

# California University JOURNAL

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Cal U's Dr. Lisa McBride will receive a 2012 Women of Excellence Award from the 'New Pittsburgh Courier.'

## McBride Named Woman of Excellence

**D**r. Lisa McBride has been chosen as one of the *New Pittsburgh Courier's* 2012 Women of Excellence, becoming the second leader at Cal U to earn the distinction.

She joins Acting University President Geraldine M. Jones, who accepted the award in 2010.

McBride, the University ombudsperson and special assistant to the president for Equal Employment and Educational Opportunity, will be recognized at a luncheon June 28 at the Westin Convention Center, Pittsburgh.

"I feel that God has given me confidence, wisdom and boldness to pursue the dreams and desires in my heart, which is to make a difference in the lives of our Cal U students and the greater community and to remain humble along the way," she said.

The awardees were nominated by *New Pittsburgh Courier* readers. Each year the publication honors some of the Pittsburgh region's most successful and influential African-American women.

McBride is a founding member of Cal U Men United, a mentoring group for students aimed at improving retention and graduation

rates for men of color. She also serves the University community as chair of the President's Commission for the Status of Women.

As director of the Office of Social Equity, she has worked to shape institutional policies and practices that advance a campus climate of inclusion.

McBride earned her Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University, in Florida, and her master's and bachelor's degrees in criminology from Indiana State University.

She previously held positions as an associate professor of criminology within the Florida University system. She is a certified county mediator for the Florida Supreme Court and is certified as a human diversity instructor by the State of Florida Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training.

McBride began her career as a police officer with the St. Louis Police Department, where she was assigned to the homicide division. She spent eight years as a federal criminal investigator, including work in 15 countries.

## Trustees Address Transition in Leadership

**A**t its first quarterly meeting since the change in leadership at Cal U, the University's Council of Trustees passed a resolution praising former President Angelo Armenti, Jr., and another expressing the panel's confidence in his successor, Acting President Geraldine M. Jones.

The council's first resolution, read aloud by longtime Trustee Leo Krantz, listed the accomplishments of the former president, whose 20-year tenure was ended May 16 by the PASSHE Board of Governors.

Noting improvements in enrollment, academics, athletics, scholarship support and campus infrastructure achieved in

the past two decades, it commended Armenti and his wife, Barbara, for their "extraordinary, dynamic and exemplary service" to the University.

The second resolution recapped Jones' 38 years of service to the University and affirmed that the Trustees "wholeheartedly support and fully endorse" her as acting president.

"This transition we're going through — it happens," said Robert Irely, the council's chairman.

"This University has been here for 160 years, and we have all the confidence in the world with our new leader in this time of transition. Cal U has the finest collection of faculty and staff that you

will find anywhere. ... We need to get back to the business of educating our students."

The June 5 meeting was held in the Grand Hall, rather than the president's conference room, to accommodate members of the campus community, the public and the press.

Three individuals offered public comments during the session.

Dr. Timothy Susick, associate vice president in the Office of Student Affairs, acknowledged that he is among nine non-union employees whose positions were eliminated as of June 15.

"These decisions were made so that Cal U would not only survive, but

thrive," he said, thanking a number of colleagues and Vice President Lenora Angelone for their support. "I feel blessed for the opportunities I've had here at Cal U."

Moe Galis, a Coal Center resident and Greene County business owner, said he had hoped to address members of the PASSHE Board of Governors at the meeting. Citing the possibility of future litigation over Armenti's termination, no PASSHE representatives were in attendance.

"President Armenti led by example," Galis said. "I feel an obligation to do the right thing — to speak out about the

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## Grant Supports Certification for Mechatronics Instructors

**A** grant from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation will support training for secondary and post-secondary teachers when Cal U hosts a Siemens Mechatronic Systems Instructor Certification Program this summer.

The \$178,000 grant, delivered over two years, will allow secondary teachers from Eastern Westmoreland and Western Area career and technology centers to take part in the certification program beginning with Level 1 Instructor Certification, which began June 11 and ends Friday at Cal U.

The grant also supports participation by faculty from Westmoreland County

Community College and Cal U.

