

# California University JOURNAL

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## Cal U Honors Military Veterans

As part of its 2017 Veterans Week celebration, the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs hosted its 44th annual Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 9 with guest speaker Michael Sears, a retired U.S. lieutenant commander and California Area School District superintendent.

Sears shared anecdotes from his 18 years of service as a naval surface warfare officer. His final ship assignment was as executive officer aboard the USS Pensacola, which participated in Operation Desert Storm in the Persian Gulf.

“You’ve all been standing a watch somewhere,” Sears said to the many veterans in the room. “Veterans ... share this theoretical concept of duty, which is essentially subscribing to a cause bigger and more important than themselves.

“Vets chose to serve their country and, following their military service, have maintained a strong sense of duty and have served in other ways. They do this because they are the man or woman in the arena, daring greatly.”

Earlier in the program, University President Geraldine M. Jones offered remarks, including praise for the display of nearly 60 banners that highlight veterans’ military service.

“They are just one way that our University expresses its pride in our alumni, students, employees, friends and family members who have served our nation with distinction,” President Jones said.

“We have a long history of honoring their courage and sacrifice — and we wholeheartedly welcome those veterans and service members.”

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 260 students, faculty and staff at Cal U have served in the U.S. military, including a number of students who have had multiple



California University of Pennsylvania President Geraldine M. Jones signs a proclamation designating Nov. 6-10 as Military and Veterans Appreciation Week at Cal U. Looking on are (from left) sophomore Tommy Boyd, of Uniontown, a retired Marine Corps master sergeant who is studying sport management; Spec. Alexis Richardson '17, of Pittsburgh, a member of the U.S. Army Reserve who is earning a master's degree in intercollegiate athletic administration; Capt. Robert Prah '06, '10, director of the University's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs; and Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Maund '11, an ROTC instructor at Cal U.

deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Twelve students were awarded the Presidential Patriotic Service medallion, given to those who have served on active duty while enrolled at Cal U.

The recipients of the Col. Arthur L. Bakewell

Veterans Scholarship — senior David Sheets and graduate student Ashley Pugh — also were recognized.

The scholarship is awarded annually in memory of Bakewell, a longtime Veterans Club adviser. It is funded

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## Rotary Recognizes Eliason's Efforts

For more than 30 years Dr. Grafton Eliason has helped those who care for others, and his work is being noticed.

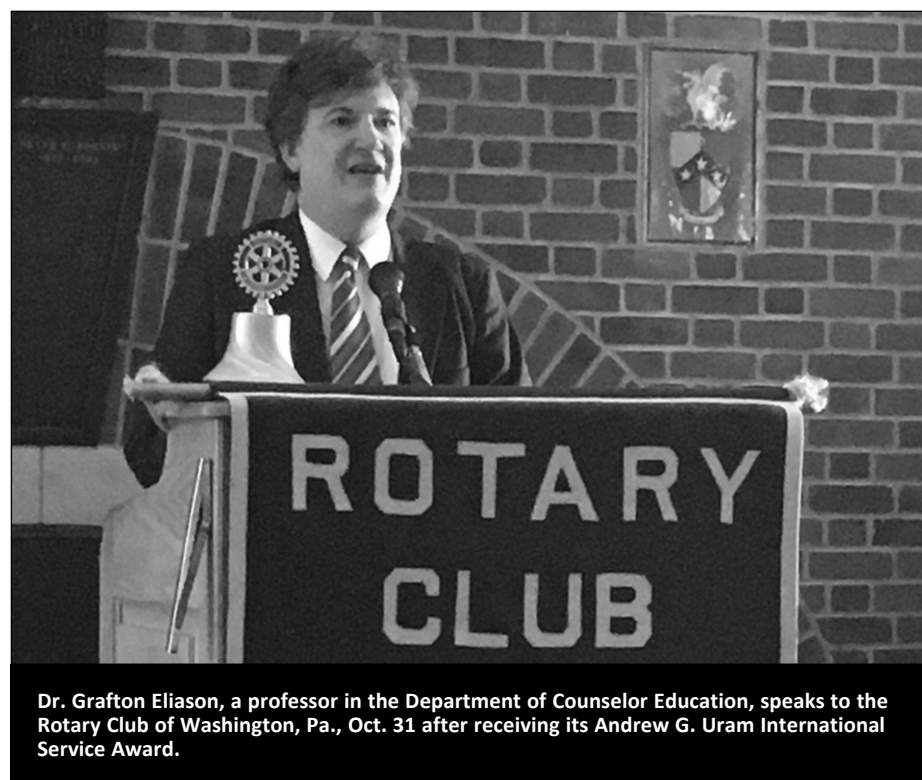
A professor for the past 13 years and coordinator of clinical mental health counseling in the Department of Counselor Education, Eliason received the Andrew G. Uram International Service Award from the Rotary Club of Washington, Pa., on Oct. 31.

