for a member of the incoming freshman class.

"With his extraordinary gift, Professor Smith saw to it that many more Cal U students — now and in the future — would receive a helping hand."

# Biology Students Win Research Awards

Six Cal U students came away with awards at the 44th annual meeting of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists, held last month at Clarion University.

Founded in 1973, CPUB provides support for the teaching and research activities of faculty in the biological sciences at the 14 PASSHE universities. It also provides a forum where graduate and undergraduate students can present their research.

In all, 10 Cal U students presented research. Awards were made in two categories — ecology/organismal/evolution, and cellular and molecular biology.

Samantha Zelenka and Katie Kelley both took first place in the ecology category, and Katie McAndrew, Matthew Krinock and Tonya Gayman earned second-place honors in biology.

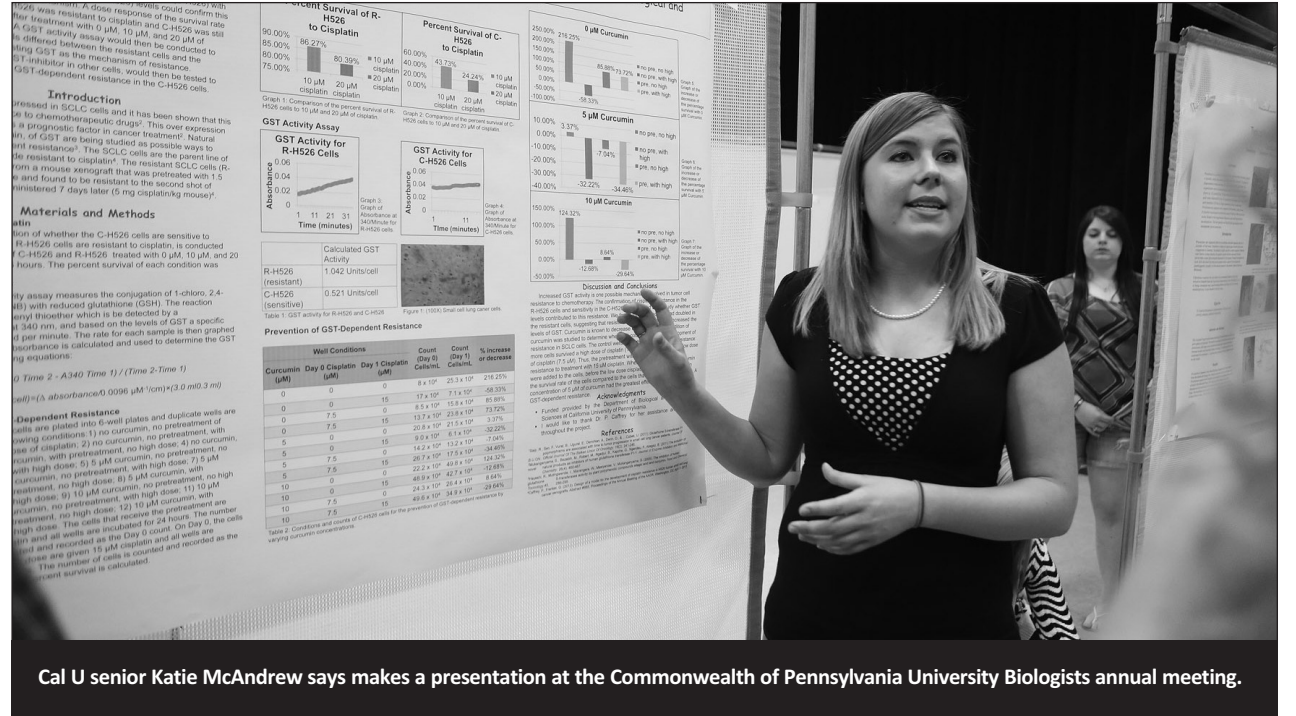
Dr. Sarah Meiss, associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, said the students do not receive course credit for their projects, but the independent research can be used as Honors Program projects.

“I really think this shows how our department is building our undergraduate research efforts, and it says a lot about the dedication of our students,” Meiss said. “Many other schools brought 20 to 30 students who received one award or none.”

At the conference each school’s biology department presented its CPUB Student of the Year Award, which represents outstanding scholarship, service and research. Cal U’s recipient was senior Frank Christopher.

Other Cal U presenters were Chelsea Fowler, Bill Jenkins, Eric Jones, Alex Schmier and Mike Wendell. Robert Zajack also attended.

