

CALU REVIEW

SUMMER
2016

FIRST STEPS
RECENT GRADUATES
SET CAREERS IN MOTION





The California University of Pennsylvania Magazine

CAL U REVIEW

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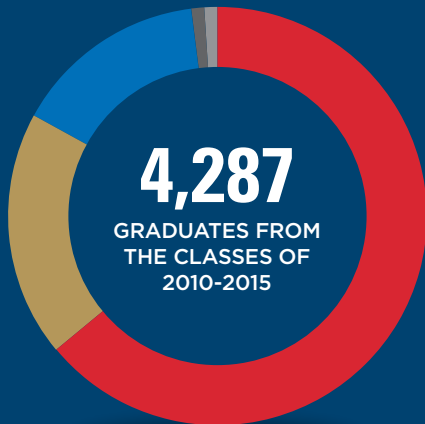
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just as every journey begins with a single step, every career begins with that first "real" job.

I remember my earliest days as a second-grade teacher, the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. I had no idea where my career in education would take me, of course, but I was thrilled to be on my way.

Our recent graduates feel that same excitement as they launch their careers. And our entire Cal U community can take pride in their achievements.

A survey of nearly 4,300 graduates from the classes of 2010-2015 shows that 99 percent are either employed, continuing their education or serving in the military. Of those who are employed, two-thirds have found work related to their field of study.



- 64%** Work Related to Field of Study
- 19%** Work Non-Related to Field of Study
- 15%** Continuing Education
- 1%** Military
- 1%** Not Employed/ Seeking Employment

For students and families who are selecting a college, those outcomes validate the decision to choose Cal U. Our University is providing students with a solid academic foundation and the skills that employers are seeking.

In this edition of the *Review*, we introduce you to a few of our successful young alumni.

What do they have in common? Even this early in their careers, they can look back to an inspiring class, a supportive professor, an amazing internship or another Cal U experience that nudged them one step closer to success.

If California University made a difference in *your* life, do let us know. Post a comment on our Facebook page. Send us a Milestones update. Or visit the Kara Alumni House during our Homecoming celebration in October.

Whether you are new to the workforce, established in your profession or retired after a job well done, we're eager to hear from you. Your achievements are an important measure of our University's success.

With warm wishes,

Geraldine M. Jones
President, California University of Pennsylvania

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As the race for the White House heats up, Courtney Cochran '12, '13 is using her degrees in political science and legal studies to promote thoughtful political engagement among college students.

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ONLINE 'REVIEW' OFFERS EXTRAS

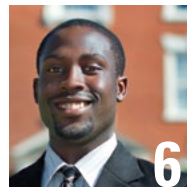
The *Cal U Review* has a new online presence.

Visit calu.edu/review to read featured stories — many with bonus photos or video — on your laptop, tablet or smartphone.

The new online format makes it easy to share articles on social media. You can view or download the print edition, read back issues, submit a news item for Milestones, update your mailing address or send us a message, too.

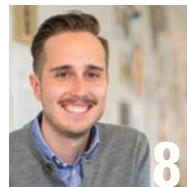
The print edition of your University magazine will continue to arrive by mail three times a year. But we also invite you to explore (and share!) the *Cal U Review* online.

FEATURES



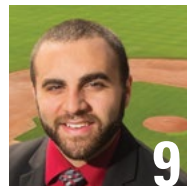
Recalculating ...

Two recent graduates follow unplanned routes to careers in the world of finance.



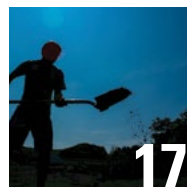
Utility player

At USA TODAY, a graphic designer puts both words and images to work.



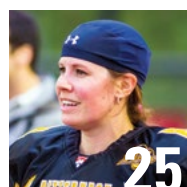
An office at PNC Park

A diehard sports fan creates game-day memories for Pittsburgh Pirates fans.



Edible education

Students harvest hands-on experience when they plant 42 fruit trees at SAI Farm.



Tackling a dream

An alumna takes her love of football onto the field as a player with the Pittsburgh Passion.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The *Cal U Review* is published three times a year to keep you updated with alumni news and information from all four Colleges at California University. Both the current edition and back issues, along with *Cal U Review* "extras," are available online at calu.edu/review.

To stay updated, alumni may send their email address to alumni@calu.edu.

Email Milestones items to revieweditor@calu.edu.

FROM CAMPAIGNS TO ★ THE ★ CAPITAL



Graduates enjoy careers in the world of politics

By the time Courtney Cochran '12, '13 left Cal U, she had earned degrees in political science and legal studies, attended a national political convention, worked as a campaign intern and a get-out-the-vote volunteer, and networked with political staffers from Ohio to Washington, D.C.

"I had a sense of how things ran even before I graduated," Cochran says. So in 2014, when the Arizona Democratic Party offered her a job as a field organizer for the hotly contested 2nd Congressional District race, she headed west.

"It was stressful work, 18-hour days, but I expected that," Cochran says. "I was the only female organizer in Tucson, working with five young men. Basically, we built an organization of volunteers who went door to door and ran a phone bank" on behalf of incumbent U.S. Rep. Ron Barber.

On Election Day, the vote was so close that it triggered the first congressional recount in Arizona history.

"At 7 a.m. on the day after the election, I was back in the recorder's office to watch the ballots being counted," Cochran recalls.

It took six weeks before Barber's opponent, Republican Martha McSally, was declared the winner by fewer than 170 votes.

Cochran was disappointed, but she didn't give up on politics. As a contentious presidential campaign unfolds, the Oil City native is back in Pennsylvania and working full time to engage college students in the election process.

She's a regional organizer for the Campus Election Engagement Project, a nonpartisan initiative that encourages America's 20 million college students to register, educate themselves about candidates and issues, volunteer for campaigns, and go to the polls.

Election engagement

Cochran works with various universities as a "personalized coach" who can develop election engagement strategies, help with planning or pass along CEEP resources.

At one university she established a federal work-study position that ran a successful voter registration drive, produced an election-themed video and used social media to urge students to register and cast their ballots.

At Cal U, Cochran introduced students from Penn State New Kensington to Cal Campaign Consultants, a student-led group that works on political campaigns. She's collaborating with political science professor Dr. Melanie Blumberg to have Cal U officially designated a Voter Friendly Campus.

And she is working with the campus chapter of the American Democracy Project to organize the University's annual Constitution Day event in September. It will feature students who attended this summer's Democratic and Republican conventions — an experience Cochran recalls from 2012, when she and eight other Cal U students were convention volunteers.

"With CEEP, my job is to do whatever it takes to make election engagement a priority on campuses," Cochran says. "I'm happy to be doing something I really believe in."

Blumberg points to numerous Cal U alumni who have found similar satisfaction. She keeps in touch with town managers and mayors, campaign staffers, state officials and federal employees. All are former students.

"The political science majors continue to do great things in local, state and national politics," Blumberg says. "It's gratifying to watch their careers develop."

Jerry Morris '09 found his niche with the Democratic Caucus in the state House of Representatives, where he is a research manager in the Law and Justice Unit of the Legislative Policy and Research Office.

House members call on the office to write detailed research memorandums and constituent response letters. If he isn't doing the research and writing himself, Morris assigns the work to an associate, then proofreads and fact-checks each page.

He also meets with lawmakers and drafts legislation that may go before the Liquor Control or Judiciary committees. The latter, which addresses issues ranging from crime and firearms to child custody laws, is the busiest House committee.

"It turns out that I'm good at analysis," he says. "I can see the repercussions of changing a single word."



Making connections

Decisions reverberate, too. Looking back, Morris sees the impact of THIS, The Harrisburg Internship Semester. Sponsored by the State System of Higher Education, the program brought him to the state capital during his junior year at Cal U.

A political science major with a minor in psychology, he already had spent two summers working in the district office of former state Rep. Bill DeWeese, who was then the majority leader. As a THIS intern, Morris honed his research and writing skills under the guidance of Audrey Powell, policy director in DeWeese's Harrisburg office.

Just as important, the young man from Masontown, Pa., began networking.

"Internships are so important," he says. "The more connections you make, the easier it is to find a job after you graduate. That's true in almost any field, not just in politics. You need to have that experience on your resume."

Morris returned to Harrisburg not long after graduation. There was a hiring freeze in the House, but he accepted a short-term internship. Two months later, he was hired as a research associate. In 2013 he moved to his current position — at 25, one of the youngest research associates ever promoted to manager.

"There is so much involved in law and justice; there's something new every day. I enjoy my job, the work we do and the members we serve. You never know what the future is, especially in politics, but I have no plans to leave the caucus."

Although their career paths differ, Morris and Cochran agree that politics matters.

"People overlook how much state politics affects their everyday lives," Morris says.

"Jobs, energy, property taxes — decisions about those issues can depend on the makeup of the state House and Senate."

Thinking back to a hard-fought election, Cochran sets partisanship aside.

"I don't care who someone votes for, as long as they do their due diligence," she says. "I know for certain that one vote really can make a difference." ■

By Christine Kindl, communications director at Cal U

POLITICALLY ★ ACTIVE

Among the Cal U students involved in political activities this summer are:

- ★ Claudia Pehowic, an intern at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, and Kirra Lent, an intern at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pa. Pehowic also serves on Cal U's Council of Trustees.
- ★ Ellen "Mari" Boyle, Pennsylvania's student delegate at CollegeDebate16. Delegates from all 50 states met at Dominican University of California to plan social media strategies and campus discussions aimed at expanding conversations among young voters.

To learn more about their experiences, search for "Campaign Trail" at www.calu.edu.



Kembia Munsanje:
'I learned to see my place
in the bigger picture.'



RE CALCULATING...

Two young alumni take unplanned routes to success

Sometimes the route to that “first real job” follows a straight line. More often it’s a winding road — one that led 2015 graduates Kembia Munsanje and Coby Detar to unexpected destinations.

Munsanje came to California University as an aspiring corporate lawyer. Detar thought she’d teach elementary school. Today, both are working in the world of finance. And both credit Cal U with pointing them toward careers they never imagined.

Derivative settlements

Munsanje is a credit derivatives analyst in operations in the the Salt Lake City office of investment banking giant Goldman Sachs. In a high-rise building in Utah’s capital, he analyzes complex financial data and interacts daily with institutional clients from around the world.

“I started in foreign exchange derivatives and now I’m working with

credit derivatives,” he says. “Goldman Sachs is a company where they look to find the best fit for your skill set. They are always giving you a new challenge and ample opportunity to learn. I like that.”

Munsanje arrived at Cal U ready for a challenge. He found a mentor in history and political science professor Dr. Joseph Heim, and he wasted no time in seeking a job-shadowing opportunity through the Career and Professional Development Center.

The center connected him with Morgan Lewis & Bockius, a Philadelphia law firm, where he got an overview of corporate law and the firm’s business and finance departments.

He was stymied in his quest for a summer internship — law firms typically hire law school students rather than undergraduates — but intrigued by the world of mergers and acquisitions.

"Then I came across this field called investment banking," he says. "After that, everything started to fall into place."

In 2013, his sophomore year at Cal U, Munsanje attended the Morgan Stanley Early Insights program. He was a "top 50 recruit," he says proudly — and the only public university student in the class.

A J.P. Morgan Launching Leaders event followed. Then came a Goldman Sachs Salt Lake City Diversity Symposium. His path was becoming clearer.

"At these events you hear from top leaders in the field," Munsanje explains. Along with other potential recruits, he gained a better understanding of the investment banking industry. And he learned about career opportunities in specialties such as public finance, asset management and investment management.

"It helped me to narrow the focus of what I wanted to do," he says. "I was able to see myself among the best in the country, and I began building relationships that continue today."

Looking back, Munsanje sees how Cal U helped to launch his career. His political science major gave him a broad world view; an economics minor added business and analytical skills.

He tested those skills during a 2014 internship with SEI Investments Co., in Oaks, Pa. He developed leadership abilities as president of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO Club) and, notably, as the student member of California University's Council of Trustees.

"At Goldman Sachs, I can see how my day-to-day role affects the entire firm," he says. "I felt the same way as a trustee. I had the opportunity to make change, and I learned to see my place in the bigger picture.

"Coming to Cal U was the best decision I ever made. I found people there who pushed me further than I knew I could go."

Client communications

Not long after graduation, Detar found her way to a very different type of financial services provider. She's the communications manager at The



“I never thought I’d be working for a financial planning firm. But the biggest thing I’ve learned is that if you don’t take a chance, you’ll never know what might happen.”

