



Academic Affairs Mission

Under the direction of the provost, the Office of Academic Affairs at California University of PA comprises three undergraduate colleges and the School of Graduate Studies and Research. The Office of Academic Affairs supports the mission of building the character and careers of individuals by ensuring quality academic programs, classroom technology, student enrichment activities, and world-class instruction. California University of PA provides students with the tools they need to have a lifetime of success, both educationally and professionally.

Academic Affairs Newsletter

From the Desk of Acting Provost Dr. Barnhart



At its meeting on October 9, the State System's Board of Governors approved two new graduate-level programs at Cal U.

Classes leading to a **Master of Science in Cybersecurity** and a **Master of Science in Applied Mathematics** will begin in summer 2015.

These 30-credit programs will be delivered 100% online. Students can complete their online studies and a 6-credit capstone experience in just 18 months.

Dr. Weifeng Chen is the lead faculty member for the cybersecurity program, and Dr. Melissa Sovak is

leading the applied math program, which focuses on "big data."

Both degrees are aligned with standards for the Professional Science Master's designation.

Highly qualified professionals in these career fields are in high demand. To ensure that students are prepared for the workplace, curriculum for both programs was developed with input from industry and government entities, including the FBI and Mylan Laboratories.

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On November 20, 2014, Cal U hosted leaders from 14 universities in South-eastern Europe, Central and Southeast Asia, Northern Africa and South America.

The visit was organized in collaboration with the Turkish Cultural Council of Pittsburgh, which also assisted with President Jones' very successful tour

of Turkey last spring.

The visiting university presidents, or "rectors," were in the United States for a full week, and Cal U was the only college they toured.

Recent research shows that study abroad opportunities are at the top of the list for students who are selecting a college to attend.

We expect this visit to open many doors for collaboration with universities overseas, so our Cal U students not only can travel, but also can experience greater global diversity right here on our campus.

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The fall semester may be winding down, but teaching and learning will continue during the traditional winter break.

Bruce D. Barnhart



Dr. Vanessa MacKinnon and a Golf and Life Skills program participant

Led by Dr. Vanessa MacKinnon, the Professional Golf Management Program held several multiple-week Golf and Life Skills programs for junior girls through a grant from the Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Program.

The program introduced more than 25 junior girls to golf, while incorporating discussions on physical activity, nutrition, preventing substance abuse, dealing with stress and bullies, and the importance of education and community service.

Dr. MacKinnon was assisted by students in the PGM program.

Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that six Cal U faculty and staff members received notification of new grant awards totaling \$22,934 during this quarter:

Dr. Bruce Barnhart (Office of Provost/Academic Affairs) was awarded \$750 from the U.S. Department of Education through PASSHE for the grant *PASSHE GEAR UP-Cal U Commitment 2015-2021*.

Professor James Bové (Art and Design) was awarded

\$1,495 from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for the grant *Saltwater Etching Workshop for Jewelry and Print Making*.

Dr. Margaret Christopher (Social Work) was awarded \$11,989 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health for the grant *Toxic Home Assessment, Intervention and Training (THAIT) Program*.

Mr. C.J. DeJuliis (Teaching and Learning Center) was awarded \$700 from EDUCAUSE for the grant

EDUCAUSE-Jane N. Ryland Fellowship.

Mrs. Donna George (Student Affairs) was awarded \$5,000 from the Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc., for the grant *Gambling Conference 2015*.

Dr. Gregg Gould (Chemistry and Physics) was awarded \$3,000 from the Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh for the grant *Chemistry Lab Equipment 2014-2015*.

Faculty and Staff Publications



Dr. Libby Larsen

Dr. Libby Larsen (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) published an academic, peer-reviewed book entitled *Gender, Work and Harness Racing: Fast Horses and Strong Women in Southwestern Pennsylvania*, with Lexington Books, a subsidiary of Rowman & Littlefield, November 15, 2014.



Dr. Gwendolyn Perry-Burney

Dr. Gwendolyn Perry-Burney and Dr. Norma D. Thomas (Social Work) published "Rural child sexual abuse in the African American church community: A forbidden topic" in *The Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 24(8), pp. 986-999, with T. McDonald, October 28, 2014.



Dr. Norma Thomas

Dr. Krystia Nora (English) published "The role of food and drink in embodied writing" in *Sensing, Moving, Thinking & Writing: Embodied Practices for College Writers*, Heidi Ann Anthonson, Krystia, Nora, Travis Margoni, Michael Dean Benton, and Jaime Logsdon Keuhn, Eds., Kendall Hunt Publishers, November 2014.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. Michael Brna (Teaching With Primary Sources) presented "The Johnstown Flood of 1889: Inquiry Into One of America's Greatest Disasters" at the *PA Council of Social Studies Annual Conference* in Johnstown, PA, October 17, 2014.

Dr. Margaret Christopher, Dr. Thao Pham, Dr. Rosalie Smiley (all Social Work) and Dr. Mary Ann Salotti (Counseling Center) presented at the *National Association of Social Workers-PA*

Chapter Conference in Monroeville, PA, November 6-7, 2014.

Dr. John Massella (Counseling Center) presented "Evaluation and Assessment of Substance Use Disorders" at Washington & Jefferson College, October 14, 2014.

Dr. Thomas Mueller (Earth Sciences) presented "Geo-Technical Competency Model and the Oil and Gas Industry" at the *Appalachian*

Oil/Gas GIS Meeting in Cranberry, PA, November 5, 2014.

