



Academic Affairs Mission

Under the direction of the provost, the Office of Academic Affairs at Cal U 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

“Where did the time go?”

With the Thanksgiving holiday already a pleasant memory, I think that is a question on many minds here in the week preceding final examinations and our December commencement ceremonies. It has been a challenging and rewarding semester, with many outstanding accomplishments by faculty and students.

One piece of very exciting news from this fall was when the University learned that the proposed science building received Board of Governors approval. What this means is that Cal U will be constructing a brand-new science building within the next five years. Following construction of the science building, Frich Hall and New Science Hall will be demolished. The science building is slated to cost approximately \$35 million, with 100 percent of the funding being provided by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In Academic Affairs, in addition to the usual day-to-day work of operating the academic side of the University, we have been working with the department chairpersons to create another successful winter session.

For the 2015-2016 winter term, we are offering 14 graduate and 28 undergraduate courses. All of these courses will be offered in a 100 percent online format. Winter session begins on Monday, December 14, and runs through Friday, January 15, 2015.

Winter session is a good time for students to explore interesting coursework, speed up progress toward

graduation, and improve their GPA by concentrating on one or two courses during the five-week term.

To learn more about our upcoming winter session, please visit the University website at www.calu.edu.

Finally, we are looking forward to celebrating the University's 181st commencement exercises. Graduate commencement is set for Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m. in the Convocation Center, and Undergraduate commencement is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, at 10 a.m. in the same location.

Bruce D. Barnhart



Cal U donates iPads to special education classrooms

Dr. Katherine Mitchem (Special Education) used a \$75,000 grant from the Trees Foundation to spearhead a partnership with Intermediate Unit 1 to provide 30 iPads to two schools: IU1 Colonial K-3 Emotional Support classroom in Grindstone, PA, and the Middle School Life Skills/Autistic Support IU1 classroom at Ringgold Middle School in Finleyville, PA. The iPads allow IU1 teachers, Cal U student teachers, and students with disabilities to benefit from instructional technologies that support academic, social, and functional skills.

Office of Sponsored Programs and Research

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research reports that 15 Cal U faculty and staff members received notification of new grant awards totaling \$1,904,839.

Mr. Brian Kraus (UTech Services) was awarded \$450,000 from the CampusEAI Consortium for the grant *LookingGlass Portal 2015-2018*.

Professors John Kula and Laura Giachetti (TRIO and

Academic Development Services) were awarded Upward Bound continuation grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education: Fayette County (\$386,967) and Greene County (\$262,500).

Dr. Kevin Koury (COEHS) was awarded \$380,824 from the U.S. Dept. of Education for the grant *Cal U/IU ESL Professional Development Project 2015-2016*.

Prof. Christine Crawford (Academic Development Services) was awarded \$284,754 from the U.S. Dept. of Education for the grant *Student Support Services 2015-2016*.

Drs. Thomas Mueller, Kyle Fredrick, and Daniel Harris (Earth Sciences) were awarded software licenses valued at \$77,850 from Golden Software for the grant *GIS and Geology Education: Golden Software 2015-2016*.

Faculty & Staff Publications

Dr. Paul F. Crawford (History and Political Science) published "The First Crusade: Unprovoked Offense or Overdue Defense?," Chapter 1 of *Seven Myths About the Crusades: Edited, with an Introduction and Epilogue*, by Alfred J. Andrea and Andrew Holt, Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett, September 2015, pp. 1-28.

Dr. Kevin Govern (Professional Studies) published "A Sino-American Cyber Security Agreement: Crisis Composed of Danger and Opportunity?" in *Jurist Academic Commentary*, September 28, 2015.

Dr. John D. Massella (Counseling Center) was quoted by Sarah Schuster in her article "16 Ways to

Make the Most of Counseling—From Counselors Themselves" on the website *TheMighty.com*, September 25, 2015.

Dr. Beverly Ross (Psychology) published *Which Foot Do You Kick With?: The Nature of Victimhood through Narrative Inquiry*, Lambert Academic Publishing, September 8, 2015.

Alpha Lambda Delta Honors

The Cal U chapter of Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) received the prestigious Order of the Torch Award for the 2014-2015 academic year. The chapter was advised by Dr. Karen Amrhein (Director, First Year Experiences and Mentoring) and Mr. Michael Amrhein (retired faculty),

and led by student president Kaitlyn Strosnider. The presentation of the chapter's activities was prepared by student historian Chelsea Gump.

ALD is a national honor society that recognizes students' academic success during their first year at a college or university. Their

mission is "to encourage superior academic achievement, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning,

and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their unique roles in society."



Faculty & Staff Accomplishments

Mr. Brian Eisiminger (Theatre and Dance) has completed the requirements for certification and is now a Certified Master Teacher of Estill Voice Training.

Dr. John D. Massella (Counseling Center) was interviewed by Bofita Yiman of WTAE-TV regarding gambling and the impact online fantasy sports gaming, such as "Draft Kings," can have on those that

struggle with addictive disorders or gambling problems.