COBY DETAR '15

SecondHalf Coach, a small firm in Latrobe, Pa., that specializes in asset management and retirement planning.

"I create events that help us get to know our clients and build relationships with prospective clients," she explains.

She also contributes to the firm's website, manages its social media accounts, helps to edit its quarterly magazine, and develops branding and marketing initiatives.

"From day to day, my job is never the same. That's my favorite part."

A work-study position in Cal U's Office of University Relations prompted Detar to change her major from elementary education to communication studies, with a concentration in public relations.

Her coursework has proven its value, she says. "It's the courses I didn't expect I'd ever use — like graphic design and journalism — that I now rely on nearly every day. I just asked for a copy of (Adobe) Photoshop® for the office. And being able to research and write well are 100 percent necessary for this job."

Beyond the basics, Detar credits her Greek Life experience with building essential recruitment, networking and leadership skills. A Delta Zeta sister, she was the Cal U chapter's vice president of membership, and president of the University's Panhellenic Council, which governs five sorority chapters.

"The leadership opportunities I had as an undergraduate were some of the best

parts of my college experience," she says.

"Now I can go to an event and set up a table for our company — that's something I've done a hundred times. I know how to organize it and make it look good. Being able to talk to people and tell them, nicely, why our business is better than others ... well, that's just the same as telling young women why one sorority may suit them better than another.

"I know how to talk to prospects so they want to become clients."

Greek Life also played a role for entrepreneur William Urbanik '01, a financial adviser and co-owner of The SecondHalf Coach. A member of Theta Xi fraternity, Urbanik was president of the Interfraternity Council during his time on campus.

"I've stated a thousand times that my fraternity was the first business I ever ran," he says. "So when I first saw Coby's resume, I knew what to expect."

When she decided to become a communications professional, Detar anticipated working for a large corporation. But in a small business where you know all your colleagues, she's found that it's easy to pitch new ideas and pick up new skills.

"I never thought I'd be working for a financial planning firm," she says. "But the biggest thing I've learned is that if you don't take a chance, you'll never know what might happen." ■

By Christine Kindl, communications director at Cal U



UTILITY PLAYER

Communication skills run the gamut from writing to graphic design

The thing Steve Pearson '10 liked best about the storm-chase trip he went on as a meteorology major wasn't the thunder or the lightning or the wind.

It was producing a video about the annual hands-on learning excursion.

"I ended up talking to (communications professor) Dr. Susan Jasko about it," he says, recalling a crossroads in his college career. "She said, 'Why don't you come down to my office and we'll talk about a communication studies major?'"

"From then on I was hooked. It was a much better situation for me. Majoring in communication studies fit my personality."

Pearson, now a graphic designer for the marketing team at USA TODAY, came back to Cal U this spring to share his story with communications and design majors.

He says he likes Cal U's recently reconfigured Department of Communication, Design and Culture, which blends verbal and visual skills, noting that his position at USA Today requires skills in graphic design, photography, written communication and video production.

"Words are a great way to convey a message, but images do that just as much," he says. "Having a sense of design is huge, because the way the workforce is, they're hiring fewer people to do more. You have to be willing to learn other skills and take on other projects."

Pearson's career trajectory reflects a willingness to do just that.

"Creative writing was the skill I needed to get an internship at Markowitz Communications in Pittsburgh, which led to a full-time job there. Even though it's more of a public relations firm, we did do some ad-agency types of jobs. I was exposed to project management, design, doing voiceovers, shooting videos and commercials. You name it, I was part of it."

That led to a job at Smith Brothers, an advertising agency also based in Pittsburgh. As a content creator, Pearson used his design and visual skills to manage social media accounts for brands such as Nestlé.

Today, he's a self-described "jack of all trades" for USA TODAY. "I'm like that utility guy who knows how to do this, that and the other thing. It has always been my

bread and butter."

One memorable project was for the newspaper's "Back to the Future" edition. An issue of USA TODAY dated Oct. 22, 2015, has a bit part in the well-known time-travel film, which stars Michael J. Fox.

Last year Pearson was involved in the award-winning "Back to the Future" issue of the newspaper, from concept to design to execution. It was a smashing success, the only edition in the 34-year history of USA TODAY to sell out.

Speaking of the future, Pearson had some encouraging words for current students:

"I've worked with people who came from schools everybody knows — the Pratt Institute, Penn State, Georgetown — and I think it's important for people to understand that I'm there, too. The opportunities I was given (at Cal U) were just as good as those at any other school.

"As long as you're willing to make those jumps and believe in yourself, you'll be successful." ■

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

AN OFFICE AT

PNC PARK

Sports fan turns a family passion into a career

Mike Mendolia '12 remembers attending professional sporting events with his father. Now he is helping others build those same game-day memories.

As an account manager for group sales and hospitality for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Mendolia is responsible for creating memorable personal and business outings, entertaining customers, and helping business clients enjoy all that PNC Park has to offer.

"I have a lot of great memories of attending professional sporting events at Yankee Stadium in New York, Camden Yards in Baltimore and many of the venues in Philadelphia with my father," Mendolia says.

"Hobbies come and go, but this has turned into a true, lifelong passion that I have been able to share with my family."

With his love of ballpark amenities and cheering for the home team, Mendolia thought the professional sports industry would be a natural fit. So he enrolled in the sport management studies program at Cal U.

The Harrisburg, Pa., native added a second major in business administration and threw himself into campus activities including the Racquetball Club and SGA, the Student Government Association.

As a Student Ambassador, he led campus tours for prospective students and their families. He also had the opportunity to make presentations at sport management conferences across the United States.

The combination of his education and his co-curricular experiences gave him a competitive advantage in the job market, Mendolia says.

"Going to a school like Cal U gave me opportunities to get involved with a variety of groups on campus. Being the financial secretary for SGA and a tour guide on campus really helped me to develop budgeting and sales skills. These are factors that employers were looking for."

After graduating from Cal U, Mendolia interned with the Philadelphia Flyers hockey team. Then he took a job with the Seattle Mariners baseball operation before returning to Pittsburgh.

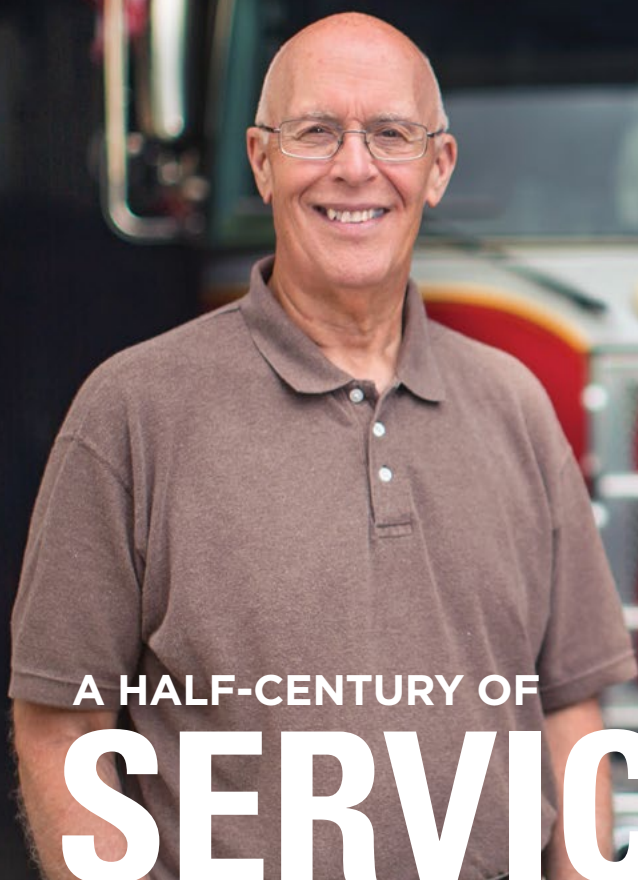
As a member of the Pirates organization, Mendolia has established roots in the City of Champions, where he can continue the family tradition and take his son to professional sporting events.

"It has been a crazy experience," he says. "I love what I do, I have a baseball stadium for an office, and now I get to take my own son to games."

"It doesn't get much better." ■

By Jeff Bender, assistant director for digital communications at Cal U





A HALF-CENTURY OF SERVICE

When the fire alarm sounds in California, Pa., Jon Bittner '68 is likely to answer the call — just as he has for the past 50 years.

"When the siren blows, something kicks in automatically. You just respond and do what's needed," says Bittner, who marked his 50th anniversary with the California Volunteer Fire Department this spring.

A longtime borough resident, he is the department's current safety officer and a past assistant chief. Nearly 20 years ago he helped to start a student membership program that recruits Cal U students as volunteers.

"We've gotten some fine young volunteers out of that program, such as (Cal U's director of sports clubs) Jamison Roth '04 and Andy Egut '08, who are both California residents and work in the area.

"One of the reasons they wanted to stay in the area, I believe, was their connection to the fire department, which makes us feel good."

As a boy in the early 1950s, Bittner attended the Noss elementary school on the campus of California State Teachers College.

He returned to earn his bachelor's degree in elementary education, then spent more than 37 years as a teacher in the California Area School District's elementary and middle schools.

His ties to the community also include longtime service as a member and past president of California Borough Council.

"I enjoy serving California and the community," Bittner says. "California's been very good to me, so I think I have a little bit of a debt to pay back. Through public service I think I'm able to do that."

Tom Hartley Jr., the borough's fire chief since 1981, believes Bittner is the only member of the department to have reached the half-century mark as a member.

"Jon Bittner did not just pass through this community, school district and fire

“California’s been very good to me, so I think I have a little bit of a debt to pay back. Through public service I think I’m able to do that.”

JON BITTNER '68

department," says Hartley, who retired from Cal U in 2013 after more than 40 years as a maintenance repairman.

"He has been a main contributor, especially in training and guiding our young firefighters. To this day I depend on Jon a lot. He's a longtime good friend." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U

ROLE MODEL FOR LEARNING

Nurses seem fearless. Amid the rush of an emergency department or the pressure of an intensive care unit, they appear calm and sure of themselves.

But registered nurse Kathleen Jasek '10, '12 admits she was less than confident when she thought about going to college.

"I was scared," acknowledges Jasek, who is closer to the end of her career than the beginning. "But I also know that UPMC wants its nurses to have their degrees."

And so, after accepting a position as director of care management for UPMC McKeesport, she headed back to school. Jasek earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at age 57, and two years later completed her Master of Science in Nursing through Cal U Global Online.

A conversation with Dr. Mary O'Connor, a professor of nursing at Cal U and coordinator of the 100 percent online MSN and MSN-MBA programs, eased her mind.

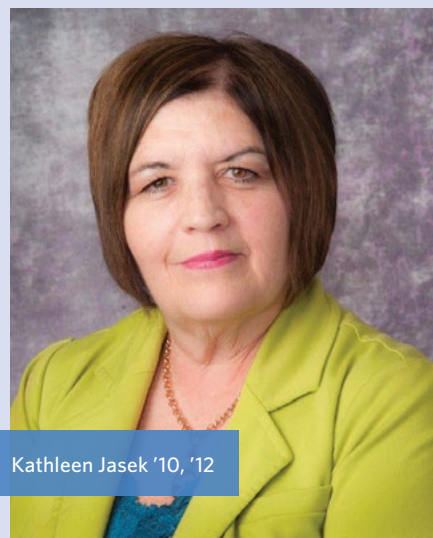
"When I passed my test to be an accredited care manager, I said to my husband, 'That's pretty good for my age; I think I'll go back to school!'" Jasek says.

"Then I met Dr. O'Connor, and she assured me I could do it."

As care management director, Jasek supervises registered nurses and social workers as they coordinate patients' care from hospital admission through discharge and beyond.

Recently, she was honored with the 2016 UPMC McKeesport Legacy of Nursing Award, given to leaders and innovators who are positive role models. In 2007, she received the UPMC Health System Award for Commitment and Excellence in Service.

Outside of work, she started a ministry at Christ the Light of the World Parish in Duquesne, Pa., that provides support for families with loved ones in the hospital.



Kathleen Jasek '10, '12

"Knowledge is the key to success," Jasek says. "You need to learn every day.

"Health care is still changing, and if you aren't changing, you may as well get off the ship. You have to go with the flow." ■

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

GEM OF A JOB

Sometimes, it takes finding the right setting in order to really shine.