Dr. Joseph Zisk (Secondary Education, Teaching & Learning Center) presented "Tips and Strategies for Developing and Offering a Successful MOOC—Free and Fee-Based Versions" at the *Annual Online Learning Consortium International Conference* in Orlando, FL, October 30, 2014.



Author Tawni O'Dell

The English Department successfully hosted the *Annual Conference of the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU)* at the Convocation Center October 3-4, 2014, featuring presentations by 53 faculty members and students, a talk by best-selling novelist Tawni O'Dell, and music by a cappella groups led by Dr. Yugo Ikach, as well as a performance by the Civil War band Acoustic Shadows of the Blue and Gray, including guitarist William Kistler of AVI Food Service. The conference was partially supported by a grant from Provost Bruce Barnhart and College of Liberal Arts Dean Mohamed Yamba, who composed and read a poem for the occasion. Professor Margo Wilson (English) is president of EAPSU.

Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Melanie Blumberg (History and Political Science) planned the 2014 Election Analysis Forum at Cal U November 11, 2014. The moderator was Jon Delano (KDKA-TV), and the panelists included Alan Abramowitz (Emory University), William Binning (Youngstown State University), Louis Jacobson (*Governing and Politics PA*), and Costas Panagopoulos (Fordham University).

Dr. Weifeng Chen (Math, Computer Science, and Information Systems) was appointed Program Chair of the *13th IEEE International Conference on Ubiquitous Computing and Communications (IUCC2014)* to be held in Chengdu, Sichuan, China, December 19-21, 2014.

Dr. Yugo Ikach and Dr. Kathy Sacco (Music) will take the Immaculate Conception (Washington, PA) church choir to Rome, Italy, to sing at a Papal mass December 28, 2014-January 2, 2015.

Dr. Jeffrey Magers (Professional Studies) was reappointed as chair of the Police Administration Committee of the 20,000 member International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) for 2015.

Dr. Michael Perrotti (Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership) competed in the New York City Marathon November 2, 2014, finishing in the top five percent.

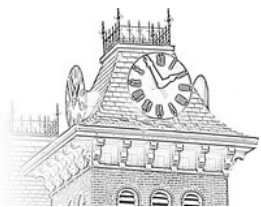
Dr. Emily Swietzer (Modern Languages, Philosophy, and

Socio-Cultural Studies) made five consults during October with the writers and researchers of television programming for *CSI*, *Blacklist*, and *Bones* pertaining to psychological, behavioral, and socio-cultural story lines/plots.

Dr. Christina Toras (Professional Studies) was the recipient of the Women in Natural Gas (WING) award at a reception hosted by Shale Media Group October 16, 2014. The WING award honors distinguished women in the energy industry. Dr. Toras is the program coordinator for the new land management programs at Cal U.



Vulcanize Choir



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Dr. Bruce D. Barnhart
Acting Provost

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Dr. Daniel E. Engstrom
Associate Provost
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Academic Events & Act 48
Coordinator

Dr. Caryl Sheffield
Associate Provost

Caleb Tom
Application Developer

Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead
Associate Provost of
Innovation

Heidi Williams
Registrar

Department & Program Accomplishments

The Cal U GIS Program is now completing crime-mapping reports for the Peters Township Police Department.

Several students from the Honors Program, led by Dr. Mark Aune and Dr. Craig Fox, presented posters at the *National College Honors Council Conference* in Denver, CO, November 5-9, 2014.

Dr. Christina Fisanick (English) and her Hon-

ors composition students co-hosted the *Donora Smog Conference* featuring a digital story, "A Town Called Donora," created by Cal U Honors students, Donora, PA, October 29, 2014.

The Department of Theatre and Dance will continue its tradition of ushering in the holiday season with its production of *Miracle on 34th Street, the Musical*, in Steele Hall, December 4-7, 2014. A cast of approxi-

mately 60 between the ages of 6 and 46 will bring this beloved tale to life once again.

Upward Bound (Fayette and Greene Counties) presented a check for \$1,339.29 to the American Red Cross during the program's Saturday Session October 25, 2014. The funds were raised entirely by Upward Bound participants (grades 9-12) who attended the 2014 *Summer Academy* at Cal U.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Eight graduate students from the Applied Criminology program accompanied Dr. John Cencich (Criminal Justice) to a conference on Cold Case Homicides sponsored by the Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law and the American Investigative Society of Cold Cases (AISOC).

Megan Boger and Kyle Snyder (students, GIS/Emergency Management), led by Dr. Thomas Mueller (Earth Sciences), presented their report "FEMA and Cal U Searching for Local Data: An Analysis of County Level Data for HAZUS" at the

Pennsylvania Geographical Society Conference in State College, PA, November 7, 2014.

Kyle Hilsey (English) had his play performed in the South Street Players' *Tri-State Theater Festival* in Spring Lake, NJ, October 17-19, 2014. His play was one of eight selected from nearly 300 submissions.

Deanna Laughlin (student, Biological and Environmental Science) was awarded funding by the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biolo-*

gists for her proposal mentored by Dr. Paula Caffrey entitled "Lycopene's potential to improve chemotherapy of ovarian cancer cells" for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Jon Difilippo (student, Communication Studies) recently won the collegiate division title at the 2014 Pennsylvania Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Sporting clays State Championship. A member of the California Hill Gun club "Smokin' Guns," Difilippo hit 91 of 100 clays to take first place.