“Dissemination of work and research is essential to



Cal U senior Katie McAndrew says makes a presentation at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists annual meeting.

being a scientist,” Meiss said. “The CPUB event is competitive, and the students are judged harshly. At the same time, it provides a supportive environment that builds confidence and encourages students to go out in public and present their research.”

McAndrew’s presentation, which is part of her honors thesis, was titled “Small Cell Cancer Resistance to Cisplatin Through Increased GST Level.”

“When you go to CPUB, the judges and students that come by are interested in what you are doing and want to know more about your research,” she said. “They

share your passion for it, and it’s exciting to explain your work to people.”

“Along with giving students the opportunity to conduct and present their own research, CPUB enables us to see the wide variety of research that is being conducted throughout the State System and what else is out there in the field of biology,” Zajack added.

In addition to Meiss, Cal U faculty members Dr. Carol Bocetti, Dr. Paula Caffrey, Dr. Chad Hanna, Dr. Louise Nicholson and Dr. Brian Paulson accompanied the students to CPUB.

## Seniors Take Third in Freescale

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Cal U’s team “Vulcar” finished third.

Other competitors included Penn State University, Temple University, Indiana Institute of Technology and Clarkson University.

Team “Vulcar” consisted of seniors Diehl, Gil Bachman, Paul Dixon and Andrew Frederick.

Cal U also entered two teams of third-year students.

Team “Carrus Sensatus” consisted of juniors Ben Clark, Ian Cowan, Samantha Haynie, Oluchi Onwuvuchi and Cliff Walters.

Team “Cache Money” was made up of Jerry Horton, Alex Kibler, Travis Matuke, Ethan Plummer and Nick Reich.

Neither junior team made it around the track.

“We were not expecting to post a great time, but we were expecting to complete a lap,” said Reich.

“This is really a celebration of what we have achieved in the classroom. We are only juniors, so we will learn from this experience for next year’s competition.”

The Freescale Cup has been increasing in popularity worldwide because of the complex engineering problems it asks students to solve.

Dr. Jeff Sumey, an associate professor in the Department of Applied Engineering and Technology, has been using the Freescale cars in Cal U’s Electrical Engineering Technology program since 2010.

“Dr. Sumey has been very passionate about pushing us to design the best possible car,” said Dixon, a senior computer engineering technology major at Cal U.

“He is a great professor. As much as he helps and teaches us, we wanted to do something to give back to him. By placing in the Freescale Cup, we feel we were able to do just that.”



Cal U junior Ben Clark launches his team’s computer-driven small-scale model car inside the Convocation Center during the April 27 Freescale Cup East Coast Regional competition.

## Alumni to Address Graduates

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He is an appointed member of the American Society of Industrial Security’s Global Terrorism/International Crime Council; an active member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; and chair of the Board of Trustees for the Academy for Venue Safety & Security conducted annually by the International Association of Venue Managers.

Doors to the Convocation Center will open two hours before each ceremony. Both ceremonies will be streamed live online; for a link, visit [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu).

Rebroadcasts will also appear on Armstrong Cable (Channel 61 Armstrong-Connellsville) and Atlantic Broadband Communications (Channel 17).

More information about Commencement, including links to directions and parking information, is available at [www.calu.edu/events/commencement](http://www.calu.edu/events/commencement).

## Men Walk to Oppose Violence Against Women

More than 150 male students at California University slipped on high-heeled shoes and walked across campus on April 18. The event was part of “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” an international men’s march and awareness campaign that aims to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence.

Before the march, event coordinator Kelly Fromknecht, a graduate assistant at Cal U’s End

Violence Center, offered remarks in front of the Natali Student Center.

“This event is intended to serve as an outlet for men to come together as partners in ending violence against women, especially Cal U women,” she said.

“By choosing to ‘walk the walk,’ men become a united group saying that sexual assault, dating violence and stalking are unacceptable and will not be tolerated, especially on this campus.”

Known as END V, the End Violence Center at Cal U is committed to raising awareness, providing resources and ending sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking, especially within the campus community. The center offers prevention education and training, a resource library, and free and confidential services for students.

This was the fifth year that Cal U has participated in the “Walk a Mile” program.

# Two Vulcan Players Join NFL

Two former Cal U Vulcan football standouts were part of the action during the National Football League Draft conducted during the final weekend of April.

Offensive lineman Eric Kush was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs, who used their second pick of the sixth round to make the selection.

Safety Rontez Miles signed a free-agent contract with the New York Jets shortly after the three-day draft concluded on April 27.

Kush, an imposing 6-foot-4-inch, 305-pound three-year starter, becomes the second Vulcan to be drafted in three years. Former Cal U defensive back Tommie Campbell was chosen by the Tennessee Titans in the seventh round in 2011.