Jamie Porter '11 has found hers as a bench jeweler for MarBill Diamonds and Jewelry, in Belle Vernon, Pa.

"We're like the doctors of jewelry," she says. "Mainly, we do repairs. Bring me those broken chains in your jewelry box; I'll fix them. I also do stone setting — I can take a diamond from an old ring and set it in a new one."

As an art major at Cal U, Porter enjoyed graphic design, painting, sculpting and art history. But she found her focus in a jewelry-making class taught by professor James Bové.

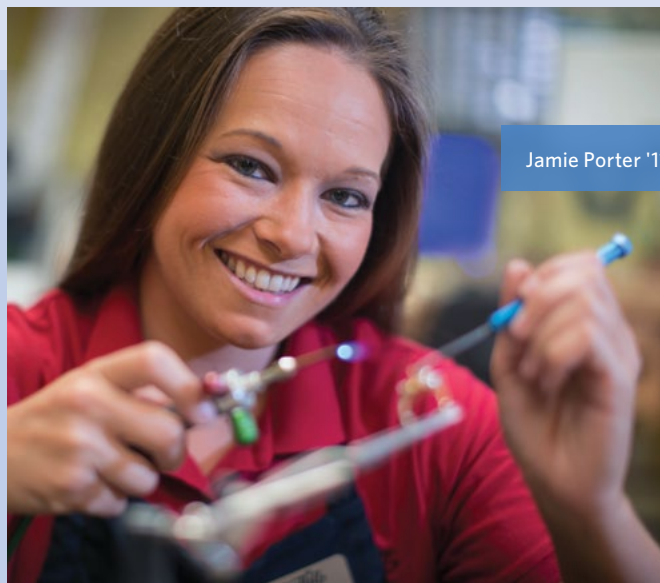
"When I took that class, I knew it," she says. "I knew that's what I wanted to do."

She began her career with David I. Helpers Inc., a Pittsburgh jeweler. There she learned how to polish, finish, cast and solder.

Wanting to expand her skills as a jeweler, Porter contacted Michael Horrell at MarBill. Horrell's dad, William Jr., is a 1975 graduate of Cal U and owns the company with his wife, Linda.

"I wasn't familiar with stone setting, which is a major part of being a bench jeweler, but Michael brought me in for a bench test," she says. "He said I had potential and gave me the opportunity to attend the New Approach School for Jewelers in Franklin, Tenn.

"Michael has continued to train me, and I'm a sponge, absorbing as much as I can."



Jamie Porter '11

She has even shared some of what she knows with Bové's class, which came to the store to see a bench jeweler in action.

"We showed them what we do on a daily basis, and it was a great opportunity to show them this is something they can be," Porter says.

"(Bové's) class inspired me, and this was a chance to say, 'Look at what Jamie does; you could do it, too.'" ■

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 14

Plans are under way for the inauguration of Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80 as president of California University of Pennsylvania.

The inauguration ceremony, as well as a celebration for the University community, will be held Oct. 14 on campus.

Lawrence Maggi '79, chair of the University's Council of Trustees, will preside at the formal ceremony, which is open to all students, faculty, staff, alumni and University friends. It begins at 2 p.m. in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre, with Chancellor Frank T. Brogan and other dignitaries from Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education in attendance.

Cal U's nationwide presidential search concluded April 7, 2016, when the Board of Governors for the State System unanimously selected Jones as California's seventh president. A former faculty member, department chair, dean and provost at her alma mater, she served as the University's interim president for nearly four years.

For details, visit www.calu.edu.



Study abroad takes students to Cuba

Six Cal U students and four faculty members spent their spring break exploring Cuba.

History professor Dr. Sean Madden, director of Cal U's international studies program, organized the trip through Education First College Study Tours, which facilitates academic travel programs around the world.

The group arrived in Havana just days before President Obama visited Cuba, the first time a U.S. president had traveled to the island since 1928. While the president's trip addressed international relations, the Cal U visit had a people-to-people focus.

"It was set up as a student-centered trip to provide a cultural and study-abroad experience," Madden says. "It wasn't a government or political trip. The idea was to connect American students with Cuban citizens."

"This was such a unique opportunity," says Brynna Sherony, an international studies major. "You get away from stereotypes and your perceptions change when you actually go places instead of just reading about them."

Madden's next spring break trip, set for March 2017 and linked to a three-credit multicultural course, will take students, employees and community members to study "The Holocaust in Europe."

For details, email madden@calu.edu.

Global Online cuts costs for military veterans

Cal U is trimming the cost of higher education for military veterans and their families.

Beginning with the Fall 2016 semester, tuition costs will be discounted for veterans of all U.S. military branches, as well as their spouses and eligible dependents, when they enroll in Cal U Global Online, the University's Internet-based learning community.

Undergraduates seeking an associate or bachelor's degree through Global Online will pay a reduced rate of \$250 per credit. Master's degree students will pay \$399 per credit, or 90 percent of the in-state rate, no matter where they reside.

The discount for veterans mirrors the reduced tuition rate for active-duty military members that Cal U first offered in summer 2014. Since its inception, the program for active-duty military has increased online enrollment by service members and their families by more than 80 percent.

Cal U Global Online offers more than 40 career-focused associate, bachelor's and master's degree programs. Online delivery makes Global Online a convenient option for students who are combining higher education with family or career responsibilities.

To learn more, visit www.calu.edu/go, email calugo@calu.edu, or call 724-938-5958 or 866-595-6348.

Professors certified as Estill Voice teachers



Dr. Michele Pagen, co-chair of the Department of Music and Theatre, has become a certified master teacher for Estill Voice Training,

which provides vocal training for singers, actors, public speakers and others who wish to preserve vocal health and make the most of their voices.

Pagen joins Brian Eisiminger, a faculty member in the department's theater program, as the second Estill master teacher on campus. Because of their certification, Cal U now is recognized as an Estill Educational Affiliate, joining a select group of colleges and universities worldwide.

The theater program uses the Estill model as the vocal foundation for all student actors, singers and non-singers alike. As a result, these performers can use their voices to create characters for the stage and to deliver consistent, high quality performances. Cal U also has hosted Estill Level I and II courses each summer since 2007.

Learn more at <http://estillvoice.com/pages/california-university-of-pennsylvania>

"India's population is so large that universities there simply don't have the capacity to enroll tens of thousands of young people who are seeking higher education," explains Elizabeth "Bessy" Bernellick, Cal U's director of International Programming.

"This partnership provides a clear pathway for students from the Ryan schools in India to further their education in the United States."

At annual conference, research 'opens doors'

With its theme of "Bridging Across Disciplines," the University's second annual Strike a Spark conference showcased the research, scholarship, creative activity and application of some 150 Cal U students.

They took over the Convocation Center, using presentations, performances, posters and other displays to summarize their research, explain their academic work and demonstrate the connections between subject areas.

Keynote speaker Patrick Mullen, of the University of Pittsburgh, described research as "curiosity that drives explanation."

"To conduct research as an undergraduate is to leave the door open and take that step into the unknown," he said.



Student Zach Sullenberger discusses his research project with Dr. Min Li during a Strike a Spark poster session.

Conference organizer Dr. Gregg Gould, director of Cal U's Center for Undergraduate Research, said he believes it's the faculty's obligation to lead students through that open door.

"By the time they emerge (from college), students need to be setting forth into new areas, teaching themselves something new and making a contribution to their discipline.

"As a faculty member, it's inspiring and gratifying to see our students going through that."



'Hub' aims to attract students from India

Cal U is one of six State System universities participating as a full partner in the Pennsylvania Global Education and Business Hub, an initiative to promote Pennsylvania colleges to students and their families in India.

Representatives of more than 20 public and private schools in Pennsylvania, along with the 130-school Ryan International Group of Institutions in Mumbai, India, signed an international partnership agreement April 29 in Harrisburg.

Penn Hub already has established centers in Mumbai and Bangalore to introduce universities, including Cal U, to potential students.



Celebrated Women

Women's studies director Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux (left) and University President Geraldine M. Jones (right) recognize the spring 2016 Women of the Year: student honoree Rhonda Alford '16, who earned a degree in social work; staff honoree Rhonda Gifford, director of the Career and Professional Development Center; and faculty honoree Dr. Kimberly Woznack, of the Chemistry and Physics Department. The trio accepted the awards at the annual Celebration of Women dinner, which recognizes individuals and groups that support women on campus.



Water, please

California Borough resident Ashley McIntosh and son Preston, 2, pick up a free case of bottled water with the help of Michael Miles, assistant chief of the California University Police Department. Cal U, which is part of a regional emergency response network, received the water from the state Department of Human Services and made it available to community residents and organizations May 4 at Roadman Park. The exercise allowed the state agency to rotate its emergency water supply and provided a hands-on test of the University's distribution protocols. Student volunteers helped to distribute the water to more than 200 California-area households.

Tech firm founder speaks at Honors Convocation

David D. Gustovich '83 addressed nearly 400 of the University's most outstanding scholars at Cal U's 2016 Honors Convocation.

Gustovich is the founder of IQity Solutions, which provides cloud-based software solutions to help manufacturers manage their production operations more profitably through integrated scheduling, as well as operations, supply chain and quality management capabilities. The firm recently was acquired by NetSuite Inc.



David D. Gustovich '83 addresses Presidential Scholars.

"Our software is used by companies that make the things you and I eat and buy," Gustovich told the Presidential Scholars. "But my journey started right here, just as yours did, at California University."

University President Geraldine M. Jones also addressed the select group of students. In addition to meeting other requirements, undergraduate Presidential Scholars must maintain a grade-point average of 3.25 or higher, and graduate students must have a GPA of 3.75 or higher.

"Watch your thoughts, for they become your words," Gustovich advised the students.

"Watch your words, for they become your actions. Watch your actions, for they become your habits. Watch your habits, for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your reputation."

Credits in Arabic transfer from Defense language school

Students who have earned an associate degree in Modern Standard Arabic at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif., now

can transfer 45 academic credits toward a bachelor's degree in Arabic Language and Culture at Cal U.

This is the first time the Defense Language Institute has signed an agreement with an accredited university to accept the transfer of 45 academic credits for a foreign language program.

Cal U's Arabic program is offered through Global Online, the University's Internet-based learning community.

Because there is no residency requirement, the program is a convenient and affordable option for working professionals, including Department of Defense personnel, military members and other institute graduates who are actively pursuing a career.

Currently, 26 Defense Language Institute graduates are enrolled in Cal U Global Online, and nine others have graduated from Cal U.

Cal U Global Online offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, as well as certification, certificate and professional licensure programs. For details, visit www.calu.edu/go.



Chick-fil-A Express opens at student center

Responding to student requests for a quick-service restaurant option on campus, Cal U is welcoming a Chick-fil-A Express.

Beginning this fall, the outlet on the first level of the Natali Student Center will serve Chick-fil-A's famous chicken sandwiches, chicken nuggets, waffle potato fries, fresh salads, freshly squeezed lemonade and other menu items.

Business hours will be 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Community residents are welcome to drop by. Metered parking for visitors is available in Lot 17, immediately behind the student center.

The new Chick-fil-A Express adds another student-friendly amenity to Cal U's student center, which was

re-dedicated in 2015 after a two-year renovation and expansion.

A news release from AVI Foodsystems Inc., the University's dining services provider, describes Chick-fil-A as "a perfect complement to the culinary choices on the Cal U campus."

The Natali Student Center also houses the Gold Rush dining hall, where all-you-care-to-eat options include a wide variety of American and world cuisines; Fresh, which serves made-to-order wraps and salads; the Modeco coffee bar; the V-Bar, a pub-style location serving foods from around the world; and Fyre, which offers gourmet burgers, specialty sandwiches and panini.

Coffee, breakfast and lunch items also are available at the Sycamore Bistro.

Cal U is one of five universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education to offer Chick-fil-A on campus.

"It is a name our students recognize," says Dr. Nancy Pinardi, vice president for Student Affairs. "I believe they'll be pleased to see the new Chick-fil-A Express at Cal U."



Student journalism earns 'Mark of Excellence'

Five pieces produced for the *Cal Times*, the University's student newspaper, received Mark of Excellence Awards for student journalism at the annual Society of Professional Journalists Region 4 Conference, held this spring at the University of Cincinnati.

The awards recognize the best in college journalism at schools in Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. The 400 print, broadcast and online entries in this year's regional competition were published in 2015.