Created in 2004, the award recognizes those who have provided humanitarian relief abroad or worked to promote world understanding and peace. It is named in honor of past president Andrew Uram, who led the Rotary Club's first major international service project to ship books to Ghana through the Brother's Brother Foundation.

Andrew Uram is the father of Thomas Uram, a member of Cal U's Council of Trustees.

Michael Pecosh '97, '05, one of Eliason's former students and an officer with the Rotary Club of Washington, nominated Eliason for the award.

“I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition,” said Pecosh, a licensed professional counselor with his own practice. “Through his work here and abroad, he has educated, comforted and brought



Dr. Grafton Eliason, a professor in the Department of Counselor Education, speaks to the Rotary Club of Washington, Pa., Oct. 31 after receiving its Andrew G. Uram International Service Award.

people together as our human family.

“He’s a friend, a mentor and more importantly an inspiration for what someone can do to make the world a better place.”

Eliason and Cal U students have taken several mission trips to India, Peru, Belize, Puerto Rico and South Africa. They have worked in schools,

orphanages, homes for the elderly and addiction centers and have had the opportunity to share experiences with nurses, police, teachers and students.

Eliason's first mission work was in India, when he was attending the Princeton Theological Seminary at the age of 20.

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#givebackPA

## Campaign Highlights Service

Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has launched a social media campaign to highlight the ways students at Cal U and the 13 other State System schools give back to local communities, the region and the commonwealth.

The #givebackPA campaign will continue through December on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Follow that hashtag at [facebook.com/CalUofPa](http://facebook.com/CalUofPa); [twitter.com/CalUofPa](http://twitter.com/CalUofPa); [instagram.com/CalUofPa](http://instagram.com/CalUofPa); and [youtube.com/CalUofPa](http://youtube.com/CalUofPa).

The University will post content to

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# Cal U Celebrates Native American History

An FBI attorney explored the complexities of tribal sovereignty in the United States Nov. 2 as part of Cal U's Native American Heritage Month celebration.

Christopher B. Chaney, of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, lives in West Virginia and has served as a tribal prosecutor, handling crimes for the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Southern Ute Tribe.

He also prosecuted federal crimes for the Navajo Nation and the Uintah & Ouray Ute Tribe.

For two years, Chaney was in charge of law enforcement and corrections programs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

His talk was titled "Tribal Sovereignty and Federal Indian Law."

"Tribes are governments much in the way that any state or the United States is a government, but their status is a bit different," Chaney said. "Over the years, criminal legal authority in Indian country has been one of the main ways that tribal sovereignty has been expressed."

Chaney said criminal jurisdiction



Attorney Christopher B. Chaney, of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, discusses complexities of tribal sovereignty and federal Indian law in the United States as part of Cal U's Native American Heritage Month celebration.

became increasingly restricted, reaching a low point in 1990.

A 1991 amendment to the Indian Civil Rights Act — which recognized that tribes had power to "exercise

criminal jurisdiction over all Indians — and the 2010 Tribal Law and Order Act — which allows tribal courts to increase jail sentences handed down in criminal cases — have increased tribal sovereignty.