Two instructors and an administrator from the Siemens Technical Academy in Berlin, Germany, will provide the specialized training and certification. Level 2 Instructor Certification will be a focus during the second year of the program.

A state-recognized vocational college in Germany, the Siemens Technical Academy collaborates with partner schools around the world to offer comprehensive industry skills certification in mechatronics, an emerging field that blends mechanical and electrical engineering technology with computer science.

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## Gala Goes Broadway

President's Faculty Award recipients (left to right) Dr. Paul Crawford (research), Dr. Marc Federico (teaching) and Dr. Kelton Edmonds (service) enjoy a video presentation at the 2012 gala. See story on page 2.



# Scholarships Star at 'Broadway' Gala

The spotlight was on student scholarships when about 250 Cal U faculty, staff, students, alumni and University friends gathered for "A Night on Broadway" at the 2012 President's Gala.

Acting President Geraldine M. Jones hosted the gala at the Omni William Penn hotel, in Pittsburgh. Cast as honorary chairs were Charles '73 and Marianne '72 Pryor.

"I extend a very sincere 'thank you' to each and every one of you for joining us this evening and helping us to raise these much-needed scholarship dollars for our deserving students," Jones said.

Net proceeds from the annual event have supported scholarships for 19 years. Proceeds from this year's Gala will be added to the nearly \$1.4 million raised since its inception in 1994.

Alumna Michele Mandell '69 and some remarkable Cal U students starred in video presentations shown before dinner was served in the Omni's ballroom.

Faculty award winners also took their bows: Dr. Marc Federico, of the Exercise Science and Sport Studies Department, accepted the President's Faculty Award for Teaching; Dr. Paul Crawford, of the Department of History and Political Science, was honored for research; and Dr. Kelton Edmonds, also of History and Political Science, accepted the award for service.

Emeriti faculty honorees were Dr. Phyllis McIlwain, who retired from the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education, and Professor Richard Nemeč '65, who served in the Department of Communication Disorders.

The Lillian M. Bassi Core Values Award was presented to Dr. David L. Amati '70, '72, a dedicated



Acting President Geraldine M. Jones and her husband, Jeffrey, begin the first dance of the 19th President's Gala at the Omni William Penn hotel, in Pittsburgh.

alumnus and president of the Foundation for California University.

After-dinner entertainment included dancing, Monte Carlo games and a silent auction of items donated by University friends, with proceeds also boosting the scholarship fund.

"We know that each of you feels the way we do about our University and our students, and that 'paying it forward' is a concept that all of us understand," said Charles Pryor. "Thank you all for your care and concern for our students, and for your commitment to Cal U."



## KON Lends a Hand

Students from Cal U's chapter of Kappa Omicron Nu join Mary Popovich, mayor of West Newton, at the West Newton Lions Club's annual Bowl 'n' Roll soup and salad fundraising event. Founded by World War II veterans in 1945, the club is experiencing declining membership, so the students' help was much appreciated, said Popovich, a Lions Club member and an assistant professor in the Department of Health Science. KON faculty adviser Dr. Joni Roh, a professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Sport Studies, supported the project through a membership vote. Enjoying a moment after the busy evening were (from left) Rebecca Barnhart, Kaleigh Adkins, Drew Slocum, Mary Popovich, Erika Peavy, Brittany Ferguson and Aimee Thompson.

## Grant Supports Certification

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The academy belongs to the education provider for Siemens AG, one of the world's largest high-tech manufacturing corporations.

"Industry certifications have tremendous value, and there is a great demand for workers trained in mechatronics," said program manager Michael Amrhein, director of Cal U's Office of Integration and Outreach for TEAMS (Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math and Science).

"Establishing a high-quality teaching corps in mechatronics should result in highly competent students who will complete their studies well-prepared to enter the workforce."



Michael Amrhein

Cal U's ultimate goal is to develop a "Road Map to Mechatronics" — a series of meaningful educational opportunities that allow students to move from secondary to post-secondary education, then on to jobs in science, technology, engineering and math, the subjects collectively known as STEM.