First-place honors for in-depth reporting went to Stetson Provance '15 and Lauren Griffith '16. Photo illustrations earned first-place awards for junior Matt Palichant and Janene Dunbar '16, and finalist recognition for Connor Marshman '16.

The first-place entries in Region 4 will advance to the national SPJ competition at the Excellence in Journalism Conference Sept. 18-20 in New Orleans, La.

Campus WiFi upgrade improves online access

When a typical Cal U student moves in to a residence hall, he or she is likely to unpack as many as five mobile devices — a cellphone, a tablet, a laptop and devices for listening to music or playing videogames.

A technology upgrade completed this spring keeps all those digital screens glowing. Both wireless bandwidth and signal strength have been boosted, WiFi access points are more strategically located, and the number of "hot spots" among Cal U's six residence halls has expanded from 100 to 500.

"Students use D2L (Cal U's online learning management system) and other sites for their coursework, and they need to be able to connect," says Robert Thorn, vice president for Administration and Finance.

"This project allows us to keep pace with the technology needs of our students."



Sport management major Jake Keister does yardwork during The Big Event.

Students clean up at The Big Event

About 400 volunteers from more than 30 student clubs and organizations turned out to work at 33 community locations during The Big Event, when students volunteer to make a difference for community groups and the University's neighbors.

Diane Hasbrouck, director of Cal U's Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning, says that Cal U students collectively worked more than 1,350 hours at this year's event.



Patriotic service

Capt. Robert Prah '06, '10 (left), director of Veterans Affairs, and University President Geraldine M. Jones (right) recognize two Cal U students — both senior airmen in the Pennsylvania National Guard — who returned to campus after deployment with the U.S. military. The Presidential Medal for Patriotic Service was awarded to Seth D. Ellison, an industrial technology management major, and Rachael Hough, an Earth sciences major with a concentration in meteorology. Both students were deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

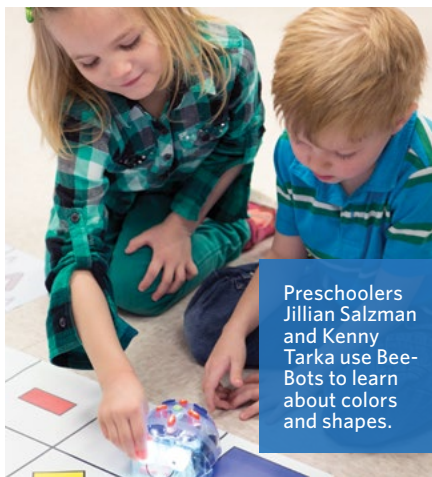


BEE-BOTS teach basic skills



Education students bring kid-friendly technology to classrooms

The Bee-Bots have landed. Through a grant from the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust, the Department of Special Education has acquired several of the rotund little robots, which are designed to teach young children skills such as problem solving, estimation and sequencing, all in a social setting.



Preschoolers Jillian Salzman and Kenny Tarka use Bee-Bots to learn about colors and shapes.

Using directional keys, children “program” the Bee-Bots to move to a desired location on mats that teach letters, numbers, counting, geography or other skills.

Ask a child to move the Bee-Bot to the letter A square on the alphabet mat, for example, and he or she will practice skills such as identifying direction, counting the number of squares the Bee-Bot will move over, and finding the shortest route.

“I want to be a scientist when I grow up,” says one 8-year-old who took part in a Bee-Bots lesson. “They help me learn about science.”

Special education professor Dr. Kate Mitchem says the robots help teachers-in-training learn to incorporate technology into their classrooms.

The mini-robots also serve a larger community purpose.

“Our students volunteered to show Head Start students, their teachers and some parents various technologies and different activities to support learning at

our technology lab (in Keystone Hall).

“There was so much interest on the part of children, parents and teachers that I wanted to look for more ways of engaging young children with technology.”

Now Cal U student teachers can take the Bee-Bots into schools as part of their lesson plans.

During the spring semester, the robots paid a visit to two classrooms at Dunbar Township Elementary School, in the Connellsville (Pa.) Area School District.

Cal U undergraduates, graduate assistants and education program alumni all took part in teaching a lesson.

“Not only do Bee-Bots introduce basic computer programming to young children,” Mitchem says, “they also provide engaging and interactive ways to teach and reinforce school-readiness skills, early reading and math skills, and creative storytelling.” ■

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

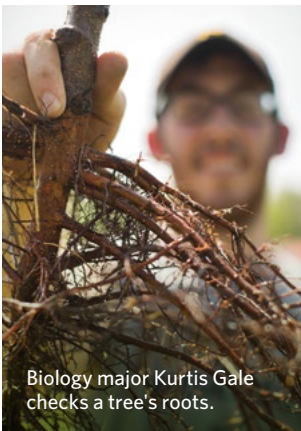
Environmental sciences major Eric McRae plants one of 42 fruit trees at the SAI Farm. The first fruits may be harvested this fall.



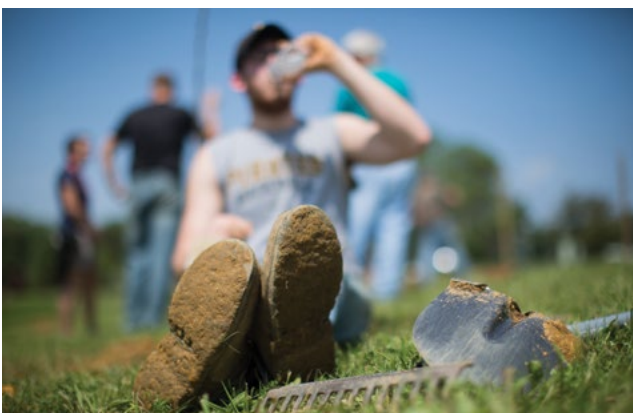
Cem Akin, executive director of the Fruit Tree Planting Association, explains proper planting techniques.



Jeff Jones, Cal U's first gentleman, works with students and other volunteers to plant the orchard at SAI Farm.



Biology major Kurtis Gale checks a tree's roots.



EDIBLE EDUCATION

Students plant fruit trees at SAI Farm

An orchard of 42 fruit trees — apples, cherries, peaches, pears and plums — has taken root at SAI Farm, the upper-campus property owned and operated by the Student Association Inc.

SAI staff and student volunteers, including members of the Horticulture Club, planted the young trees in mid-May and have tended them through the summer.

Dr. Sarah Meiss, of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, worked for three years to obtain the trees through a grant from the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation. The Pittsburgh-based organization works globally to reduce food insecurity while promoting environmental education.

For Cal U students, who are maintaining the orchard, these trees provide hands-on lessons in subjects ranging from botany and soil science to sustainability and community engagement.

As the fruit trees mature, the harvest will supply fresh fruit for the Cal U Cupboard campus food pantry and other community efforts, as well as fundraising opportunities for the student-led Horticulture Club.

"It's nice to learn how to plant a tree," says Kristine Lype, a Cal U biology major with a chemistry minor. "And there's nothing better to give other people than fruit."



EYES ON THE PRIZE



Commencement speaker Vanessa DeSalvo Getz '93 tells graduates, 'History has its eyes on you.'

Graduates eager to launch their careers

Graduation ceremonies marked an academic milestone for the Class of 2016, but nothing could match the excitement of those students who were poised to begin a career after walking across the stage at Cal U's 182nd Commencement.

Daniel Meighan, who earned bachelor's degrees in both computer engineering technology and Arabic language and culture, was one step ahead. He'd already begun working as a scientist with the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., where he interned in 2015.

"I believe Cal U helped open doors for me," says Meighan, who was a four-year Alumni Ambassador and a member of the Young and Gifted Gospel Choir, the Black Student Union and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

"The good mix of academics and people skills from the different organizations I was

part of helped me learn a lot about my field and about myself."

In his role as senior class envoy, Meighan presented University President Geraldine M. Jones with a check for nearly \$18,000 contributed by graduating seniors and their families.

Since the Senior Gift tradition began in 2010, graduating classes have raised more than \$150,000 for an endowed scholarship that will benefit future Cal U students.

'Most educated generation'

Commencement speaker Vanessa DeSalvo Getz '93 described Meighan and his fellow graduates as "part of the most educated generation ever to walk this planet."

"We landed on the moon with less technology than you carry in your pockets right now," she told them. "You hold almost

all of the world's knowledge in the palm of your hand."

Getz is founder and president of Salvo Strategies, a public and government affairs firm based in Pittsburgh, Pa. She has been a strategist, information analyst and event planner for campaigns from school boards to the Supreme Court, and she has raised funds for political candidates and charitable organizations across the country.

"History has its eyes on you — but here's the catch," she reminded the graduates. "Anything you write, say or post (online) ends up anywhere at any time. It defines you as a person and a professional. So live your life like your biography is being written by the choices you make."

In all, President Jones conferred more than 1,200 associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. Not all graduates attended the ceremonies May 6 and 7 in the Convocation Center.

During her welcoming remarks, President Jones praised the graduates for their accomplishments, but she also urged them to look to the future.

"You have important work ahead of you — the work of building a meaningful life and contributing as a member of this global society we live in. ... It is up to you as knowledgeable, purposeful and caring human beings to change lives, reshape communities and make the word a better place."

Those words resonated with new graduate Destine Askew, who served on the Black Student Union's executive board while earning her bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"I have plans to be a lawyer, so it was a good experience to be able to make a difference for minority groups on campus."

Bria Jay '14 also is involved in criminal justice. She earned a master's degree in applied criminology and anticipates a career with the FBI.

"My greatest experience here was an internship with crime victims at the Washington County Courthouse," she recalls. "It really helped me to become versatile and aware of the different things that happen in the criminal justice field."

Focus on the future

At the podium, President Jones acknowledged Taylor R. Brennan, Morgan Dee Huegel, Ethan Garret Klersy and Jessica Laguerre-Joseph for earning bachelor's degrees while attaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. Eleven other students earned two degrees simultaneously.

She reminded all the graduates to "take in the moment and savor your success." But some eager alumni already were focused on the future.

Among them was John Juran, who held two part-time jobs while earning his bachelor's degree in computer science.

His full-time software development job with tech company PTC was set to begin one week after graduation.

"My education definitely prepared me well," he said. "Now I'm looking forward to using it." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U



After the May 7 ceremony, graduate Michael Comisac, carries his cousin Jake Hinners. Following is Michael's mother, Maria, and cousin Joseph Hinners.



Emily Hubbard, a communications disorders major, wears a decorated cap to the ceremony for master's degree candidates.



Kevon Bruce, of Brooklyn, N.Y., waves to friends in the audience as he collects his degree in school counseling.



Ryo Eshleman waves to her family on the way to her seat as she prepares to receive her master's degree in communication disorders.



Jean Mervius, an international studies major from Haiti, joins the procession to the Convocation Center.



University President Geraldine M. Jones accepts the senior class gift from envoy Daniel Meighan.

Greetings

FROM THE OFFICE OF
ALUMNI RELATIONS!

It's going to be a momentous semester on campus. Our fall lineup includes events sure to entertain and educate you, reconnect you with old friends, and inaugurate a new chapter in Cal U history.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to visit us soon. We'll be watching for you!

Leslie Berdar Fleenor

Leslie Berdar Fleenor '08
Director of Alumni Relations



SHOWCASE SUPPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS

Uncover Cal U's "Hidden Treasures" when you support the third annual President's Showcase, our signature fundraising event.

Enjoy an elegant reception with hearty hors d'oeuvres as you explore seldom-seen artworks, books and other artifacts from the University's collections. You'll also meet Cal U students, each one a "hidden treasure" whose full potential is just waiting to be discovered.

The reception begins at 5 p.m. Sept. 17 in the Convocation Center. At 7 p.m. patrons adjourn to Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre for the annual talent showcase featuring students, faculty and staff.

Ticket price is \$125 per person. Proceeds support scholarships that help Cal U students complete their degrees.

Sponsorships are available at these levels:

Diamond

\$10,000

includes 12 tickets plus sponsorship recognition

Gold

\$5,000

includes 8 tickets plus sponsorship recognition

Silver

\$2,500

includes 4 tickets plus sponsorship recognition

For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Kathy Kuharik at 724-938-5775 or kuharik@calu.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS



Putting practice

Walt Sigut '64 (center left) and Joe LoNigro chat June 20 at the 35th annual Cal U Golf Outing at Southpointe Golf Club near Canonsburg, Pa. Golfers enjoyed a day of friendly competition at one of the region's premier courses and raised scholarship funds for student-athletes at Cal U.