"The concept of tribal sovereignty and how it interacts with federal law changes from time to time. It is an active area of the law that has constant new legislation, and new Supreme Court cases," Chaney said.

"It can be murky, and there's constant talk about sovereignty and what it means."

Sponsoring the presentation were the Office of the Provost and the LaDonna Harris Native American Studies Institute at Cal U.

Dr. Clarissa Confer, a professor in the Department of History, Politics, Society and Law, followed Chaney's visit by showing films to further awareness about Native American issues and heritage.

The Nov. 9 film, *LaDonna Harris: Indian 101*, is a documentary about the Comanche activist and national civil rights leader who has visited Cal U and for whom the institute is named. On Nov. 16, a film about Native American environmental issues was shown.

## Campus BRIEFS

### Schedules Change for Thanksgiving

So that students can observe the Thanksgiving holiday, no classes will be held from Nov. 22-27.

The University will be closed Nov. 23-26 and will reopen Monday, Nov. 27. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Residence halls will close at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, and re-open at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26.

The final *Journal* of the Fall 2017 semester will be available online and in print on Dec. 11.

### GACO Fair Draws 230

Deborah Wojcik, newly retired director of Cal U's Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO), reported that last month's 30th annual Procurement Opportunities Fair attracted more than 230 participants.

Focused on providing businesses with contracting and subcontracting opportunities, the fair in Washington, Pa., featured 70 booths staffed by representatives of government agencies, corporations, regional service organizations and area businesses. Training sessions also were offered.

"Through these events businesses have access to multiple buyers for their goods and services," Wojcik said. "It is an excellent networking opportunity for companies, which often leave the fair with a contract or develop relationships that lead to future business."

Since 1985, local businesses assisted by the GACO program have reported receiving more than 58,335 contracts and subcontracts totaling nearly \$3.7 billion dollars.

The next Procurement Fair will be held Oct. 23, 2018, at the Monroeville (Pa.) Convention Center. For more information, contact Tracy Julian at 724-938-5881 or julian@calu.edu.

### Holly Day Set for Dec. 3

The California Borough Recreation Authority and Cal U welcome everyone to California Holly Day, 4-6 p.m. Dec. 3 in the Performance Center inside the Natali Student Center.

The free community event includes treat bags for the first 100 children who attend, plus holiday crafts, a photo booth with Santa, musical performances, horse-drawn carriage rides, bookstore discounts and more.

Free parking is available in the lots behind the student center.

Guests are invited to bring new scarves, hats, gloves and gifts for children to the Donation Tree.

For more information, email Melissa Dunn at [dunn@calu.edu](mailto:dunn@calu.edu).

### Trustees Meet Dec. 6

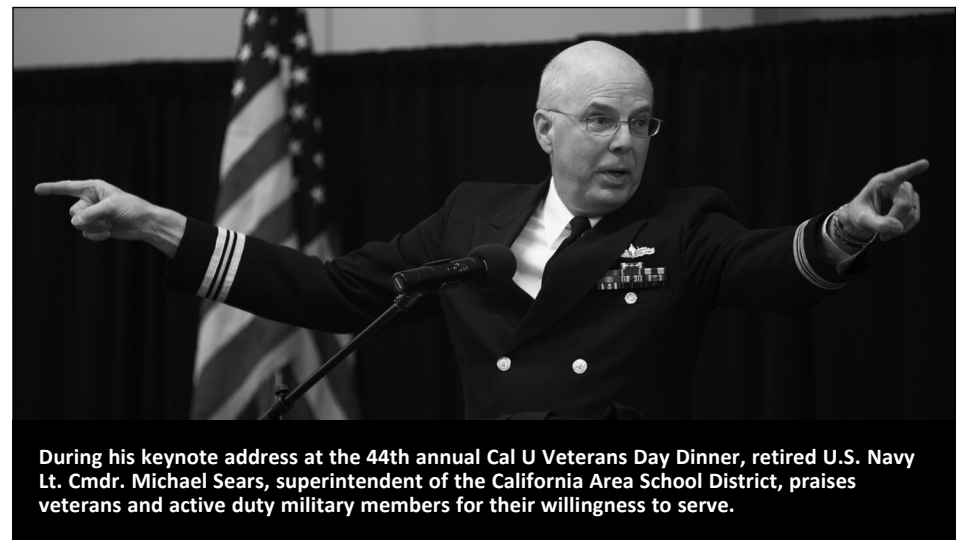
The California University Council of Trustees will hold its final quarterly meeting of 2017 at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 in the President's conference room, Old Main, Room 110.