One key point on the "road map" is the University's new bachelor's degree program in mechatronics. Scheduled to begin in fall 2013, it will prepare students to work with complex systems that incorporate mechanical, electrical and software components, such as robots, automated guided vehicles or other "smart" electro-mechanical systems.

Following a "2+2+2" model, high school students could move seamlessly from a vocational-technical program in mechatronics to Cal U's two-year associate degree program in robotics engineering technology and/or the four-year mechatronics program.

"Training and certifying instructors is an important step, and the Benedum Foundation grant is opening doors to this specialized training," Amrhein said. "Through this program, we hope to give all learners multiple entry and exit points on their pathway to a career."

The Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation has served West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania since 1944. The foundation makes grants to support specific initiatives in the areas of education, economic development, health and human services, community development and civic engagement.

## Campus BRIEFS

### Presentation Examines Privacy Case

Dr. Jeffrey Magers and Dr. Christina Toras, both of the Department of Professional Studies, presented "Technology v. Privacy: The Legal and Policy Implications of U.S. v. Jones" last month at the 49th Annual Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting in New York City.

The meeting focused on "Theorizing Criminal Justice: Practical Applications for the Field."

The academy is an international association that was established in 1963 to foster professional and scholarly activities in the field of criminal justice.

### Dance Team Takes First in Intercollegiate Competition

Cal U's Vulcanette Dance Team achieved the top overall high score at the Intercollegiate Dance Competition held at Washington and Jefferson College.

The 18-member dance team placed first among eight competing schools in the large group dances category. They danced to a jazz routine choreographed by Diane Eperthener.

"The team represented Cal U with both talent and respect," said Eperthener, the team's coach and a dance instructor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. "They did a great job."



# Trustees Address Leadership Transition

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positive influence of Dr. Armenti and his wife.”

Barbara Hess, vice president of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties, thanked the Board of Governors “for standing up for the students and staff of Cal U, and for the taxpayers.”

On behalf of the faculty union, she called on the Trustees to “put California on the ‘academics first’ track”; to mandate transparency, especially in financial matters; and to mandate “true shared governance.”

During the routine business portion of the meeting, the Trustees gave final approval for a new bachelor’s degree program in Mechatronics Engineering Technology. Slated to begin in fall 2013, it will be the first of its kind in the State System.

The four-year degree in mechatronics — an emerging field that blends mechanical and electrical engineering technology with computer science — will align with Cal U’s commitment to science, technology, engineering and math, and to STEM education.

In other business:

- Acting President Geraldine Jones told the Trustees that she has been sharing weekly messages with the campus community. “Having credible information can be reassuring in times of transition,” she said, adding that she intends to continue communicating regularly with faculty, staff, students and alumni.

- Associate Provost Bruce Barnhart, representing the Office of Academic Affairs, introduced a report that highlighted student presentations at national conferences and Cal U’s second-place award winner in the PASSHE business plan competition.