Strong bonds

Chemistry alumni gather around University President Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80 at the inaugural Chemistry Department reunion and social in the Kara Alumni House. Dr. Ali Sezer, of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, organized the event and kicked off efforts to support the Student Professional Development Fund, which will allow chemistry students to give research presentations at professional events in Pennsylvania and across the country.

For details, email sezer@calu.edu.

ALUMNI CALENDAR

SEPT
17

FAMILY DAY AND PRESIDENT'S SHOWCASE

Cap off your Family Day activities at the third annual President's Showcase, a signature fundraising reception followed by a dynamic talent showcase. Check the Cal U website to learn more about our daylong lineup of free family-friendly activities, the Family Day football game at Adamson Stadium, the President's Showcase reception, and the talent showcase at 7:30 p.m. in Steele Hall Mainstage Theatre. Ticket price for the talent show is \$10; proceeds support scholarships for Cal U students.

SEPT
29

CAL GALS SEMI-ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Share a smile with the Cal Gals, a lively group of retired teachers, when they get together for their fall luncheon at noon in the Kara Alumni House. For more information or to RSVP, contact Staci Tedrow in the Office of Alumni Relations at 724-938-4418 or alumni@calu.edu.

OCT
14

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Remember the past and look to the future as Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80 is inaugurated as California's seventh president. Alumni from every class are welcome to attend the ceremony and campus celebration marking the start of a new chapter in the University's history. Visit www.calu.edu for details of this campus-wide celebration.

OCT
20

NOSS LECTURE SERIES



Hear from award-winning journalist Jeanne Marie Laskas, author of *Concussion*. Based on her 2009 GQ article about the National Football League's

concussion scandal, the book was the basis for the 2015 Will Smith movie of the same name. A book-signing follows the talk at 7 p.m. in the Convocation Center.

OCT
21

50th REUNION, CLASS OF 1966

The Class of 1966 gathers in the Kara Alumni House for its milestone 50th reunion. Formal invitations will be sent for this special event, which includes a reception with light refreshments at 5 p.m. and the 1966 Pioneer Reunion and Dinner at 5:45. After the plated dinner, a special program honors the Class of 1966. Class members are admitted free; cost per guest is \$30.

VULCAN HUDDLE TAILGATES



Visit with friends at our Vulcan Huddle tailgates before select home games during the 2016 Cal U football season. Look for the tent outside Adamson Stadium two hours before game time on these dates:

Sept. 17 Cal U vs. Millersville (Family Day)

OCT. 8 Cal U vs. IUP (Coal Bowl)

OCT. 22 Cal U vs. Gannon.

Check www.calu.edu/alumni for game times and other details.

OCT
22

HOMECOMING

What's more fun than a carnival? Cal U's Homecoming 2016 festivities! Visit campus to reconnect with friends and see what's new at your alma mater.



- 8:30 a.m.** Alumni Board of Directors meeting, Kara Alumni House
- 10 a.m.-Noon** Activities for kids of all ages, throughout campus
- 10 a.m.** African American Alumni Society meeting, Carter Hall
- 11 a.m.** Picnic on the Patio, refreshments for alumni and friends, Kara Alumni House
- Noon** Traditional Homecoming parade, Third Street
- 1 p.m.** Vulcan Huddle tailgate, Adamson Stadium
- 3 p.m.** Football kickoff: Cal U vs. Gannon, Adamson Stadium

Were you part of a Cal U club or organization, such as band, athletics, Greek Life or student government? If so, call your friends and meet us at Roadman Park for a Homecoming tailgate starting at 1 p.m.

Reserve space (first come, first served) and bring a 10'x10' tent and your own food and beverages. We'll print a sign with your group's name to be placed outside your tent.

There is no cost, but registration is required.

For details about all Homecoming activities, contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@calu.edu or 724-938-4418.

2016 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

JOHN R. GREGG AWARD FOR LOYALTY AND SERVICE



Dr. George Crane

Crane began teaching at California in 1969. He was chair of the Educational Foundations Department, developed the counselor education program and was an associate dean in the College of Education. Crane served as dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research from 1985 until he retired in 2000. He was president of the Emeriti Faculty Association from 2005-2013.

MICHAEL DUDA AWARD FOR ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT



Jess Strom '09

Strom, head coach for women's basketball, has posted a 111-35 overall record, with a 75-25 mark in league play, during the past five years at Cal U. Strom guided the Vulcans to PSAC championships in 2015 and 2016, to NCAA tournament appearances in 2013, 2015 and 2016, and to the 2015 NCAA Division II National Championship.

C.B. WILSON DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD



Dr. David Argent

Argent, a professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, studies southwestern Pennsylvania's fish communities and is a past president of the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Argent has been awarded more than \$1 million in external funding, which has helped to expand Cal U's fisheries program and make summer field experiences possible for students.

W.S. JACKMAN AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Shantey Hill '01

Hill is the assistant vice president and senior director of athletics and recreation at St. Joseph's College in Long Island, N.Y. Previously, Hill spent more than a decade at the Post Campus of Long Island University, where she held athletic administrative roles including head athletic trainer and director of sports medicine.

PAVLAK/SHUTSY SPECIAL SERVICE AWARD



Dr. Caryl Sheffield '73

Sheffield began teaching at Cal U in 1991. She was chair of the Department of Early, Middle and Special Education from 2002-2012, and an associate provost from 2012 to 2015, when she retired. Sheffield was active with the Frederick Douglass Institute, which established an award in her name to recognize faculty who exemplify excellence in teaching and mentoring.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



Michael Grace '81

Grace was named president of UPMC Mercy in August 2015. He previously served as vice president of operations at UPMC Shadyside, as executive administrator of the Pediatrics Department at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, and as administrative services and physician relations director for the UPMC Physician Services Division.

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD



Cynthia James '02

James is an expert in executive leadership with more than 15 years of nonprofit, federal government and private sector experience. She is the president and CEO of YouthPlaces, a nonprofit organization that provides after-school and out-of-school activities, programs and workforce development at multiple sites in Pittsburgh and elsewhere in Allegheny County.

MERITORIOUS AWARD



Carol Riley '69

Riley concluded her 31-year career in education as president of the Ohio Elementary Principals Association. After retiring to Maryland, she worked for the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. She serves as associate executive director for professional learning and outreach for the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

The Cal U Alumni Association recognized these individuals with its 2016 Awards of Distinction at a ceremony June 4 in the Convocation Center. The association has presented these awards annually since 1967.

EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATORS

FACULTY MEMBERS
RECOGNIZED FOR
EXCELLENCE

Subject matter experts. Talented teachers. Skilled researchers and committed community members. Faculty who fit those descriptions make a real difference in the lives of their students and the quality of a Cal U education.

Each year the University President and the Faculty Professional Development Committee (FPDC) honor outstanding faculty members and recognize them at Commencement.

Presidential award recipients also receive a medallion and a scholarship for a student in their discipline. FPCD honorees, chosen by faculty committees, receive a monetary award to be used for professional development.



PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

Recipients of the 2016 Presidential Distinguished Merit Awards are:

.....



Dr. Summer Arrigo-Nelson, an associate professor in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, recognized for excellence in research. She travels regularly to Madagascar to study the effects of habitat disturbance on forest regeneration and primate behavior and ecology. Students participate in her ongoing research through the Madagascar Field School program.

.....



Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux, an associate professor in the Department of History, Politics and Society, honored for excellence in service. Director of the women's studies program and chair of the President's Commission for the Status of Women, she has been instrumental in programming Women's History Month events, including the annual Audrey-Beth Fitch Women's Studies Conference.

.....



Dr. Thomas Mueller, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, recognized for excellence in teaching. A geographic information systems expert, he uses GIS in assessing vulnerabilities to disasters, crime mapping and demographic analysis. Outside the classroom, he has made conference presentations and conducted GIS workshops for community members, his fellow professors and K-12 educators.

FPDC AWARDS

Recipients of the 2016 Faculty Professional Development Committee Merit Awards are:

.....



Dr. Paul Hettler, a professor and chair of the Department of Business and Economics, honored for service and service learning. Coordinator of the Faculty Professional Development Center and a member of the University-wide General Education Committee, he also is active with the Strike a Spark Undergraduate Research Task Force and advisory boards for the University Honors Program, American Democracy Project and Lambda Bridges.

.....



Dr. Leandro Junes, an assistant professor in the Department of Math, Computer Science and Information Systems, recognized for research. He is the founder and director of undergraduate research groups in mathematics at Cal U and at Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas and Universidad de Antioquia, both in Colombia. The groups produce publishable research and prepare undergraduates for graduate school.

.....



Dr. Robert Skwarecki, a professor in the Department of Communication Disorders, honored for teaching and learning. A licensed speech-language pathologist and director of the Communication Disorders Laboratory, he is known for his ability to deconstruct difficult concepts for students and bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice. He also is a faculty adviser for undergraduate Honors Program and graduate-level research projects.

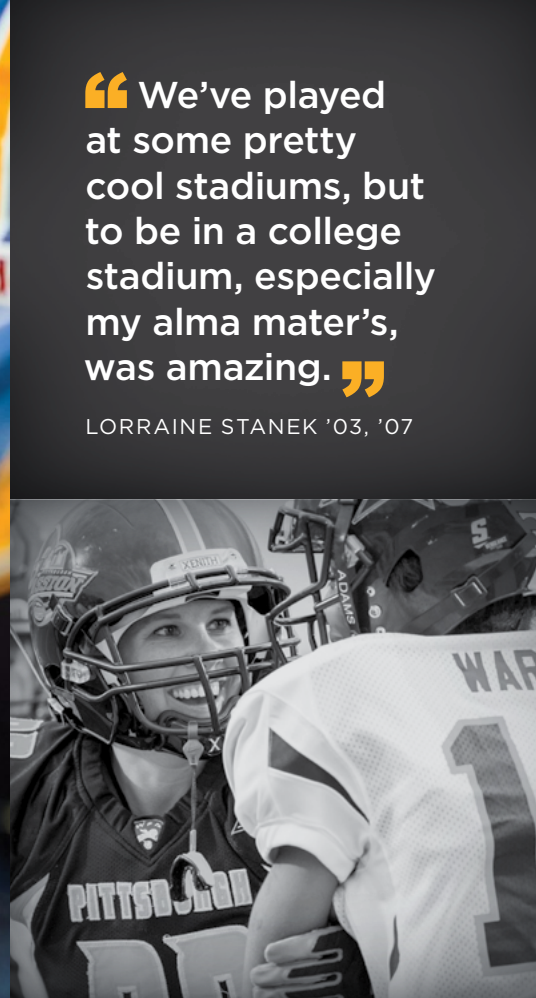


Bright Idea

Campus electrician Robert Wadsworth removes the metal halide bulb from a streetlight in front of Old Main and replaces it with an energy-saving LED fixture. Streetlights across campus are being converted to use the long-lasting LED lamps, a grant-funded project expected to save the University nearly \$9,000 per year in energy costs. Under state Act 129, utility company West Penn Power will add a financial incentive for the conversion through its Lighting Incentive Program. "I'm big on making changes that can save energy," says Wadsworth, a Cal U Facilities Management employee for 29 years. "Not just here on campus, but everywhere. It's good for the University and it's good for the environment, too."



TACKLING A DREAM



“We’ve played at some pretty cool stadiums, but to be in a college stadium, especially my alma mater’s, was amazing.”

LORRAINE STANEK '03, '07

Education alumna plays for the Pittsburgh Passion

Lorraine Stanek '03, '07 had her own Homecoming of sorts on the night of Cal U's spring Commencement.

She returned to campus May 7 when the Pittsburgh Passion, two-time defending champions in the Independent Women's Football League, defeated the IWFL's Keystone Assault 56-6 at Adamson Stadium.

Stanek is the Passion's starting right tackle.

"We've played at some pretty cool stadiums, but to be in a college stadium, especially my alma mater's, was amazing," she says.

Stanek, 38, played for the Passion from 2009-2013, sat out for two years, then returned to the team this season.

After nine years as a teacher, the Pittsburgh resident now makes her living as a nanny. But football is ... well, her passion.

"I always liked sports growing up, but (professional) football was not really an option for girls back then," says Stanek, who played softball and powderpuff football at Bethel Park (Pa.) High School.

"One night (in 2008) I was out with a group of friends, and I asked a married guy where his wife was," she recalls. "He said 'football practice,' and my ears perked up."