### See Cal U Events Online

A new online events calendar makes it easy to see what's happening at Cal U.

Click the "Calendar" link in the homepage navigation, or click "Events" at the bottom of the homepage (near the newsfeed) to view a searchable list of campus activities.

The new online calendar allows users to browse by event type or date. Details about the event, directions, registration information and more is all readily available, along with a one-click link to share the event on your social media accounts.



During his keynote address at the 44th annual Cal U Veterans Day Dinner, retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Michael Sears, superintendent of the California Area School District, praises veterans and active duty military members for their willingness to serve.

## Cal U Honors Veterans

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through the generosity of the Veterans Scholarship Fund 500 Club.

Coincidentally, Bakewell's daughter is Michael Sears' wife, the former Cherie Bakewell.

Sears praised his late father-in-law for starting the Veterans Club at Cal U and giving student veterans the opportunity to develop their leadership skills.

"He was quiet and a very understanding person who always took care of his veterans and soldiers at Cal U," Sears said of Bakewell, a veteran of three wars. "He looked for the best in people and overlooked their faults."

Veterans Week at Cal U began with President Jones signing a proclamation declaring Nov. 6-10 as "California University of Pennsylvania Military and Veterans Appreciation Week."

The Office of Military and Veterans Affairs followed that Nov. 6 signing by holding an open house to dedicate its new suite of offices in Residence Hall E.

Capt. Robert Prah, who directs the office, highlighted the variety of services available to students, including a computer lab equipped to process military paperwork.

"This is a very warm and inviting place for our military and veteran students," said President Jones, who remarked on the University's status as a Military Friendly School.

"I'm proud of what we're doing here," added Larry Maggi, a U.S. Marine

Corps veteran and a member of the University's Council of Trustees.

Prah recognized members of the Facilities Management staff who assisted with the office's summertime move from Manderino Library, where Veterans Affairs had been housed for the past several years.

Brian Phillips, Gregory Phillippi, Albert Gauden, Clarence Camp, Edward Hagyard, Anthony Roberts, Jeffrey Lowden and Patrick Kelly each received a Coin of Excellence, created specifically for the Veterans Affairs Office, and a certificate of appreciation noting their "unwavering support of our Cal U Military, Veterans and ROTC programs."

"Your hard work ... and professionalism does not go unnoticed," the certificate read. "We appreciate all of your countless hours behind the scenes devoted to serving our veterans and service members."

University Police officer Brian Bobnar also received a coin and a certificate for his regular "check-ins" with the office's staff and students.

Veterans Week 2017 concluded with another open house on Nov. 11, and President Jones also hosted a "Pop-Up Coffee" event on Nov. 7.

Her message to the veterans at all the events was clear.

"On behalf of California University of Pennsylvania, I want to say out loud what I hope you all have heard many times before — thank you for your service."



From left: Jerry Koza, Jake Newbill, Kristin Bomboy, Laken Ganoë, Dr. Carol Bocetti (club adviser) and Luke Gray enjoy a moment at The Wildlife Society National Conference in Albuquerque, N.M. Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society won third place at the conference's Quiz Bowl.

## Students Shine at Wildlife Event

Cal U's student chapter of The Wildlife Society earned a third-place finish — its best ever — at the 20th annual Quiz Bowl, which took place earlier this fall during The Wildlife Society National Conference in Albuquerque, N.M.