Vulcan players previously selected in the NFL Draft were running back Elmo Natali, chosen in the 10th round of the 1953 draft, and defensive back Judson Flint, a seventh-round draft pick in 1979.

Kush finished his collegiate career with 32 starts on the offensive line, including 22 games at center over the last two seasons. As a sophomore, he started nine games at left tackle before being converted to center in 2011.

Last fall, Kush anchored an offensive line that helped Cal U average 33.0 points, 130.7 rushing yards and 423.5 yards of total offense per game. For the season, Cal U allowed only 13 sacks on 430 pass attempts.

A three-year starter, Kush was one of five players from NCAA Division II programs invited to the East-West Shrine Game in January. He was named a D2Football.com second-team All-American and earned first-team all-conference honors in 2012.

Miles, a 6-foot-1-inch, 210-pound four-year starter, finished his career ranked fifth in school history with 257 tackles (156 solo), the most ever by a defensive back.

He was named the PSAC-West Defensive Player of the Year in both his



Cal U offensive lineman Eric Kush (above) is the fourth Vulcan football player in school history to be selected in the NFL Draft. Two-time All-American safety Rontez Miles (below) has signed a free-agent contract with the New York Jets.



junior and senior years, when he made nine interceptions overall. He was the PSAC-West Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2009.

In both 2011 and 2012, Miles was named a First-Team All-American by American Football Coaches Association, the Associated Press and D2Football.com. He established a career high in 2011 with 75 tackles (43 solo) and tied for fifth in the PSAC with four interceptions.

Last winter Miles was one of only nine players from NCAA Division II programs invited to attend the annual

NFL Combine, which took place at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Ind.

"It's an honor for any student-athlete from the NCAA Division II level to be drafted or sign a free-agent contract with an NFL team," said Matthew Kifer, Cal U's sports information director.

"Both players had exceptional careers here that were obviously noticed. Eric and Rontez made invaluable contributions to the team's success over the past several years. We are certainly proud of them both, and we wish them success in their careers."

## Cleanup Again Includes 'E-cycling'

"Spring Clean Up" conducted by California Borough Council and County Hauling again aims to bring the semester to a tidier and more environmentally friendly close.

Students are encouraged to participate in the enhanced cleanup and recycling effort during exam week and the week that follows.

The program includes free curbside pickup of household items today through Thursday and May 20-23. The special pickups will be offered in addition to regular Friday garbage pickups on May 17 and May 24 and regular recycling pickups on May 24 in California Borough.

Electronic items may be dropped off for recycling from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. May 16 and from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. May 17 at Third Street between Green and East streets. No fee will be charged.

Brian Perego, of County Hauling Corp. of Belle Vernon, said the program is intended to promote electronics recycling and improve the borough's appearance during the time when many students are vacating their off-campus residences.

The curbside pickup of bulk items is especially helpful for students who are discarding furniture or other large items as they move out of rental properties.

The electronics recycling program was inaugurated two years ago. Last spring, 7 tons of unwanted desktop and laptop computers, monitors, printers, stereo equipment, fluorescent bulbs and other items were collected, Perego said.

Members of the Eco-Action Club, AmeriCorps students and the Alpha Lambda Delta freshman honor society are supporting the event. They have distributed fliers about the cleanup and will monitor the collection. The University's Center for Civic Engagement is coordinating their efforts.

"The Princeton Review recognizes Cal U as a 'green college,' and helping with the recycling effort fits right in," said Diane Williams, the center's director.

After meeting with borough and University officials in 2011, County Hauling moved the designated "e-cycling" area closer to campus and set collection dates closer to the end of the semester.

Since January it has been illegal to dispose of television sets and other electronic items in Pennsylvania landfills.

"Everyone wants a cleaner and safer community, and we are glad to have the University involved," Perego said. "This (recycling event) has been very successful and helpful."

## GRANTS AWARDED

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that:

- **Dr. Mario Majcen**, assistant professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, has been awarded U.S. Precision Lightning Sensor equipment valued at \$25,000. This equipment, and the associated data transfer capabilities, will enable real-time lightning data observation at Cal U. Additionally, Cal U will have access to national real-time and archived lightning data.

- **Dr. David Argent**, professor and chair of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded \$31,200 from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The funding will enable him to continue the assessment of paddlefish populations in the upper

Allegheny River from French Creek to Kinzua Dam.

- **Dr. Stephen Whitehead**, interim associate provost in the Office of Academic Affairs, has been awarded a grant of \$5,000 from ANSYS Inc. This funding will be used to support a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) camp for students in grades 6-8.

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.

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