After a successful tryout, Stanek discovered the difference between watching and playing football.

"I had followed the Steelers and thought I knew a lot about football. Then I became involved (as a player), and I realized I had no idea of what goes on. There's a lot more to it than meets the eye."

The team begins practicing three times a week in early January, then scales back to two weekly practices once the season starts in April. Passion players also participate in many community events.

Although she started her football career as a tight end, Stanek says she's found her niche at tackle.

"I love being on the line, because the four other girls and I practice and work as a unit. We are in the trenches together and communicate on every single play."

Stanek attended two other colleges before coming to Cal U, where she

earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education.

Perhaps because she was older, "I was more open to being a better student because I really took in the teaching. Going to Cal U was totally different ... because everybody knew who you were, and the teachers cared."

Two other Cal U alumni are on the Passion's roster this season: rookie defensive back Madison Baxter '15, who studied sport management, and former math major Nathan Stephenson '14, the team's assistant offensive coach and special teams coordinator.

"Lorraine is an amazing woman, a wonderful role model and an inspiration for our team," Stephenson says. "The energy she brings on a daily basis is incredible."

"She always helps to keep things light. It's a reminder that football is a game we play and coach, first and foremost, because it's fun. I am happy to be able to count her as one of my friends." ■

By Bruce Wald '85, information writer at Cal U

NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL

A new era in men's basketball began June 2, when University President Geraldine M. Jones welcomed Kent McBride as the Vulcans' new head coach.

McBride, 33, joins Cal U after guiding the men's team at Concord (W.Va.) University, his alma mater, for the past five seasons.

The Mountain Lions went 22-10 overall last year, won the Mountain East Conference Tournament title and made their first NCAA Division II Tournament appearance in 18 years.

Two years ago McBride was named the MEC Coach of the Year after leading Concord to a 20-8 overall record.

"He focuses first on attitude, on creating a culture of athletic excellence within a framework of academic success," President Jones said at a news conference held to introduce the coach.

"When student-athletes dedicate themselves to giving their very best, winning on the court will be a byproduct of that commitment."



Before starting his coaching career as an assistant at West Virginia Wesleyan in 2006, McBride was a four-year starting point guard for Concord. His 6.0 assists-per-game average ranked 15th nationally during his senior season.

McBride replaces Bill Brown, who coached the Vulcans for 20 years and retired with a program-best 365 career victories.

"Coach Brown established a program that was known across the conference, the region and the country," McBride said. "He helped to create a tradition and a history.

"I don't look to overcome that but rather stand behind it, continue it and improve it slowly by doing the right thing every day."

SOFTBALL ENDS SEASON RANKED 21ST IN NATION

Led by pitcher Alex Sagl, Cal U's softball team closed out the spring season ranked 21st in the country, with a 38-6 overall record.

Sagl became just the second player in league history to be named PSAC Pitcher of the Year for four consecutive years. She earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association third-team All-American honors for the third straight year and finished with a 90-16 career record.

First baseman Lindsay Reicoff, the team's career leader in home runs, with 51, became a four-time, first-team all-conference selection — one of nine Vulcans who earned all-conference honors.



Alex Sagl

Pitcher and infielder Taylor Robblee was named the PSAC-West Freshman of the Year. Head coach Rick Bertagnolli was named the PSAC West Coach of the Year for the seventh time in eight years.

STUDENT-ATHLETES EXCEL AS SCHOLARS

Cal U student-athletes from all varsity sports compiled a 3.22 cumulative grade-point average in the Spring 2016 semester.

A total of 185 Vulcans earned a GPA of 3.00 or higher, and 26 had a perfect 4.00.

Collectively, the Vulcans head into the 2016-2017 academic year having compiled a cumulative grade-point average of 3.10 or higher for 12 of the past 13 semesters.



RUNNERS COMPETE AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Outdoor track and field stars Julie Friend and Summer Hill raced to All-American honors at the NCAA National Tournament.

Friend finished seventh in the 3,000-meter steeplechase and earned first-team All-American status. Hill was named a second-team All-American after finishing ninth in the 1,500-meter run.

Both had won PSAC championships in their respective events. Hill also joined runners Jaelyn Reinbold, Alex Zanella and Alyson Pierce as the lead leg on the 4x800-meter relay team that claimed the conference title.

Zanella earned the 10th league title of her career when she repeated as outdoor champion in the 800-meter run.

As a team, the Vulcans finished fourth in the league standings for the second straight year, with a program-best 80 total points.



Summer Hill

On the men's side, a victory by the 4x100-meter relay team of Jimmy Wheeler, Joe Vedilago, Montre Bates and Jae'Len Means helped the Vulcans equal the team's highest-ever finish, sixth place, at the PSAC Championships.

Means also placed second in the 200-meter race and third in the 100-meters. Vedilago finished second in the 400-meter dash.

Overall, the men's team had 13 entries score at the conference meet.



Alyssa Savill

WOMEN'S TENNIS TAKES TEAM, INDIVIDUAL HONORS

After winning its 10th consecutive PSAC championship, the women's tennis team extended its season by advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the 12th year in a row.

The Vulcans reached the third round of the national tournament and finished the season with an 18-4 overall record.

Players Kiefer Shaw and Lena Dimmer were first-team all-conference selections, and Veronika Mikulis was named the PSAC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Shaw was named the region's Senior Player of the Year, and head coach Pablo Montana earned ITA Atlantic Region Coach of the Year honors for the 10th time in 13 years.

Alyssa Savill received the International Tennis Association's national Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award, which takes into account a player's tennis accomplishments, scholastic achievements and extracurricular endeavors.



Mick Fennell

SLUGGER IS PSAC-WEST ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Versatile outfielder-pitcher Mick Fennell was named PSAC-West Athlete of the Year.

He batted .385 while starting all 48 games this season, chalking up 25 extra-base hits, 22 stolen bases and 57 runs scored. On the mound he went 5-1 overall, with two complete games and one shutout.

The Vulcan baseball team advanced to the PSAC playoffs for the 15th time in the past 20 years.

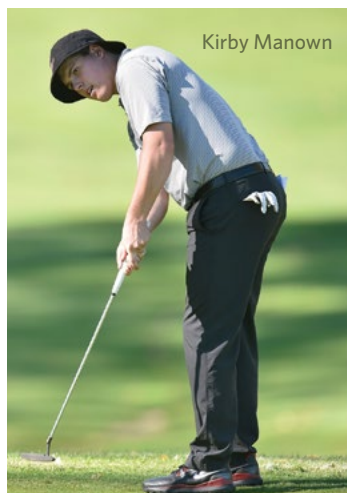
In June, Fennell was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals.

VULCANS THIRD IN DIXON TROPHY

Cal U athletics finished third in the race for the Dixon Trophy, awarded annually since 1995 to the PSAC university with the most successful all-around athletics program.

The winner is determined by calculating the average of every sport sponsored by each participating school.

Cal U is one of two PSAC schools to have achieved third-place or higher finishes seven times in the past nine years.



Kirby Manown

GOLF TEAMS REACH NCAA REGIONALS

In its 10th consecutive NCAA post-season appearance, the women's golf team finished in 10th place at the NCAA Super Region One Championships.

Carla Maestre, a three-time PSAC Golfer of the Year, led all Cal U individual golfers, placing 12th at the regional contest. She missed qualifying for the NCAA National Championships by just two strokes.

The men's golf team ended its season in seventh place at the NCAA Atlantic/East Super Regional.

All-Region players Kirby Manown and Tyler Robinson were Cal U's top individual finishers; they tied for 26th place.

STILL GOING STRONG

Entertainers draw a crowd to the Underground Café

When Rob Arment '01 and Gino Ornato '99 performed at the Underground Café back in 1996, there was something missing.

An audience.

"Most nights, we were the only ones there, playing to an empty room," Ornato recalls of the open mic nights held on the lower level of Herron Hall.

Times have changed.

The Underground Café now attracts 100 to 200 people to hear writers, poets, musicians and comedians perform on Thursdays at the Natali Student Center. Students take the stage on open mic nights. On other nights, bands from the area stop by to play.

The Underground is led by an executive board that books artists and encourages collaborations with other campus groups, such as Greek Life, the Women's Center and the Center for Volunteer Programs and Service Learning.



Rob Arment '01 plays outside the Underground Café, circa 2000.

An academic tie has been formed, with commercial music technology majors receiving class credit for operating the sound equipment.

But a lot of the performers aren't music majors; they simply love music and performing.

"Being a writer, I respect creativity and different forms of art," says former executive board president Jose Negron '16, a journalism graduate who neither sings nor plays.

"There is a lot of talent on this campus."

Some performers have a regional following. For example, Hear Tonight, an indie rock group that includes five current or former Cal U students, has held a CD release party at the Hard Rock Café in Pittsburgh, Pa., and has music on several streaming services.

Things were quite different in the late 1990s, when the musicians regularly outnumbered the audience members at the Underground Café. Ornato and Arment, a guitarist and vocalist, decided to try to change that.

"Every week we'd make up fliers and put them in the (student) union or the residence halls, everywhere we could," says Arment, who performed back in the day with a duo called Poke and a band called String.

Arment and Ornato organized a spring arts festival in the late '90s that coincided with a campus open house and included 10 bands. They collaborated with other student groups, such as the Black Student Union and Rainbow Alliance.

Soon they began booking bands from the Pittsburgh region, including Grand Buffet, which has toured with groups such as Third Eye Blind and Girl Talk. And that, says Arment and Ornato, is when things began to change.

"The Underground was packed every time they came by," Arment says.



Still spirited: Former Underground Café supporters Rob Arment '01, Joe Tarowsky '05, Tom Barry '02, Chaz Ipson '02 and Kristine Jadyk Hepner.

This spring, Arment organized an Underground Café reunion at Jozart Center for the Arts in California, Pa., a nod to the off-campus location that serves as a performance space for students.

In all, about 30 people who played or regularly attended performances at Cal U in the late '90s and early '00s came to the reunion.

Arment named Tom Barry '02, Garret Clark '04, Philip "P.J." Hnatkovich '02 and an entire crew from Johnson Hall as instrumental in the growth of the Underground Café.

"The Underground Café was a place where we could fit in," Arment says. "We didn't start it, but we came along and happened to breathe some life into it. And it's really awesome that it's still going on today." ■

By Wendy Mackall, assistant communications director at Cal U

40s

Ronald Lethaby '49, who majored in education at Cal U, and Marcia Lethaby live in Erie, Pa.

50s

Audrey Kiger Comport '56 was thrilled to return to campus for the Alumni Awards Luncheon and to celebrate the 60 years since she graduated from Cal U. She taught primary school in the state of California for 35 years and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study in London in 1994-1995. The author of three books on family genealogy, she attributes many of her successes to the education she received at the University.

60s

Abraham Allende '66 is a clergyman in the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He majored in education at Cal U, where he was in the choir, Glee Club and College Players. He and Linda Gotthardt live in Canton, Ohio.

70s

Susan Carr Luce '70 lives in Mesquite, Texas.

Karen Webber '70 is a retired Regis University administrator. She studied speech pathology and audiology at Cal U, and she was involved in student government. Karen lives in Broomfield, Colo.

Carole Brezovsky Rutt '71, of Brownsville, Pa., is retired after teaching elementary and gifted children in the Broward and Monroe County school systems in Florida.

Randy Stevenson '72, who retired as a drafting instructor in the Bentworth School District, in Washington County, Pa., is now a member of St. George Lodge No. 354 Adult Tambritzans.

Henrietta Fields Rebish '72 is retired after teaching elementary school in the Belle Vernon (Pa.) Area School District. She is an Avon independent sales representative. Henrietta studied education at Cal U and was a member of the basketball team and the band. She and Robert Rebish live in Smithton, Pa.

Barry Dallara '73 is a Bedford County (Pa.) commissioner. He and Sharon Dallara live in Alum Bank, Pa.

William Mastropieri '74 is chief executive officer for Asian-American Land Investment. He majored in special education at Cal U. He and Lei-Jane Chou live in Mansfield, Texas.

David Huber '74 is a retired supervisor for San Bernardino County, Calif. He studied English at Cal U, where he was a member of Theta Xi, Phi Sigma Pi, the Glee Club and the choir. He and Donna Huber live in Capistrano Beach, Calif.

John Shosky '72, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is retired.