Cal U competed against more than 20 North American teams.

Quiz Bowl is a fast-paced wildlife knowledge competition between teams of four undergraduates, including an alternate. Questions range from taxonomy to wildlife management, to ecological principles, to Wildlife Society trivia.

Cal U's team of Kristin Bomboy, Laken Ganoë, Luke Gray, Jake Newbill and alternate Jerry Koza finished ahead of Arizona State for third place. Georgia repeated as champion, and Purdue placed second.

Tara Fisher, a junior biology major with a fisheries and wildlife concentration, is the chapter's public relations officer and kept score throughout each of the rounds.

"At the 2016 conference we did not get past the first round, so it was so rewarding to see our team do such a great job," she said. "It was very stressful, but exciting, just watching."

Ganoë, a graduating senior, believes the team built on its experience from the previous year.

"We were more prepared and had a mindset of 'let's just get some answers correct,'" she said. "Once we did get some

right, I think things just started rolling."

Club adviser Dr. Carol Bocetti, a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, said the Cal U chapter was competing against schools whose chapters are four to five times larger.

She added that many of those teams have their own buzzer systems, do extensive training, and even photograph questions to use to prepare for next year's competition.

"We teach our students what we teach them, and they simply go up there and express what they've learned and know," she said. "Their performance reflects very positively on our program, and I am so proud of them."

### Invaluable for Students

The Wildlife Society's Conference is one of the largest gatherings of wildlife professionals, students and supporters in North America.

Attendees learn about the latest advances in wildlife research, management and education through a wide variety of symposia, contributed papers, workshops and field trips.

Bocetti emphasized the conference's value for students and cited Ganoë, who attended her first conference in 2015 as a sophomore club officer.

Through networking at the 2015 event, Ganoë landed a summer job. In 2016 she attended as chapter president, and

this year she presented a research poster on her honors thesis, "Feasibility of remote mark recapture methods on fishers in Clarion County."

Ganoë was the conference's northeast student representative and student development working group secretary.

In spring 2018, she will complete a research assistantship with the Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at Penn State under Dr. David Walter, whom she met at the 2015 conference.

With assistance from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, she will continue her work and research of the fisher, Pennsylvania's second-largest member of the weasel family.

"These conferences have really helped shape my professional career," said Ganoë. "They open up so many opportunities for students to experience all there is in wildlife and see the big picture."

Some of the conference travel costs are paid through proceeds from the chapter's popular Outdoor Bash and Wild Game Dinner. The 20th annual event will take place on March 24, 2018.

"I've been to a lot of national conferences, but I have never experienced one that is done as well for undergraduate students," Bocetti said. This conference changes these people's lives, and it's incredibly how professionally ready they become."

## Honors Students to Present Digital Stories

Students in University Honors Program English courses taught by Dr. Christina Fisanick will present their digital stories about the Mon Valley at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

Admission is free, and the public is welcome.

More than 30 honors students worked with 12 historical societies throughout the Mon Valley, including groups in Monessen, California, Charleroi and Dravosburg, to produce the digital histories.

Along the way, students sharpened their writing, critical thinking and editing skills, digital literacy and more.

The students read scholarly articles on the northern Appalachia region and visited the Carrie Blast Furnaces at the former U.S. Steel Homestead Works to learn about the steel-making process and the role immigrants played in the Industrial Revolution. Students also read *Rust Belt Boy: Stories of an American Childhood*, by Paul Hertneky, a memoir set in the Mon Valley.

This marks the fifth year of a collaboration between Cal U's digital storytellers and the Senator John Heinz History Center Affiliates Program, of which the local historical societies are members. Over the past five years, students have provided an overview of each historical society, as well as a feature on a noteworthy artifact or collection.

## 'Happy Elf' Opens Dec. 7

Community members ages 5 to 55 will join Cal U students onstage and behind the scenes when the Department of Music and Theatre performs *The Happy Elf*.