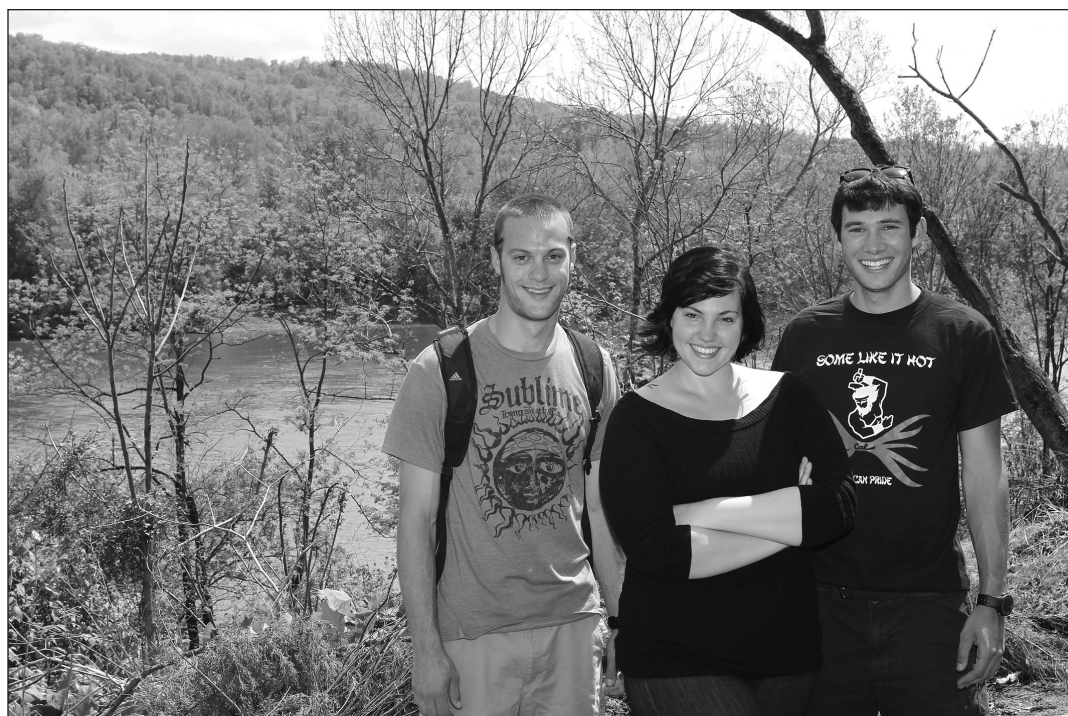
- Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance, focused on a workshop for commercial music technology students offered in conjunction with the grand opening of the Convocation Center. The Kenny Rogers concert featured at the grand opening turned a profit of \$6,200, he reported, and VenuWorks, which has been hired to manage the new facility, has begun planning for other entertainment events.

- Dr. Lenora Angelone, vice president for Student Affairs, reported on plans to use the SAI Farm as a site for academic projects. A geology demonstration already has been held on the south campus property, and faculty members are organizing ICES — the Interdisciplinary Center for Environmental Studies — to manage appropriate grant proposals and research requests.

- Craig Butzine, vice president for Marketing and University Relations, explained how the quarterly alumni magazine and other publications are used to enhance the image of the University by pointing out the positive activities of students, faculty and staff.

- Sharon Navoney, interim vice president for University Development and *Cal U for Life*, summarized recent alumni activities and reported that The Campaign to Build Character and Careers has raised about \$30 million, or 85 percent of its goal. Progress for this fiscal year, as of April 30, is \$3.8 million.

- Dr. Charles Mance, vice president for University Technology Services, described a new customer satisfaction survey that will help to inform decisions about resource allocations for technology services. He also reported on the “smart” classrooms project, which is on track for completion by fall. The project calls for updating every one of Cal U’s 70 classrooms with new audio-visual technology and Internet access.



Roman Sulkosky (left), Lena Danka and Bryce Wilson, students in Dr. John Confer’s recreation site design and management class, were among those presenting recreational plans to California Borough officials and the public as part of the River Town Program, launched by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in 2011.

## River Trail Plans Proposed

### Part of Recreation Site Design and Management Class

**F**orty Cal U students recently proposed a series of projects designed to increase the number of visitors to California and Coal Center.

The 10 plans were created as part of Dr. John Confer’s recreation site design and management class and presented to elected officials, community leaders and the general public on April 28.

The community presentation was part of the River Town Program, which was launched by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council in 2011.

The program is designed to help several towns along the Monongahela River — Point Marion, Greensboro, Rices Landing, Fredericktown, Millsboro, California and Coal Center — expand existing businesses and create new ones to serve the outdoor recreation market.

The purpose of the students’ work was to identify projects to support the River Town Program goals. Their plans included a proposed layout of a

trail that would connect Rotary Park, Mechanic Street Park, Wyatt Park, Szalay Park and the Project 70 land with the business district.

Students also developed plans for hiking, walking, fitness, mountain-bike and nature trails; a nature playground; an amphitheater and overlook; a wildlife and bird blind; a disc golf course; a climbing/low bouldering structure; and a skate park.

“I try to provide my students with service-learning opportunities that address real-world problems and allow them to develop potential solutions,” Confer explained. “They like it, and they seemed to really get involved in this one.”