John "Jack" Zdurencik '74, a longtime Major League Baseball executive, is a contributor on Root Sports and KDKA-FM (93.7) in Pittsburgh, Pa. He studied education at Cal U.

Dr. Deborah Shanley '74 has received the Charles C. Mackey Jr. Excellence in Service Leadership Award, which honors an educator in New York who has demonstrated personal and professional qualities that exemplify the highest standards of service leadership in teacher education. Deborah is dean and professor in the School of Education at Brooklyn College. She was recognized for her teacher education leadership in service to PreK-12 schools, to teacher candidates and to her colleagues in the profession. She and her husband, Ben Benzaia, live in New York, N.Y.

Thomas Clements '76, of Raleigh, N.C., is retired. He majored in environmental science at Cal U and was a member of Sigma Tau Gamma.

Albert Hudson '79 is the new planning commissioner in Tracy, Calif. He studied political science at Cal U. A U.S. Army veteran, he owns a business specializing in residential and commercial painting projects.

Dr. Stephanie Nickman Triplett '79 has spent 30 years in private practice in Connellsville, Pa. In 2012 she was certified by the Audigy Group, which represents the top 5 percent of the nation's audiology practices. She specializes in hearing evaluation and customized hearing aid fitting.

Carl Minor '79 works in environmental health and safety for Chevron Phillips Chemical. He majored in environmental sciences at Cal U, where he was involved in fencing, track and volleyball. He and Pauletta Minor live in Rosenberg, Texas.

80s

Greg Lucas '81, of Edinboro, Pa., is self-employed in construction and consulting. He is a former member of the state House of Representatives for District 5, in Crawford and Erie counties.

Kim Nicholas Megee '82 works for Verizon. She studied fine arts at Cal U. She and Richie Megee live in Bradenton, Fla.

Joseph Pointer Jr. '82 is an information technology specialist for the Defense Information Systems Agency. He studied business administration with an accounting concentration at Cal U. He and Kimberly Pointer live in Northfield, Ohio.

Elizabeth Rogers '82 has been promoted to executive director of the *Observer-Reporter*, in Washington, Pa., with responsibilities for the editorial departments at the daily newspaper and the weekly Almanac, which covers community news in Pittsburgh's South Hills.

Thierry Barnes '82 lives with Seri Barnes in Williamston, S.C. Thierry majored in education at Cal U, where he was active with the school newspaper and was a member of the Veterans Club and Pennsylvania State Education Association.

Barbara Day '84 is a new member of the North Belle Vernon (Pa.) Borough Council. She is a laboratory director for Excelsa Health System and studied medical technology at Cal U.

Mark Schinzel '86 is a human resource specialist for the U.S. Air Force. He majored in business administration at Cal U and lives in Converse, Texas.

Melanie Stringhill Patterson '82, '88 of Washington Township, Pa., was a candidate in Pennsylvania's 49th Legislative District, which covers portions of Fayette and Washington counties. Melanie earned her bachelor's degree in education and her master's degree as a reading specialist.

90s

Maureen McMenamin Edmiston '90 is a certified public accountant for Edmiston & Associates, P.C. She and James Edmiston live in Irwin, Pa.

Damon Enos '91 works at Anderson's Candies, a family-owned business in Baden, Pa.

GREEN TEAM

Members of the Cal U Philadelphia Alumni chapter "go green" this spring to give back to their city by participating in a tree planting event sponsored by the Philly Tree People. Helping out were **Paulette Midgette** '85 (left), **Darlene Meekins** '84 (right) and **Valerie Haley** '82 (not pictured).



Dana Byers Lewis '93 is a manager at Financial Dimensions Inc. She studied business administration at Cal U. She and Sam Lewis live in North Huntingdon, Pa.

Anthony Marino '94 recently penned an original musical, *Tink*, which was chosen to be performed at the New York Musical Festival this summer.

Beth Reifsnnyder Weckel '94 is a teacher for Berks County (Pa.) Head Start. She studied speech pathology at Cal U and was a member of the Speech Pathology Club. She and Michael Weckel live in Reading, Pa.

Jodi Basile Mima '94 is a store manager at Rite Aid in California, Pa. She has two children, Joshua and Jacob, and is engaged to Scott Downer.

Rebecca Bodnar Barr '95 works for a bank as an overdraft protection coordinator. She and Marc Barr live in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Maj. William Walker '95, of Fayetteville, N.C., retired from the U.S. Army on June 1, 2016, after more than 20 years of service. He retired as a psychological operations officer at Fort Bragg, N.C.



LEADERS IN LAVENDER

Janis M. Zivic '64 was the featured speaker at Cal U's third annual Lavender Graduation, which celebrates the personal and academic achievements of graduating lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and their allies. Janis has endowed a scholarship for Cal U undergraduates who are involved in LGBTQA organizations and provided support for the Lambda Bridges office, a speaker series and library services. After addressing the group, she watched as **Sheleta Webb '89**, Cal U's director of Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Education, presented the first Jan Zivic Outstanding LGBTQA Leadership Award to **Priscilla Lupo '16**, one of 10 soon-to-be graduates honored at the ceremony. Lupo, who was involved in Lambda Bridges, the Rainbow Alliance and the Lambda Leaders programs, graduated with a degree in sociology.

Angela Peskie Coldren '96 is a business manager at the University of Pittsburgh. She earned her master's degree in business administration from Cal U. She and Richard Coldren live in New Stanton, Pa.

Veronica Esposito Hordubay '96 is the new director of marketing and convention center sales at SMG-managed Big Sandy Superstore Arena and Convention Center, in Huntington, W.Va.

Jennifer Gilpin Snipes '97 studied parks and recreation management at Cal U, where she was in the choir and jazz band. She and Jeremy Snipes live in Mount Morris, Mich.

Don Ammon '97 recently returned to campus to discuss screenwriting and filmmaking. He is a co-writer for the film *Summerlings*.

Tracey Clement Findling '97 is a registered nurse. She studied social work at Cal U. Her husband, **Glenn Findling '96**, is a quality manager for ABB Inc. He studied business administration at Cal U. They live in Grimesland, N.C.

Parke Wentling '97 was running for election as a state representative from the 17th Legislative District. The former technology teacher earned his bachelor's degree from Cal U. He lives in Mercer County, Pa.

Marykate Brown Evans '98 is an operations officer for Tekla Research Inc. She studied education at Cal U, where she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi. She lives in California, Md.

Anthony Mannion '98 is a social studies and Spanish teacher for Connections Education. He and Haley Mannion live in Manhattan, Kan.

Sonja Simpson '98, '99 has been named District 5 deputy director for the Ohio Department of Transportation. She studied environmental science and regional planning at Cal U. In her new role, she supervises construction management, planning, engineering, highway management, business and human resources.

00s

Eric Strimel '00 is an automation engineer for Rumsey Electric Co. He studied manufacturing technology at Cal U, where he was a member of the Acacia Fraternity. He and Jessica Strimel live in King of Prussia, Pa.

Courtney Close May '00 is a teacher in the Bedford (Pa.) School District. An education major, she and Brad May live in Bedford.

Nicole Ballard '04, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is an adult probation supervisor in Allegheny County. Nicole earned her master's degree in criminal justice at Cal U.

Melanie Nagy '05 works as a corrections counselor at the State Correctional Institution at Fayette in Luzerne Township, Pa., where she is the acting manager of her unit. She studied criminal justice at Cal U.



ATHENA HONOREE

University President **Geraldine M. Jones '72, '80** received the 2016 ATHENA Award presented by the Washington County (Pa.) Chamber of Commerce. Recognized internationally, the award honors women within the business and civic communities who exemplify professional excellence, community service and leadership. Since its inception in 1982, this prestigious award has been presented to more than 6,700 recipients in 500 communities around the world.

William Lamar '05, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is a videographer/editor for City Channel Pittsburgh. He studied communications at Cal U and was a member of the marching band, concert band, jazz ensemble, choir and Kappa Kappa Psi.

Virginia Vasko '05, a science, technology, engineering and math educator at Bentworth Middle School, has received the Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Public Educator Award from the Washington County (Pa.) Community Foundation.

Aaron Whigham '05 is the new community relations coordinator for Penn State Greater Allegheny. He studied business administration at Cal U.

Tracy Viale Gianakos '05, of Waterford, Conn., is a site supervisor for Connecticut GI. She was president of Delta Zeta at Cal U.

Heather Escott Caldwell '06, who studied sport management at Cal U, is a tutor for Sylvan Learning. She and Joseph Caldwell live in Park City, Hawaii.

Leigh Namolek Bryan '07 is a Realtor for J.S. Walker Associates Inc. She studied elementary education at Cal U. She and Jeremy Bryan live in Morgantown, W.Va.

Richard Crum '07, who studied political science at Cal U, works for the U.S. Department of State. He and Selima Daadouche-Crum live in Washington, D.C.

Kristen Radovich Brooks '07 works for Chevron. She studied business at Cal U and lives in Farmington, Pa., with Colby Brooks.

Michael Peterson '08, of South Park, Pa., is a retired minister. He majored in liberal studies and also studied business administration at Cal U.

Lia Vaccaro '08 is co-owner of MIX salad concept, located in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jim Stoye '08 was a finalist for the head coaching position at Galion (Ohio) City Schools. He earned his master's degree in sport management from Cal U.

U.S. Army National Guard Spc. **Jason Antill '08** has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Kara Gans-Page '08 is a social worker for Fresenius Kidney Care. She earned her Master of Social Work at Cal U. She lives in Somers Point, N.J., with Robert Page.

Lou Zadecky '08, athletic director at Penn State Fayette, was the guest speaker for the 59th annual B'nai B'rith Sports Awards luncheon, which honors local student-athletes. The luncheon is organized by the Uniontown (Pa.) Rotary Club.

Demetrus Caldwell '09, of Natchitoches, La., works at Northwestern State University. He studied sport management at Cal U.

Jay R Wheeler '82, '84 retired in May 2016 after working for 31 years with Cal U's Student Association Inc. He helped to create Cal U's national award-winning CUTV in 1986 and helped to oversee the transformation of campus radio station WVCS to WCAL in 2005.

10s

Steve Middleton '10 has been named director of the athletic training education program at William Woods University in Fulton, Mo. He currently teaches classes in anatomy and physiology, orthopedic assessment, and therapeutic interventions. He recently was promoted from instructor to assistant professor.

Skye Sankey '11 is a personal trainer/coach at South Tampa YMCA. She studied sport management at Cal U, where she was a pole vaulter for the track and field team, and a member of the Bodybuilding and Fitness Club.

Randis Doster '11, of Eighty Four, Pa., is a lab technician. At Cal U, Randis majored in art with a minor in women's studies. He was a Peer Mentor and also was active in marching band, Anime Club, History Club, Art Club, So Just Act Now and the Women's Center.

Michael Lukas '11 works in sales for PLI. He studied business administration with a concentration in human resources at Cal U. He and Jennifer Papini live in Belle Vernon, Pa.

Jareem Dowling '11 is an assistant coach for the Arkansas State University men's basketball team. Jareem earned his master's degree in sport management from Cal U.

Liz Whoric '11, a kindergarten teacher in the Frazier School District in Fayette County, Pa., was named the May 2016 *Herald-Standard* Excellent Educator. Liz earned her bachelor's degree in education at Cal U.

Ryan Skiles '09, '11 is senior manager of guest experience for HMSHost, a provider of food and beverage services for travelers, with responsibilities for Canada, Texas, Florida and New England. Previously, he worked for Burger King's corporate office, overseeing 110 restaurants and supporting eight franchise owners.

Eric Lauver '12, who earned his master's degree in education from Cal U, works for the Trinity Area School District, near Washington, Pa.



Laurel Marshalek '12 recently earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Missouri. She will be working as a veterinarian for Lindquist Veterinary Care Center in Kirksville, Mo.

Ashley Bouton '12 recently co-curated an exhibition of works by female artists from Indiana University of Pennsylvania's permanent collection. Ashley, who studied art education at Cal U, is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts at IUP.

Corey Thomas '13, an industrial technology major at Cal U, lives in Glenshaw, Pa.

Blayre Holmes '12 was the keynote speaker at Cal U's 2016 Celebration of Women, an annual event recognizing individuals and groups that support women on campus. Blayre described her work as coordinator of GirlGov, a program of the Pittsburgh-based Women and Girls Foundation that teaches young women in grades 9-12 about civics, government, philanthropy, community involvement, women's history and leadership.