This is the second consecutive year the holiday production—based on a song by Grammy award-winner Harry Connick Jr.—has been presented at Cal U.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Dec. 7-9 and 2 p.m. Dec. 9-10 in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. All performances are open to the public. Children from area school districts will attend a matinee at 10 a.m. Dec. 8.

The family-friendly musical comedy tells the story of Eubie the Elf, one of Santa's helpers, whose rose-colored view of the holiday season is put to the test when he sets out to bring Christmas joy to a dreary town called Bluesville.

Tickets are \$12 for all ages. Students with valid CalCards are admitted for 50 cents; a \$5 deposit will be returned when the student attends a performance.

For more information or to order tickets by phone, call the Steele Hall Box Office at 724-938-5943.

## Musicians Perform On, Off Campus

Cal U's talented student musicians are tuning up for holiday performances.

Jazz ensembles under the direction of Dr. Frank Stetar will perform holiday tunes and an assortment of jazz melodies at 8 p.m. Nov. 21 in the Performance Center, inside the Natali Student Center.

The Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, directed by Dr. Randy Tillmutt, will perform at 5 p.m. Dec. 2 in Old Main Chapel. The concert will include African folk songs and holiday favorites.

Both events are free and open to the community.

At 8 p.m. Dec. 2 and 3 p.m. Dec. 3, the Cal U Choir will join the Washington Symphony Orchestra at Trinity High School in Washington, Pa., to sing several selections at *Ho Ho Ho with the WSO*.

Choir director Dr. Yugo Ikach, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre, is the WSO's music director and principal conductor.

The choir will perform John Rutter's "Angels' Carol," Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival," Craig Courtney's "A Musicological Journey Through the



The Young and Gifted Gospel Choir's fall concert will be at 5 p.m. Dec. 2 in Old Main Chapel.

Twelve Days of Christmas" and "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah*.

Cal U Commercial Music Technology majors Kate Snyder, Meghan McPherson and Nick Linder will be soloists with the orchestra for Trans-Siberian Orchestra's "Dreams of Fireflies."

The California Singers vocal ensemble will be part of the "Christmaspalooza" celebration at the Washington Crown Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 9.

For details about performances by Cal U musicians, contact the Department of Music and Theatre at 724-938-4878 or email [ikach@calu.edu](mailto:ikach@calu.edu), [stetar@calu.edu](mailto:stetar@calu.edu) or [tillmutt@calu.edu](mailto:tillmutt@calu.edu).

Tickets for the Washington Symphony Orchestra are available at [washesym.org](http://washesym.org) or by calling 1-888-71-TICKETS. Tickets for "Ho, Ho, Ho with the WSO" are available at Citizens Library and Peters Township Public Library and at the door. Cal U students with a valid CalCard are admitted free of charge to WSO concerts.

# Two Vulcans Win PSAC Championships

**D**istance runner Julie Friend and golfer Cai Yan Ho won Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference individual championships during the weekend of Oct. 21-22.

Friend, a redshirt senior, won the Vulcans' first PSAC women's cross-country championship in 35 years.

She finished the 6-kilometer run at Roadman Park in 22 minutes, 7.8 seconds, nearly 57 seconds ahead of the second-place competitor — the largest margin of victory in the league race since 2010.

Friend also became only the second women's cross-country runner in program history to win the individual league title. Rachel Brooks was the first to accomplish this feat, in 1980.

Cal U finished fifth in the team standings with a trio of runners placing in the top 30. This was the Vulcans' second-best conference finish in the last 30 years.

The Vulcans' next two top finishers were senior Summer Hill and junior Alyson Pierce, who finished 14th and 26th, respectively.

On Nov. 4, Friend won the NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional to become the program's first-ever individual regional champion. The Vulcans finished in third place at the regional and qualified for Nationals as a team for the second time in three years.

On the men's side, sophomore Brett George led the Vulcans by finishing 19th overall.