“Our part was to propose different options,” said senior Roman Sulkosky, whose team proposed the low bouldering/climbing structure. “(Community leaders) are going to take it from there. Some people at the meetings were involved in developing other towns, so it was good to know these were good ideas.”

Lena Danka, who graduated in May, was part of a team that planned an environmentally sensitive playground with natural features, such as logs and rocks, instead of traditional play equipment.

“Parks and recreation do a lot to benefit a community. Some of us have volunteered to come back to help build whatever project they choose,” she said.

Added rising junior Bryce Wilson, who worked on plans for a skate park, “(The trail) is going to be a good thing. We are excited to see it come through.”

Confer said he looks forward to the River Town Program’s development — some work on the trail could begin as early as this summer, he said — and an ongoing partnership with Cal U.

“There are a lot of faculty and students here who could help them solve problems and provide information. We have to look to what we have and use it to bring people to the area.”

## Camp Hones Leadership Skills

**H**igh school students can learn to lead at the third annual Leadership Challenge summer camp, which began Sunday and ends Saturday at Cal U.

Sponsored by the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute, the Leadership Challenge is a weeklong summer adventure for high school students entering their senior year. Participants take part in leadership education and activities to help them reach their full potential.

Students are selected to participate by nearly 20 high school counselors throughout southwestern Pennsylvania.

“We designed this weeklong event to be rigorous for our student participants,” said Dr. Michael Hummel, director of the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute.

“The students’ leadership abilities will be challenged as they participate in team building, taking charge, confidence building and self-esteem exercises over five days.”

Students will work in teams to climb the rock wall in the Herron Recreation and Fitness Center.

They also will participate in a leadership adventure at Outdoor Odyssey, a 500-acre facility in Boswell, Pa., that features campgrounds, zip-lines, rappelling courses and a variety of outdoor activities.

In the classroom, camp participants will learn about leadership theories, characteristics and styles. Hummel teaches many of the classes, with assistance from Linda and Harry Serene and other volunteer leaders.

This year’s volunteers include Dr. William Rullo, director of counseling services at Upper St. Clair High School, and attorney Bart Gabler, of McKinsey Company and Associates.

Cal U faculty members Dr. Gary Delorenzo, chair of



Linda and Dr. Harry Serene address participants at the third annual Leadership Challenge summer camp, which runs through Saturday.

the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems; Dr. Tony Rodi, assistant professor in that department; and Kelley Hunt, executive director for the Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and Student Incubator, also will volunteer to teach classes.

“Our participants always tell us what a great time they have at camp,” Hummel said.

“It is not all about academics. It is about building friendships and learning how to work with others that may be different than you.”

To learn more about the Leadership Challenge and the Linda and Harry Serene Leadership Institute, visit [www.calu.edu/business-community](http://www.calu.edu/business-community) or contact Dr. Michael Hummel at [hummel@calu.edu](mailto:hummel@calu.edu).



# Champion Swimmer Heads to Olympic Trials

Three-time NCAA national swimming champion Melissa Gates will compete in the U.S. Olympic Trials beginning June 29 at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Neb.

Gates, who graduated from Cal U last month, will compete in both the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle events.

The 100-meter preliminaries and semifinals will held on June 29, followed by the finals on July 1. The 50-meter preliminaries and semifinals will be held July 1, with the finals scheduled for July 2.

Gates earned an Olympic Trials berth in the 100-meters on May 27, when she won the USA Swimming Senior Circuit 3 meet held at the University of Pittsburgh. Her time was 57.10 seconds.

She qualified for the Olympic Trials in the 50-meter freestyle last summer, but Gates bettered her qualifying time in this event by winning the Senior Circuit 3 on May 26 with a time of 25.96 seconds.

Both of Gates' winning times set new Senior Circuit 3 records.

Cal U's head swimming coach, Ed Denny, said the U.S. Olympic Trials in swimming may be the most competitive in the world, because only the top two finishers from each event advance.



Three-time NCAA national swimming champion Melissa Gates will compete in the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyle events at the U.S. Olympic Trials beginning June 29 in Omaha, Neb.