Dr. Emily M. Sweitzer (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) consulted with writer/producer Josh Beriman on psychological and socio-cultural character development and scene production for *Fades*, a new pilot TV show. She also consulted with researchers

and writers for TV shows *Rosewood* and *Lucifer*.

Dr. Nicole Welding (Nursing) was elected to be a board member for the newly formed local chapter of the American Nursing Informatics Association (ANIA). The mission of the ANIA is to advance the field of nursing informatics through communication, education, research and professional activities.



Dr. John Cencich (Criminal Justice) served as a consultant and "Situation Room" co-anchor for *Hunting Hitler*, a new eight-episode series for the History Channel, which premiered on November 10, 2015.

Faculty & Staff Presentations

Dr. Razak Abedalla (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) presented "The Use of Mobile Applications Technology in Learning Arabic" at the *International Association for Computer Information Systems (IACIS) Conference* in Clearwater, FL, October 7-10, 2015.



Dr. Maggie Habeeb (Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Systems) presented "Verifiable Secret Sharing" at the *Algebra and Cryptography Seminar* at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY, October 23, 2015.

Dr. Libby Larsen (Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies) planned and presented a workshop on the certification of sociological practitioners at the *Annual Confer-*

ence of the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology in Montgomery, AL, October 10, 2015.

Dr. John Confer (Earth Sciences) presented "The Value of Fun: The Many Benefits of Recreation and Tourism in the Northern Appalachian Region" at the *Northern Appalachian Network Conference* at Cal U, September 25, 2015.

Dr. Mary Ann Salotti (Counseling Center) pre-

sented "Soul Survivors on Campus" as part of the Update on Human Trafficking Keynote Address at the *National Association of Social workers-PA Annual Conference* in State College, PA, October 17, 2015.

Dr. Thomas Mueller (Earth Sciences) presented "Soccer, Geography and GIS: An Examination of Introduction to Geography Course" at the *Pennsylvania Geographical Society Conference* in West Chester, PA, November 7, 2015.

Dr. Denise Joseph (Communication Studies) presented "Switches to Smartboards: Technology Applications for Literacy Skills in Special Populations" at the *American Speech and Hearing Convention* in Denver, CO, November 13, 2015.



Dr. Christina Toras (Professional Studies) was selected as one of the winners of the inaugural 2015 Women in Energy Leadership Awards by the *Pittsburgh Business Times*, October 15, 2015. The award honors women as leaders in the region's energy sector. Toras is the developer of and program coordinator for the land management programs at Cal U.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF

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Academic Events & Act 48
Coordinator

Caleb Tom
Application Developer

Dr. Stephen H. Whitehead
Associate Provost of
Innovation

Heidi Williams
Registrar

Department & Program Accomplishments

Earth Sciences—The Parks and Recreation Management program was selected to host the Seattle-based Wilderness Education Association’s *2016 International Conference on Outdoor Leadership*, to be held in February in the River’s Bend Conference Center at Cal U. This will be the first time this international conference has been held in the Eastern United States. Cal U students are encouraged to attend, assist with the

conference, and participate in the events and sessions.

Modern Languages, Philosophy and Socio-Cultural Studies—Sociology of Deviance Club members N. Barrick, J. Corley, T. Dunn, C. Harris, H. Hudock, A. Kelley, and B. Lenning, along with Dr. Emily Sweitzer, presented a panel discussion “Tattoos: Traditions, Taboos, and Trends” at Cal U, September 15, 2015.

Professional Studies—The Bachelor of Arts degree in Jurisprudence with a concentration in Legal Studies was ranked the seventh-best online paralegal degree for 2015-2016 by the website AffordableCollegesOnline. The website takes into account instructors who possess real-world experience in the industry, high graduation rates, and career assistance provided to graduates. The Cal U program scored 96.01 out of 100 points.

Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Kelly Brennan (Applied Criminology), under the advisement of Dr. John Cencich, completed a prestigious program in aberrant criminal behavior and profiling put on by some of the original criminal profilers from the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA.

Cameron Cochran (Political Science) has been selected for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Legislative Fellowship Program.

Jennifer Fantazier-Moio (Social Deviance) interviewed Dr. Elijah Anderson, William K. Lan-

man Professor of Sociology at Yale University, as part of an assignment in her Sociological Theory class. Dr. Anderson is one of the leading urban ethnographers in the United States.

Abbigail Linton (RN-BSN) received the Highmark Scholarship for Rising Juniors.

The Nursing Department inducted 29 students, alumni, and community leaders into the Pi Rho chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at Kara Alumni House on October 12, 2015.

Ten undergraduate students from the Special

Education Department volunteered to support the Mon Valley School’s *Parents Night Out* event, where the students provided activities for children so their parents could enjoy some free time.

Sean Wineland (Environmental Studies, Fisheries and Wildlife), along with E.J. Kistner and A. Joern, published a paper, “Non-consumptive interactions between grasshoppers and wolf spiders produce cascades in an old-field ecosystem” in the *Journal of Orthoptera Research* 24: 41-46.