Ho, a senior captured medalist honors by six strokes at the PSAC Women's Golf Championships, held at the



Runner Julie Friend (above) and golfer Cai Yan Ho took individual championship titles.



Hershey (Pa.) Country Club East.

She carded the lowest score of the weekend in the second round, at one-over 72, to finish the event with a six over-par 148. Ho is the fifth Vulcan women's golfer in 10 years to win the individual title, and the first since 2012.

Cal U's next highest finisher was freshman Sara Suazo, who tied for third place with a 13-over 152.

The men's golf team finished the championship in second place. Sophomore Ryan Smith led the individual effort by finishing in third place with an even-par 142.

Sophomore Nathan Bazant and junior Jerome Landry each tied for 10th place at 10-over 152.

"The PSAC is the NCAA's largest one-state conference, which speaks volumes of what Julie and

Cai Yan accomplished," said athletics director Dr. Karen Hjerpe.

"Winning an individual conference title is a significant achievement, but both of these champions are also outstanding academically and are model student-athletes."

Friend is a multiple Academic All-American selection. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Cal U and is pursuing her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion, with a concentration in rehabilitation science.

Ho is a Dean's List student with highest honors (3.75-4.00 GPA). Her major is mathematics, with a concentration in statistics.

## #GiveBackPA Social Media Campaign Under Way

— Continued from page 1

highlight a dozen community-oriented activities, which began Nov. 4 with Make a Difference Day.

Each year on Make a Difference Day, Cal U partners with community businesses and organizations to address any needs they might have, with a focus on California's downtown business district. Cal U students also helped to serve a dinner at Center in the Woods, near the University's upper campus.

Other #givebackPA events include the University's annual Toys for Tots drive, a Nov. 30 blood drive, the Dec. 3 Holly Day community event, and an afterschool volunteer program at Charleroi Middle School.

"The commonwealth invests in our universities, we invest in our students and they give back to our communities," said Kayla Kuntz, Cal U's social media manager. "This campaign is a way to highlight the service work done by our students."

Diane Hasbrouck, director of the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, reported that Cal U students have performed more than 35,000 volunteer hours over the past three years. During the past 11 months they have participated in 562 service opportunities.

Senior Shaina Hilsey, a member of the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education and past president of the Student Government Association, enthusiastically supports the #givebackPA campaign.

"As students and residents here, it important for us to help out in the community and for people to see that we care," said Hilsey, a sport management major with a concentration in professional golf management and a minor in business administration.

"We want to make a positive impact."



Cal U students (from left) Daisy Lara, Cassondra Garcia, Vianey Almaraz, Brittany Braddee and Rynira Elam take a break while doing yard work in West Brownsville during Cal U's Make a Difference Day service project.

## Rotary Honors Eliason

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"When I came back home, I realized I had gotten just as much, if not more, from that experience than the people I'd helped," he said. "When I came to Cal U, I knew I wanted my students to share that same experience."

Eliason was surprised and humbled by the award, preferring instead to talk about his students.

Earlier this month, he accompanied Kayla Benzio, a master's degree student in clinical and mental health counseling, to the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's state conference in Philadelphia, where she presented research on post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I just share my experiences from a counseling perspective, especially in the multicultural counseling classes, and hopefully it gives the students some incentive," Eliason said. "It's not just one-on-one counseling in an office. There are so many different ways to help people with this degree."

In addition to the Rotary award, Eliason was honored by the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania as 2014 Educator of the Year. He learned CPR and basic crisis response techniques through the Red Cross before taking advanced courses open only to licensed professional counselors.

He continues to volunteer with the American Red Cross of Southwestern Pennsylvania in crisis response, and he also is a national trainer for Reconnections, which works with military personnel and their families.

Eliason is an ordained Presbyterian minister in Redstone Presbytery and pastor for the Community United Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria, Pa.

He served as chaplain and spiritual program coordinator for nine years at Woodlands Foundation in Wexford, Pa., a nonprofit organization for children and young adults with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

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