"It's so competitive to just get there, and then the stress and pressure once you're there is phenomenal," he said. "With Melissa, the culmination of her career here and all the work she's done the past four years continues to be on an upward swing."

Despite the odds, Denny believes anything is possible with Gates, a 10-time All-American.

"I won't be shocked by anything she does at the Olympic Trials," said Denny. "To make the Olympic team is a very, very tall order, but there aren't many other Division II athletes competing at this meet. It's quite an accomplishment."

Gates concluded her extraordinary Cal U career in March, when she repeated as NCAA Division II national champion in the 50-yard freestyle and also won the D-II national title in the 100-yard freestyle.

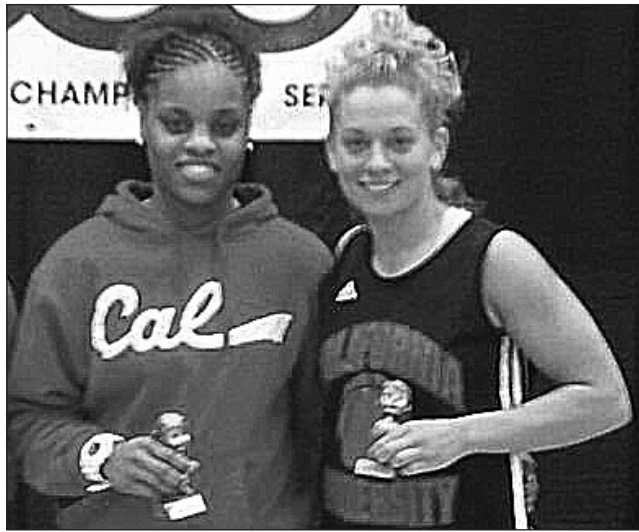
In addition, she placed second in the 100-yard breaststroke and swam with two All-American relay teams.

The first swimmer in school history to be selected as the PSAC Athlete of the Year, Gates won five championships — three individual and two relay — at the 2012 conference meet.

She is just the second Vulcan to win three individual national titles. Track and cross country standout Brian Ferrari won the 1983 NCAA Division II cross country championship and consecutive 10,000-meter national titles in 1983 and 1984.

The 2012 Summer Olympic Games will take place in London from July 27-Aug. 12.

Rachael McDaniel (left) and Laura Montecalvo display regional all-tournament trophies from the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association national championships, held earlier this spring. Cal U's top intramural women's and men's basketball teams competed at the event.



## Intramural Teams Compete at Nationals

Following strong showings at regional tournaments earlier this spring, Cal U's top intramural women's and men's basketball teams competed at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association national championships.

Cal U was the only school whose teams received at-large bids to both the women's and men's tourneys, held at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Cal U was one of just four Division II schools among the 15 schools competing.

The women's team dropped 38-36 decisions to Henderson State and Ohio State universities, and the Vulcans lost a 43-41 contest to another big school, Missouri.

Team members were Bria Jones, Chaunce Lightfoot, Rachael McDaniel, Syvae McDaniel, Laura Montecalvo, Davida Penn, Alyse

Washington and Ashley Washington.

The men's team lost by six points to Southern Illinois (45-39) and defeated Florida State by 13 points (63-50) before being eliminated 42-40 by Howard University.

Players were Josh Arnold, Dante Clark, Edwin Colwell, Joshua Johnson, Teddy Maloney, Miles Porter, Jordan Ruggiero, Nicholas Thomas, Evan Scott, Andre Twyman and Bradley Wiggins.

"Both teams did amazing jobs and showed a lot of heart competing against premier Division I clubs," said Tom Hasbrouck, assistant director of recreational services.

"In the last few years the intramural program has continued to grow. ... We have been producing competitive teams on the local, regional and national levels. I believe we are only going to get better."

## Fun on the Quad

Student Andrew Tischler (right) snags a Frisbee out of the air during an enjoyable afternoon on the Quad with friends, including Nate Taylor (below). Both students are graphic design majors who were in a playful mood at the end of the spring semester.



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