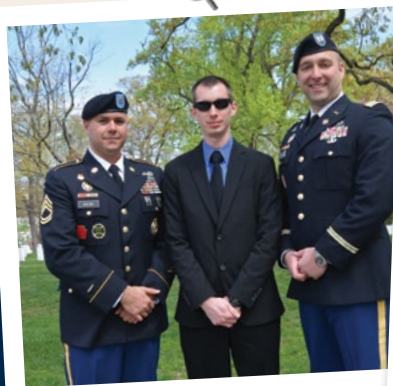
Samantha Zelenka '13, of Washington, Pa., is an environmental scientist for Rettew Associates Inc. She majored in environmental studies at Cal U, where she was a member of the Wildlife Society, Alpha Lambda Delta, National Society of Leadership and Success, and Beta Beta Beta.

Erik Harris '13, who played football at Cal U and in the Canadian Football League before earning a National Football League contract with the New Orleans Saints, recently spoke to a group of children at the Hanover (Pa.) Area YMCA.

David London '13 has been appointed as superintendent of the Smethport (Pa.) Area School District. He received his superintendent's letter of eligibility from Cal U.

Carly Zinn '14 is the new head field hockey coach and assistant athletic director at Dickinson College, in Carlisle, Pa. She earned her master's degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U.

Elizabeth Smith '14 is working with experts at the University of Oklahoma to improve the forecasting of severe thunderstorms that develop at night.



SOLEMN CEREMONY

Sgt. 1st Class **Jesse Maund '11** (left), of Cal U's ROTC office, and Iraq War veteran Robert Milhoan, a Cal U student, join Veterans Affairs director Capt. **Robert Prah '06, '10** at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. At a public ceremony the sergeant and the student-veteran placed a wreath bearing California University's name at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The marble monument overlooking Washington, D.C., honors unknown Americans who died in World War I, World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

30



30 YEARS FOR CUTV

CUTV, Cal U's award-winning cable TV station, marked its 30th anniversary this year. The station is owned and operated by SAI, the Student Association Inc., and based in the Natali Student Center. Over the years the station has received more than two dozen Telly Awards for its news, documentary and sports coverage. CUTV broadcasts to roughly 100,000 households in southwestern Pennsylvania. Programming also is available online at <http://cutv.calu.edu>.

Clarissa Enslin '14, a graduate research assistant at Idaho State University, successfully defended her master's thesis to earn her degree in geology with an emphasis in environmental geosciences. Her work focused on exploring the impacts of precipitation changes on water storage. Clarissa was an All-American swimmer at Cal U.

Tiffany Brzezinsky-Nix '14, who earned her superintendent's letter of eligibility from Cal U, is the new superintendent of the Leechburg (Pa.) Area School District.

Jordan Brooks '14 is an actor/director at the Missoula (Mont.) Children's Theatre.

David "Pug" Fuhrman '15 is the new athletic director/facilities coordinator at Bradford (Pa.) Area High School. He has a master's degree in intercollegiate athletic administration from Cal U.

Chris Wilson '14, '15 has been named head women's soccer coach at Alvernia University, in Reading, Pa. He earned his bachelor's degree in sport management and his master's degree in exercise science from Cal U.

Kimberly Couch '16 works for Little Kids Play Care and lives in Dravosburg, Pa. At Cal U she majored in liberal studies with a minor in music; she was in the marching and concert bands, as well as the choir.

Donjuneata Biggs Weir '16 is a registered nurse who works for the Elizabeth Forward School District. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Cal U. She and Jeffrey Weir live in Jefferson Hills, Pa.

Derek Dathe '16, of Franklin Square, N.Y., is a physical therapist assistant for Professional PT.

He earned his degree in exercise science and sport studies.

Kevon Bruce '16, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a school counselor for Talbot County (N.Y.) Public Schools. He earned his master's degree in education and school counseling from Cal U.

Daniel Hart '16 is a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He studied technology education at Cal U and lives in DuBois, Pa.

Kelly Halinka '16, of Monessen, Pa., earned her Master of Social Work from Cal U and works for Southwestern Pa. Human Services.

Melissa Neifert '16, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., works for Babineau Opticians. She studied business administration with a marketing concentration at Cal U, where she was in the Honors College, Alpha Lambda Delta and the women's soccer team.

Ella Hixenbaugh '16, of Belle Vernon, Pa., is an executive assistant for Bombardier Transportation. She majored in business administration.

Gino Iorfida '16 is an information technology analyst for Eaton Corp. He studied computer information systems at Cal U. Gino and Nicole Iorfida live in Oakdale, Pa.

Talaya Allen '16 is an air traffic controller for the U.S. Army. She earned her degree in exercise science and health promotion from Cal U and lives in Clarksville, Tenn.

Michael Reese '16, of New Stanton, Pa., is in the U.S. Army. He majored in parks and recreation management at Cal U, where he was active with the men's rugby team, the Powerlifting Club and the Parks and Recreation Society.

ENGAGEMENTS

Chelsey Saler '13, '16 and **Carlyle Meekins '10** are engaged. Chelsey studied chemistry and education at Cal U. Carlyle earned his degree in biological and environmental studies with a concentration in fisheries and wildlife biology. He works for Shoener Environmental. They are planning a May 2017 wedding.

Joan Beyer '13 and Joseph O'Brien are engaged. Joan is a personal trainer in Moosic, Pa. She studied exercise science and health promotion at Cal U. The couple are planning an October 2016 wedding.

David Whipkey '90 and Christine Brottish are planning a wedding for June 2018. David is president of Whipkey Enterprises. He studied business administration at Cal U.

Bethany Costa '11 and Joshua Bible are engaged to be married in August 2018. Bethany, who studied criminal justice, and Joshua both work for Liberty Mutual, in New Castle, Pa.

WEDDINGS

Kayla Succop '13 and Lance Tarleton were married Sept. 26, 2015. Kayla is a coordinator with Amedisys Hospice of Pennsylvania.

Colby Hershberger '14 and Amanda Stillings were planning a July 2016, wedding. Colby, who majored in commercial music technology, works for Best of Times Professional DJ Services in Lansdale, Pa.

IN PRINT

Pearl Mitchell, an administrative assistant in the Department of Childhood Education and an associate pastor with New Beginning Full Gospel Church in Uniontown, Pa., is the author of *The Best and the Worst*, a personal account of her faith-based journey. The book is available at amazon.com and pearlmitchell.org.



Nicole Caringola '12 and Matthew Lubawski were planning a July 2016 wedding. Nicole earned her master's degree in elementary and special education at Cal U and is a special education teacher in the Albert Gallatin Area School District, Uniontown, Pa.

Anna Girod '11 and **Matthew Bianco** '11 were planning to be married in June 2016. Anna is a service coordinator for Life Pittsburgh. Matthew is beginning a podiatric medicine residency at Summa Hospital in Akron, Ohio.

Nicole Sheranek '03 and Luke Skaflen were planning to be married in July 2016 at the University of Denver. Nicole, who studied communications at Cal U, is a national account manager in Denver, Colo. Luke works in the aviation industry.

BIRTHS



Jonathan and Kayla Richie, of Morgantown, W.Va., recently celebrated the birth of their son, August Lane Richie, on Jan. 5, 2016. Jonathan is a graphic communications technology major and works at Morgantown Printing and Binding.



Gregory Davis '13 and **Elizabeth Davis** '15, of Pleasant Hills, Pa., welcomed their first child, Nathaniel Joseph, on Jan. 5, 2016. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and was 20 inches long.



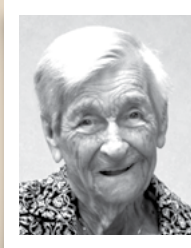
J.C. '97 and **Millie Rodriguez** '99, '10 are proud to announce the birth of their son, Chase Rodriguez, on Jan. 24, 2016. This is the couple's second child.

IN MEMORIAM

Diane L. "Tootie" Wingard Allison '74
 Twyla J. Balaban '72
 Jerry D. Bailey*
 Charles Berty '63
 Carol Clark Biemel '70
 Joann J. Bontrager '62
 John "Chooch" Chuhran '75
 Marie Curcio Konek Colantoni,*
 a former library worker at Cal U
 Paul A. Corless '65
 Giuliana "Gulz" Balsamo Dennis '07
 Richard N. DiMascio '80, '03
 Ruth Stanton Edmunds '39
 Marian K. Fresch '49
 Wendel B. Gower '56
 Lois Green Hawe '47
 Charles W. Holet '40
 Lois Parkinson Jones '51
 Kenneth J. Kulak '63
 Charles G. "Chuck" McCreery '61
 Monna K. McFadyen '52
 Rev. Regis J. Meenihan '66
 Bradley A. Moore '63
 David E. Neil '74
 Beryl Nicklas '43
 Suanne Nixdorf '96
 Carl Novak*
 Evalyne McCormick Ramsden '43
 John R. Ross '59
 Deborah Rita Venersky Swaney '71
 Linda Lee Gilpin Thomas '92
 George "Fossil" Tzan '65
 Sgt. Sean McGregor Vanderwal '13
 Angela R. Woods '00

*No class year available or on file

REMEMBRANCES



Betty Jean Roberts Roadman '67, wife of the late **Dr. George H. Roadman** '41, Cal U's fourth president (1968-1977), died March 30, 2016, in Virginia Beach,

Va. Betty, who was 95, earned her degree in elementary education from California State College and taught in Brownsville, Pa., and Virginia Beach. She was a substitute teacher in Virginia Beach into her 80s. She is survived by three children, **George W.** '68, **Emmilou** '71 and **John** '74, as well as seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.



Emeritus professor **John Swearingen** '38, a longtime resident of Brownsville, Pa., died May 16, 2016, at age 102. He retired in 1975 after teaching for 20 years in

Cal U's Department of Industrial Arts. He was the department's second chair, following the late Dr. Shriver L. Coover, and served in 1972 as president of the Industrial Arts Association of Pennsylvania. John and his late wife, Virginia, were married for 42 years and had two children, **Robert** '74, and **Sandra** '71. John had been an active member of the University's Emeriti Faculty Association since it was founded in 1980.



Dr. Regis J. Serinko, emeritus professor in the Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, died March 15, 2016, at age 93. He instituted Cal U's

mortuary science program in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He was acting dean of the faculty and academic affairs from 1968-1970 and executive assistant to the President until he returned to the classroom in 1975. From 1982-1984 he was president of the California chapter of APSCUF, the union representing faculty. He wrote two books, *Cal U: The People's College in the Monongahela Valley*, which chronicled the school's history, and *Freedom's Heroes: The Military Heritage of Rostraver*. He received the Cal U Alumni Association's C.B. Wilson Distinguished Service Award and the Foundation for Cal U's Dixonian Award. He retired from the University in 1985.

SAVE TAXES AS YOU SUPPORT CAL U

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit California University of Pennsylvania and receive tax benefits in return. It's known as the IRA charitable rollover.

This law no longer has an expiration date, so you are free to make annual gifts to the Foundation for California University of Pennsylvania from your Individual Retirement Account this year and well into the future.

You can give up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as the Foundation for Cal U without having to pay income taxes on the money.

Why consider this gift?

- ✓ Your gift will be put to use today, so you can see the difference your donation is making.
- ✓ You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- ✓ If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

It is wise to consult with a tax professional if you are considering a charitable gift under the extended law. If you have questions, please contact Tony Mauro '92, '93 at mauro@calu.edu or 724-938-1653.



KEEP IN TOUCH

Information will be published as space and deadlines allow. Please indicate on another sheet what activities or sports you participated in while you were a student. We welcome high-resolution electronic photographs. Please email images to revieweditor@calu.edu; put the words "Milestones photo" on the subject line of your email, and be sure to tell us your name, year of graduation and the identity of everyone in the picture. Please do not send computer printouts or low-resolution digital photos, as they will not reproduce well in this magazine.

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Send your Milestones news or address changes by email to alumni@calu.edu, by fax to 724-938-5932, or by mail to Office of Alumni Relations, California University of Pennsylvania, 250 University Ave., Box 89, California, PA 15419.

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Graduation Day

Preschool students from the on-campus Learning and Language Center prepare for their graduation ceremonies. The students entertained the audience with a song and received their diplomas from University President Geraldine M. Jones. Among those moving on to elementary school are (from left) Isadora Toliver, Ella Valentino, Delanee Watson, Jillian Salzman, Bridghid Garland and Samuel Woznack.